

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 15, 2006/Agrahayana 24, 1928
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Q. No. 342. Shri Sujan Chakraborty.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not agree with it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : This is a matter of urgent public importance, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody. Sorry, it is not a matter which can be discussed in this House.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this has been done against the rules. . . .*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing anybody to raise any such issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yerrannaaidu, please listen to me. You know the rules very well. After all we have got only three days left.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Please allow me to raise this matter of urgent public importance. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This matter cannot be permitted. Otherwise, I generally allow all matters to be raised.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat for a moment. If you make allegations against a Chief Minister here today, even if they are correct, it will open up a Pandora's box. Everybody will come and make allegations against a Chief Minister who is not amenable to the jurisdiction of this House. It is not a Central matter at all. How can I permit it?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : All the cases by CBI. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow this. Please do not force me.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh himself has confessed in a statement. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the allegation is of a serious nature....*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I am requesting you not to do so.

[English]

Mr. Tripathy, you know that tomorrow your Chief Minister may be attacked. Do not do this. Just by mentioning CBI in all matters under the sun in India will make it a subject of national importance, that cannot be the case.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Please allow me one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Not even one second. No, I will not allow.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : He himself confessed, Sir. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Ramjilal Sumanji and Shailendra Singhji, both of you please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have given no notice.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, if it is a violation of Forest Act, it is a Central matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you standing? Ramjibhai, please sit down.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : He himself confessed.

MR. SPEAKER : No, not one word will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You are deliberately defying the Chair. I warn you. Not one word is being recorded. I will not allow this subject. You have got a Calling Attention. Do not do this. I will not allow you. Why are you saying all this, not one word is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : You are deliberately disturbing the House.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry to say this. Not one second I will allow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Please allow him in the 'Zero Hour'. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : On that matter, I will not allow even one second. Whether I agree with the allegations or not is not a matter of importance at all. It is a question of the sanctity of Parliament.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will adjourn the House and go away. Go outside and make the allegations, I do not mind. I will not allow.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not do that. Showing a paper in the House is a breach of privilege.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not one word is being recorded. Please allow the Question Hour to continue. This is very unfortunate. You go outside and you can say whatever you like. I do not mind.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Please allow me in the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER : On this matter, no.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If it is a violation of Forest Conservation Act, it is a Central matter. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Please allow me two minutes in 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER : No. A Chief Minister's conduct cannot be discussed in this House.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow this. Do you not want the House to run? Let the House decide what should happen. Three hon. Members can hold the House to ransom on a matter which is not permitted here! Every party has a Chief Minister in one State or another.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow the House to be taken for a ride. I am not allowing immediately.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Then, I will adjourn the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Very well! Let the House decide as to what to do.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow, Shri Naidu. I have told you that repeatedly.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow you to raise it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Jagannath, you have developed the bad habit of defying the Chair. I will apply the rule of privilege. You are violating the privilege of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I will ask you to go out, then.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you do that?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I will ask you to get out. Give me the rule.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. You must get out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am sorry, you are a leader of the Party and I will ask you to get out.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Naidu, I made a request to you when you came and saw me. You cannot go on like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Just see, seven or eight minutes have gone on a matter which you are not entitled to raise in the House. Deliberately you are defying the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. There is no sanctity of the Speaker's decision. If you do not like this decision, you have ample rules to take steps.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : When a matter is to be permitted to be raised in the House, I have allowed you. Your Calling Attention is there, Dr. Jagannath.

(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Question No. 342.

NPAs of Banks

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*342. DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the Public Sector Banks as on date;
- (b) whether the banks are facing difficulties in recovery of loans declared as Non-Performing Assets;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this direction;
- (e) whether banks are eyeing foreign capital to bridge the liquidity crunch arising out of NPAs; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Despite increase in the outstanding gross advances of public sector banks (PSBs) from Rs. 5.78 lakh crore in March, 2003 to Rs. 11.35 lakh crore in March 2006, their gross Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have come down from Rs. 54,090 crore (9.4% of gross advances) to

Rs. 42,106 crore (3.7% of gross advances) over the same period. This reduction has been possible due to concerted action taken by these banks under 'The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act', Corporate Debt Restructuring Scheme, compromise settlement schemes, close monitoring and prompt recovery action.

(e) and (f) The current level of Gross NPAs does not significantly impact the liquidity of PSBs.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, it is good to learn that the gross advance of public sector banks has increased to a great extent and the NPA has been decreased. But there is an estimation that defaulters of nationalised banks including the State Bank of India and its associate Banks are much more and has reached the level of 2.5 lakh crore. Sir, the list of defaulters is not published from time to time. By way of clearing the balance sheet, window dressing is being done and in the process, a question arises as to whether favouritism is entertained. The question is this. Why is the defaulter list not being published? Will the Government publish the list of defaulters, if required, by amending the law or will the Government be interested in hiding the list?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We have explained the legal position more than once. When a suit is filed, the defaulters' list is published; until the suit is filed, defaulters list is not published because whether he is a defaulter or not can be crystallized only when the suit is filed.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY : The reply given by the Minister is not complete. Anyhow, the second supplementary is, if the ratio of NPA to gross advances for public sector banks is coming down, can the Minister provide the break-up of actual recoveries and debts written-off within NPA? What are the specific actions that the Government is pursuing for write-off, etc.?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Yes, Sir, I will be happy to provide information. I have got year-wise information. I will give for the last year, 2005-06, the total recoveries was Rs. 23,210 crore, out of which, the actual cash recovery is Rs. 10,590 crore; recoveries due to upgradation is Rs. 2,787 crore; recoveries through compromise and write-off is Rs. 8,833 crore. The total is Rs. 23,210 crore.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Mitrasen Yadav — not present.
Shri Shrinivas Patil.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Thank you for allowing me to ask this supplementary.

Due to the new policy of charging the interest and adding it to the capital per quarter, many Banks have to add the interest to the capital and as such NPA is shown as increased. Earlier, while calculating the interest, the method was to calculate per annum and to add it to NPA. Due to the new policy, a number of banks are showing an increase in NPA. I would like to know whether this policy is detrimental to the development of industrial loans; if so, whether the Government is thinking of changing this policy.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, Sir. This policy is in accordance with the international norms. Income arising out of interest is income that is legitimately due to a bank. If interest is not paid, that is income which is denied to a bank. Therefore, that interest income has to be reckoned and if it is not paid on time, it is an amount due to the bank and, therefore, would have to be reckoned as a loss to the bank.

SHRI R. PRABHU : Sir, the Non Performing Assets of the banks have mounted over the years. The Debt Recovery Tribunals and the Appellate Tribunals have been constituted only to collect these NPAs in the fast track. Various schemes have been given by the Government; 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005, for one-time settlement schemes. Unfortunately, the banks have not been accepting these schemes which have been notified by the Ministry of Finance and the RBI. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would enforce the banks to see that they follow his directions and the RBI directions.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Firstly, Sir, I wish to dispel the impression that NPAs are mounting. NPAs are not mounting. Both Gross NPAs and Net NPAs have declined in absolute numbers as well as proportion to the total advances. Therefore, NPAs are not mounting. NPAs are declining.

Secondly, Sir, I have just given that in the year 2005-06, banks have recovered through compromise and write off Rs. 8,833 crore. The compromise and write off means

by applying the RBI's guidelines in those cases matters have been compromised and some part of the outstanding has been written off. So, Rs. 8,833 crore is precisely the amount that has been recovered through compromise and write off. I am not aware of a case where a bank has deliberately violated the RBI guideline. If such a case is brought to my notice, certainly I will ask the bank to explain why they have not effected a compromise in that case.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a pointed question. The nationalised Banks remain under the pressure of Government to reduce their Non performing assets. This results in Banks often neither filing cases against the defaulters nor intimating the Government regarding such cases. I would like to know from the Minister whether he propose to make any such provision vide which the banks may give timely information regarding those defaulters which fall under the category of non performing assets.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We do not put any pressure on any nationalized bank to do this or do that. There is a policy. The policy is that credit appraisal must improve and recoveries must improve. Therefore, we monitor the progress of Gross NPAs and Net NPAs and because we monitor the progress of NPAs, the NPAs have declined. I do not see what is wrong with that.

As far as the defaulter list is concerned, let me say once again, when a suit is filed against the defaulters, that list is available and is published. This list is available on the CIBL's website. This list is available bank-wise. Wherever a suit is filed, the defaulters list is available to the public.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a standard procedure for recovering the loans. I would like to know that under that procedure, loans of how many persons who are Income tax payees, and file their Income Tax returns, have been put under bad debt and how much amount is standing against them?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, it would not be possible for me to give that answer.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they can forcibly recover the loans from poor people. But will not recover from those who pay Income tax.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, what the hon. Minister has said is not the full truth because he is saying that NPA has come down both gross and net. While saying so, he has referred to application of a number of laws. This is not the full truth.

MR. SPEAKER : You ask the question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : The hon. Minister is saying that an NPA is NPA when suit is filed.

MR. SPEAKER : He did not say that. He said that the particulars will be available.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I am only trying to find out what is the distinction between default and NPA. While saying so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much the banks have lost due to compromise, due to restructuring of accounts, due to one time settlement, due to failure of the banks to add the interest of the period since the account became a defaulter's account how much they have recovered, how much compromise; and what has been recovered as against the total outstanding.

MR. SPEAKER : For your reply, the whole day will be taken if at all he has the figures.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, it is a pointed question.

MR. SPEAKER : But there are too many points.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Let us know if, by applying the law, banks have lost, the country has lost or the country has gained.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot have so many queries. You are a senior Member. You know only one question is allowed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, Non-Performing Assets account is an account where according to the RBI guidelines, either the interest is not paid on time or the principal dues are not paid on time. Now the RBI guideline says the non-payment renders the account a Non-Performing Account. So, NPA is a classification. Once the NPA is classified, banks take steps to recover the money. There may be many reasons why a person is unable to pay. For example, there could have been flood like it happened in Surat or there could have been Tsunami like it happened in the East Coast of India. Therefore, banks take steps to persuade the borrower to pay the amount. Even if he pays a little late, the penal interest is added or sometimes the penal interest is waived. Every effort is made to recover the amount. However, when at one point of time, it becomes clear that the money cannot be recovered or he is a wilful defaulter who is unwilling to pay the amount although he has the resources, a suit is filed. Once a suit is filed, he becomes a defaulter. That list is available. So, NPA accounts are accounts which proceed to a suit and once the suit is filed he becomes a defaulter.

As far as write offs are concerned, I gave the number. I would give it again. In the year 2005-06, Rs. 8,833 crore were written off through compromises which means you would recover a part of amount and write off the remainder. In some cases, small amounts are totally written off. For example, I have told a number of banks which have got outstanding of less than Rs. 1 lakh running into thousands of cases for many years or 10 years or 15 years, in those cases whatever the person is willing to pay – Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000 – we have accepted that as a compromise and written off the remainder. That amount in 2005-06 comes to Rs. 8,833 crore.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : It has been found that the advances and loans taken for certain purposes are being diverted for speculative purposes in the capital market. So many important committees have observed it. The RBI has lamented that still there is no effective mechanism to monitor the end use.

May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is seriously thinking about setting up of an effective mechanism to monitor the end use of the loans and advances?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the effective mechanism is the bank. The bank is the lender and the bank has to monitor the end use of the money. The Board of Directors of the banks have to scrutinize the accounts where the loan is not repaid on time or the interest is not paid. The Board of Directors is squarely responsible for monitoring the usage of credit. There is no proposal to set up another layer to supervise that.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 343 – Shri Hiten Barman – Not present.

Shri Subrata Bose – Not present.

Q. 344 – Shri Hemial Murmu – Not present.

Then, we should give up the Question Hour on Fridays.

Q. 345 – Shri Hari Kewal Prasad.

[Translation]

Power Generation

+

*345. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hydro and thermal power projects functioning in each State as on date, sector-wise;

(b) the total power generation capacity and the actual power generated in each sector during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the percentage increase in power generation, during the said period, sector-wise and State-wise;

(d) the share of public and private sector in adding power generation capacity during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the details of power projects proposed to be set up to achieve power generation target set for Eleventh Five Year Plan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) State-wise and sector-wise details of hydro and thermal power projects functioning as on 30th November, 2006 are given in Annexure-I.

(b) and (c) State-wise and sector-wise details of total power generation capacity and actual power generated during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (April – November, 2006) as well as percentage increase in power generation over the preceding year/corresponding period of preceding year is given in Annexure-II.

(d) State-wise/sector-wise capacity addition during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (April – November, 2006) is given in Annexure-III.

(e) Capacity addition aggregating to over 66,400 MW comprising of about 17,100 MW hydro, about 46,100 MW thermal and about 3,200 MW nuclear capacity is being envisaged during the 11th Plan period (2007-12).

Annexure-I

Number of Hydro and Thermal Power Stations Sector/State-wise as on 30.11.2006

State	No. of Hydro Stations				No. of Thermal Stations				Total		
	Central Sector	State	Private	Total	Central Sector	State	Private	Total	Central Sector	State	Private
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Haryana	0	1	0	1	1	5	0	6	1	6	0
Himachal Pradesh	3	16	2	21	0	1	0	1	3	20	2
Jammu and Kashmir	2	10	0	12	0	5	0	5	2	17	0
Punjab	0	13	3	16	0	4	0	4	0	17	3
Rajasthan	0	8	0	8	1	3	0	4	1	11	0
Uttar Pradesh	1	13	0	14	7	5	0	12	8	19	0
Uttaranchal	2	13	1	16	0	0	0	0	2	15	1
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	5	1	4	0
Sub Total (NR)	8	74	6	88	10	28	0	38	18	102	6
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
Gujarat	0	3	0	3	2	21	7	30	2	24	7
Chhattisgarh	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	0
Madhya Pradesh	1	7	1	9	1	4	0	6	2	11	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Maharashtra	0	24	3	27	1	8	3	12	1	32	6
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub Total (WR)	1	35	4	40	5	35	12	51	6	70	15
Andhra Pradesh	0	17	1	18	2	5	6	13	2	22	7
Karnataka	0	17	6	23	0	2	4	6	0	19	10
Kerala	0	17	0	17	1	2	2	5	1	19	2
Tamil Nadu	0	23	0	23	1	9	7	17	1	32	7
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	11	0	11	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Sub Total (SR)	0	74	7	81	4	30	19	53	4	104	26
Bihar	0	4	0	4	1	3	0	4	1	7	0
Jharkhand	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	3	0	3	1
Orissa	0	9	0	9	2	1	0	3	2	10	0
West Bengal	0	7	0	7	1	19	8	28	1	26	8
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	1	1	0	34	0	34	0	34	1
Sikkim	1	7	0	8	0	2	0	2	1	9	0
DVC	0	3	0	3	0	5	0	5	0	8	0
Sub Total (ER)	1	31	1	33	4	66	9	79	5	97	10
Assam	1	1	0	2	1	8	2	11	2	9	2
Manipur	1	1	0	2	0	22	0	22	1	23	0
Meghalaya	1	5	0	6	0	5	0	5	1	10	0
Nagaland	1	3	0	4	0	5	0	5	1	8	0
Tripura	0	2	0	2	1	9	0	10	1	11	0
Arunachal Pradesh	1	7	0	8	0	1	0	1	1	8	0
Mizoram	0	2	0	2	0	23	0	23	0	25	0
Sub Total (NER)	5	21	0	26	2	73	2	77	7	94	2
Total (All India)	15	235	18	268	25	232	42	298	40	467	59

Annexure-II

State-wise and Sector-wise total Power Generation (Thermal, Nuclear and Hydro) and percentage increase in generation during the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 (upto November 2006)

State	Sector	Capacity as on 30-11-06 (MW)	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07 (Apr.-Nov.'06)	
			Auctal Generation (MU)	Increase (%)	Auctal Generation (MU)	Increase (%)	Auctal Generation (MU)	Increase (over generation in the correspond- ing period of last year) (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	State	2	0		0		0	
Delhi	Central	720	5463.6	0.6	5380.6	-1.5	3564.24	2.9
	State	994.9	5708.52	10.6	5598.12	-1.9	3507.92	-5.0
Haryana	Central	430	3161.9	13.2	2952.8	-6.6	1879.18	-5.8
	State	1602.4	7166.79	2.4	9220.85	28.7	7164.38	16.4
Himachal Pradesh	Central	5249	19441	41.4	20328	4.6	15889.25	4.8
	State	396.6	1273.33	-6.4	1291.84	1.5	1082.18	-2.0
	Private	386	1462.82	0.6	1504.44	2.8	1452.93	1.4
Jammu and Kashmir	Central	1170	5650.41	-11.0	6205.37	9.8	4946.16	0.5
	State	481.4	754.83	-18.0	788.37	4.4	769.99	28.1
Punjab	Central	168.2	1050	-4.5	1269	20.9	503.68	-32.0
	State	3262.5	17738.46	-4.7	19848.8	11.9	13582.61	-1.5
Rajasthan	Central	1153	7362.91	3.7	7115.08	-3.4	4157.94	-13.9
	State	2838.8	18408.76	15.5	19448.38	5.6	12880.39	5.3
Uttar Pradesh	Central	8239	53061.86	3.0	55042.41	3.7	38625.42	10.1
	State	4802.6	20873.08	-8.6	20655.14	-1.0	15407.83	13.5
Uttaranchal	Central	900	496.69	-3.0	797.62	60.6	1701.31	185.2
	State	978	3111.13	-8.3	3493.11	12.3	2500.08	-6.7
	Private	400					746.53	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chhattisgarh	Central	2100	17049	4.4	16001.3	-6.1	10317.65	-5.5
	State	1405	8311.3	5.0	9311.11	12.0	6026.57	-1.2
Goa	Private	48	335.97		302.75		230.01	9.1
Gujarat	Central	1732	9370.13	-8.9	9729.34	3.8	6792.25	4.0
	State	6902.7	29387.92	11.4	30411.91	3.5	21517.32	12.0
	Private	1700	11292.78	12.2	12857.59	13.9	7991.4	-7.0
	Private#	515	1516.46	179.3	1800.94	18.8	1107.97	-10.6
Madhya Pradesh	Central	3760	19170.46	15.7	20877.57	8.9	14299.46	4.4
	State	3177.5	16583.55	-0.9	16109.16	-2.9	10506.92	1.1
	Private	13.5	29.75		23.88		14.2	19.5
Maharashtra	Central	1400	2587.06	3.6	3714.63	43.6	3726.52	60.6
	State	9722.8	51051.38	1.8	50199.59	-1.7	32643.49	-1.0
	Private	3754	15387.72	4.5	15531.77	0.9	11363.64	7.1
Andhra Pradesh	Central	3600	25291.93	5.1	27432.5	8.5	18218.35	5.5
	State	6823.4	31162.57	13.0	30900.32	-0.8	22704.14	13.6
	Private	1640.2	6180.26	1.4	5585.25	-9.6	3307.68	-12.2
Karnataka	Central	440	2926.25	-6.3	2859.58	-2.3	1629.99	-16.8
	State	4958.6	19736.54	3.2	20612.74	4.4	16956.05	44.6
	Private	379.7	1070.94	-47.4	584.27	-45.4	336.03	26.5
	Private#	260	516.33	-32.6	1382.95	167.8	978.59	20.8
Kerala	Central	350	620.5	-70.7	358.5	-42.2	440.82	77.3
	State	2050.3	6370.27	41.7	7598.36	19.3	5123.23	2.9
	Private	226.8	198.22	-82.1	134.3	-32.2	149.28	37.8
Lakshadweep	State	10	23.41		26.73		18.87	6.7
Pondicherry	State	32.5	275.69	-0.5	256.71	-6.9	184.61	0.6
Tamil Nadu	Central	2930	18223.32	1.4	18099.56	-0.7	11517.24	-7.5
	State	5571.6	26418.17	9.7	26889.66	1.8	19781.38	10.4
	Private	1164.8	3301.69	-28.5	3741.22	13.3	3158.86	61.5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	State	45.4	48.44		53.35		54.66	66.2
	Private	20	89.87		105.49		71.11	1.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	Central	840	6082.1	1.8	6572.3	8.1	4126.88	-2.0
	State	584.9	204.01	-49.5	195.86	-4.0	87.23	-32.4
Jharkhand	Central	1756.5	4508.09	7.2	4789.52	6.2	3570.56	18.6
	State	1390	2218.54	-13.1	2424.59	9.3	2341.61	67.4
	Private#	360	811.43		1890.42		1230.74	23.3
Orissa	Central	3470	19444.4	41.5	24714.86	27.1	18045.66	16.2
	State	2281.5	10029.48	12.1	8122.36	-19.0	7525.01	42.0
	Private#	⊙	1094.38	-3.9	913.8	-16.5	586.38	29.1
Sikkim	Central	60	369.64	7.1	352.05	-4.8	133.44	-54.3
	State	37	61.21	70.0	33.92	-44.6	23.67	5.2
West Bengal	Central	2850	16039.27	4.8	19233.19	19.9	12279.97	1.1
	State	3561.5	17580.91	6.4	17753.06	1.0	12012.47	2.9
	Private	1069.2	7238.48	8.2	7826.62	8.1	5508.89	2.0
Arunachal Pradesh	Central	405	1641.51	68.7	1411.86	-14.0	855.08	-30.0
	State	10.5	2	-81.8	0	-100.0	0.71	
Assam	Central	516	2528.68	11.8	2825.44	11.7	1916.24	-5.9
	State	574.5	755.39	6.8	810.92	7.4	515.98	-6.1
	Private	24.5	136.33	9.1	121.28	-11.0	71.76	-13.6
Manipur	Central	90	629.07	24.8	586.15	-6.8	377.5	-5.2
	State	36	0		0		1.52	
Meghalaya	Central	50	194.98	-5.3	197.58	1.3	128.37	-29.3
	State	185.2	615.19	17.2	509.5	-17.2	289.9	-25.4
Mizoram	State	22.8	0		0.03		2.23	
Nagaland	Central	75	254.16	55.0	183.02	-28.0	162.92	0.5
	State	24	0		0		0	
Tripura	Central	84	571.18	0.9	638.21	11.7	425.58	3.6
	State	126	554.2	7.2	483.99	-12.7	368.31	6.8
Bhutan Import					1764.12		2180.37	36.1
Total		121392.3	587416.06	5.2	617510.44	5.1	436299.29	7.3

#Committed supply from captive units for injection into the grid.

⊙ Surplus capacity depending on availability and their demand.

Note : Does not include generation from Renewable Energy Sources.

Annexure-III*Hydro, Thermal and Nuclear Capacity Addition during the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 (upto November, 2006)*

State	Sector	Capacity Addition (MW)		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (April – Nov. '06)
1	2	3	4	5
NORTHERN REGION				
Haryana	State	500		
Himachal Pradesh	Central			
	State			84
Rajasthan	State			
Uttar Pradesh	Central	500	500	210
	State		210	
Uttaranchal	Central		280	500
	Private			400
WESTERN REGION				
Gujarat	State	475	997	200
Madhya Pradesh	Central	500		500
	State			60
Maharashtra	Central		540	1280
SOUTHERN REGION				
Andhra Pradesh	Central	500		
	State			
	Private		453	137
Karnataka	State	165	110	
Tamil Nadu	Central			
	State		150	30
	Private	70	87.8	14.8
EASTERN REGION				
Jharkhand	Private		120	
Orissa	Central	1000		

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	Central	210		
Andaman and Nicobar	State	6		
NORTH EASTERN REGION				
Assam	Central			
Mizoram	State	22.92		
Tripura	State		21	
Total	Central	2710	1320	2490
	State	1168.92	1488	374
	Private	70	660.8	551.8
Grand Total		3948.92	3489.8	3415.8

Note : Does not include capacity addition in renewable energy sources.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Sir, at Annexure-III, the total capacity addition during 2005-06 has been shown at the bottom in the fourth column as 3489.8 MW which should actually be 3468.8 MW. With this correction, it is laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by hon'ble Minister of Power in reply to my question clearly shows that the generation of power is not being augmented in the country at the desired pace due to which there has been a shortfall of eight to ten per cent in the power supply in comparison to demand. For the development of the country, it is very necessary that agriculture and other sectors get power supply as per their requirement. Satisfactory progress has not been made in setting up power plants and enhancing the capacity of old power plants in the public sector. In addition, we are not getting required cooperation from the private sector. Discrimination is also being made against the States in the matter of power generation and supply. With your permission I would like to know from hon'ble Minister whether the Government are likely to take some concrete steps to sort out the hurdles in setting up gas based power

plants at Dadari in Uttar Pradesh in private sector so that it is completed at the earliest.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You forget about the preface.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member has rightly said that the generation of power has come down. There has been a decline in power generation during the Tenth Five Year Plan. When I was having a detailed discussion with the officers in this regard, it was brought to my notice that NTPC and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation are our undertakings are supplementary undertakings. The states should generate more power. I have observed that where there is scarcity of power and the demand of power is about four to five thousand mega watt, the targets for generation of power have been fixed for three to three and half thousand mega watt only. If work is done in this manner, then we will never be able to meet the power demand in the country. Hence, I have instructed my Secretary to convene a meeting of the power Secretaries of the States on 18th of this month and have instructed to fix the targets for each State in proportion to the deficiency of power in the respective States. He has raised the case of Uttar Pradesh, I have

seen it in the eight and ninth plan and I would like to tell you one thing as to how this mistake has constantly been committed. While, during the tenth plan their requirement of power was 3061 mega watt a target of only 710 megawatt was fixed for them. Though, the requirement of State is around 3000 megawatt they have generated just 210 megawatt of power. This capacity could further be enhanced upto 420 megawatt at the most. We are still monitoring it. Less power is being generated in the country due to fixing this type of targets. But, recently we have changed our policy in such a way that the targets for the States will be fixed in proportion to the deficiency of power in the concerned State. In addition to this the central utilities will continue to play their supplementary role. Presently, the position is reverse in which the utilities which are supposed to play a supplementary role have to generate more power while the States are sitting quietly. The demand of power cannot be met in this manner. As our Prime Minister has rightly said that power generation work should be carried out in the country in full swing so, we want to act will full vigour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that we want to change our hydroelectricity policy. Around one lakh fifty thousand megawatt electricity could be generated in the entire Himalayan range. But, so far we have been able to exploit just twenty per cent of it. Though, we have the potential to generate electricity at cheap rates at less than one rupee fifty paise per unit but today we are generating electricity at the cost of four to six rupees per unit. Therefore, we propose to formulate a new policy and a new hydroelectricity policy will be introduced soon.

The hon'ble Member has asked about the Dadari Power Plant. The said plant is being set up in private sector. I have to collect the details before answering his questions.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement given by the hon'ble Minister with the reply of the question suggests that there has been discrimination against some States. With this I would like to say that due to the discriminatory policy of the Government against some States, Uttar Pradesh has been neglected and if the Government of Uttar Pradesh has started its own project

in Dadari, it is the duty of the centre to remove the hurdles coming in the way of the said project.

In addition to that, I want to know as to what are the plans that have been formulated to remove the hurdles coming in the way of progress at the central level.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no discrimination at all against any State, be ruled by Congress or any other party. Regarding Dadari, project I would like to tell you that they have some problems about petroleum. But our unit at Dadari is functioning well. It has more P.L.F. and we will run it properly. I would like to assure you in this regard. But they have some drawbacks in Uttar Pradesh. I have just spoken to the Chief Minister. I have spoken to their Power Minister. They are going in for capacity addition. I welcome it.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kashi Ram Rana – Not present.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the list provided by the hon. Minister does not contain any mention of any of the centrally sponsored hydro thermal projects for Punjab. I would like to ask a question whether the Government have any such plan. As we all know that the State of Punjab faced terrorism for 10-12 years. The industries are in a bad shape in the aftermath of the terrorism. Lesser number of industries are being set up because of shortage of power. The industries are shifting their base from Punjab to those states with more and better facilities such as Himachal Pradesh or Jammu and Kashmir. Besides, power is also needed for agriculture. The electricity engine is cheaper than diesel engine. The farmers cannot afford it. My question is whether the Government purpose to set up any hydro, thermal or nuclear power project in Punjab in view of the demand of electricity. If so, the time by which the work is likely to be commenced and completed.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Sir, the power in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh is mostly generated through hydro. Where, there is availability of hydro, where there are rivers flowing, power is generated from the river waters or from water tank. But the case of Punjab is different. Power is provided there at cheaper rates after the construction of Bhakhra Nangal Dam. But I would like to

inform that we have thought of undertaking more and more non-conventional work there. Hon'ble Minister is going there to lay the foundation stone on the 19th instane. Probably I am also invited. I may also go there because if hydropower cannot be generated in a State, we can generate power through non-conventional ways. But we will also examine the possibility of nuclear capacity there. We would also explore the possibility of thermal power because it is necessary that each State gets electricity. The hon. Member had just said that I stated in the reply that it is a State problem. The Centre has supplementary role only. The State would have to do major work in this regard and we would certainly assist them.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the power sector is one such a sector which affects the life of every citizen in the country. So many times I have stated in the Parliament that we should not pay attention to the outlets, but to the outcomes. APDRP is one of the ambitious schemes of the Centre. This scheme was approved with a cost of Rs. 8.5-9 crore for Guna and Shivpuri towns four years back. The scheme has not been implemented fully till now. In fact, the Government Company of Madhya Pradesh has written that this project may be abandoned. I would, therefore, like to know from the hon. Minister, through, you as to what are the steps taken by the Government against those responsible for the non-implementation of this scheme in the State or for the slow pace of its implementation or for the project being abandoned midway, because the farmers and the commonman in Madhya Pradesh are badly suffering in the power sector.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member Scindiaji had mentioned about outlets and outcomes. But I would like to tell him that I would certainly enquire about the funds allocated for Guna and Shivpuri under APDRP. The work there will not be stopped and for this I would urge the Chief Minister. I would myself look into the difficulties.

[English]

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Sir, against a capacity addition of 1018 MW in the North-Eastern Region during the Tenth

Plan period, only 280 MW have been added resulting in severe power shortage in the Region. There are three power projects which have been delayed in Tripura, namely, the Palakana Project, the Monarchak Project and 21 MW Barmura Project. May I know from the hon. Minister by when will these projects be commissioned and what steps is the Ministry of Power taking to ensure that there is no time overrun during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

MR. SPEAKER : Are these Central Projects?

SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Yes, Sir.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member knows and also the Members of their State know that recently we had a meeting with the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas in which I myself was there as also the Chief Minister. We have taken a decision on the Monarchak Project. I must tell you that though it was a little difficult, I personally intervened and we have seen and helped in the percentage of equity of these projects. I assure this House that, as far as Tripura is concerned, the Government will take special care on these projects and, in the entire North-Eastern Region, we are going to have special monitoring of these projects and you will soon find the result of it.

India's Rank in Trade

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*346. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) have ranked India at 134th position among 175 countries on various parameters of business environment;

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

(c) whether the poor ranking of India by World Bank and IFC has an adverse impact on the economy of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) : the steps taken by the Government to improve its ranking?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government disagrees with the ranking reflected in the "Doing Business 2007: How to Reform". The Report's findings are based on a selective methodology which excludes many parameters that are relevant to business; is based on survey with very limited scope covering only some industries in one city; does not take into account the policy initiatives of the Government; and does not involve consultations with major stakeholders like Government and Industry Associations. Some of these limitations of methodology have been acknowledged in the Report itself. It is not surprising, therefore, that the findings of the study are at variance with the widely accepted view that India is a major emerging economy in the world. The views of the Government have been conveyed to the Management of the World Bank and IFC through our Executive Director.

(c) No, Sir. The GDP growth rate for FY 2005-06 was 8.4% and for the first half of the current FY it is 9.1%.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Improvement of various parameters of business environment is an ongoing process and the Government is addressing it continuously through various policy initiatives.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Sir, I have seen the written reply given by the hon. Minister. It is true that, whoever has done this ranking, I am not aware of the practice followed. But it has given an impression that since it has been published, it may have an unfavourable impact on our foreign investors. So, we need to be particularly careful as to whether there is any kind of discouragement to foreign investors. May I request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly let us know as to what is the volume of profit earned by

foreign investors? I would like to know whether these profits have been earned with delay? Has there been any difficulty? What is the speed at which they have been earned?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This Question has nothing to do with the profits earned by foreign investors. I have the information but I cannot furnish it today.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, you are right.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is about a study done by an organization which gives a ranking. Why are we getting excited about it? I have got several other studies which rank India far higher. I have got studies which say that India is the second best investment destination. I have got studies which say that India is the best performer in Asia. I do not think should we get excited about the study? We disapprove of this study.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY : We accept the hon. Finance Minister's advice. We will not get excited. But, at the same time, we need also to clear an impression that there are laws and procedures in this country which delay the entire process of seeking redress in a court of law. That might, in some way or the other, discourage foreign investors. We need to remove any obstruction from the smooth conduct of business dealings. We need to remove such laws and court procedures. Would the hon. Finance Minister like to make any comment on that?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I generally share the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member. There are still laws in this country which are complicated, which are complex and the procedures are cumbersome. One such law is the insolvency law. The other law is the bankruptcy law. These are being examined by the Ministry of Law and the Ministry of Company Affairs. In fact, when this study came out on the 27th of September, the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy issued a Press Note contradicting the study and setting out the various steps that have been taken to improve the business environment in India. It is not my case that the business environment in India is perfect. I agree that the environment can be

improved. But I do not agree with the conclusions of this study. But the point he made about complex and cumbersome procedures in our law is a valid point. It is well taken. I will pass on this sentiment to the Minister of Company Affairs.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : The growth of the world economy and trade in 2006 remain firm including the strong growth of merchandise trade across major economies. The world commodity prices witnessed a firming up in early 2006 reflecting a strong global demand also. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the share of our merchandise sector in the global field; whether the services sector has been losing its ground; whether we are taking any special initiative to explore the markets of Latin America and Africa where agricultural imports and exports have a huge potential.

MR. SPEAKER : He will communicate all these things to the respective Ministries.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : My colleague the Commerce Minister will surely answer this question. But, if I recollect, our share of world trade has just crossed one per cent, I think. It is a rising share and I think it will continue to rise.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : The question that I intended to put was partially answered by the hon. Finance Minister. Does the Government disagree with the World Bank, IFC, ISI ranking? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any other internationally accepted studies in this regard. If so what is the position of India in this ranking? I would also like to know in which of the trades India ranks high.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There is no internationally accepted study. There are several studies. For example, the IFC's Press Release for 2006 ranks India as the top performer in South Asia. The AT KEARNEY FBI Confidence Index, 2005 said that India ranks just below China in terms of attractive investment destination.

The UNCTAD World Invest Report, extracts of which I have, ranks India, based on expert responses, as third

after China and US and based on responses from corporations as second just after China. The World Economic Forum Indices place India several notches above China and several notches above several Asian countries. In fact, India ranks 27 in the Business Competitiveness Index and China is at 64. I don't think the Chinese get excited about this. I don't think we should get excited about it.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. The hon. Finance Minister is very intelligent and he always looks forward to talk about the economic revolution. I would like to know whether we are looking forward to merchandise the global trade.

Sir, many international organizations are looking forward to invest in India in a big way, but there is a difficulty for them. Many people, the big companies are really interested to come and invest in India, but due to the long time taken to give clearance creates difficulties for them.

MR. SPEAKER : This does not really arise out of the main question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, this is very important.

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many important things.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Sir, let me complete it.

There is no single window clearance system now for starting a business in India. So, how will the people come here if they have to wait for so many years to get clearance to start a business? Then, administrative delay is also there. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any proposal to have a single window system to clear the business proposals quickly.

Secondly, is there any high-powered Committee to monitor these things?

MR. SPEAKER : I don't think it arises out of the main question, but it depends on him. If he obliges, he can answer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, this notion about a single window system etc., I think some of these are myths which we propagate ourselves. Regulatory approvals have to be obtained from regulatory agencies. If you have to obtain the RBI approval, you have to go to the RBI, if you have to obtain the State Government's approval, you have to go to the State Government and if you have to obtain a municipal approval for building, you have to go to the municipality. How can all these be put under a single window? What is important is, how long does it take to start a business. Even in this study – again let me make it clear I disagree with this – it has been found that it takes 16.6 days to start a business in OECD countries which are the most advanced, wealthy countries. In the region in which we are, it takes 32.5 days. In India, according to this study, it takes 35 days. I don't think there is a great difference between 16 days and 35 days to start a business. Of course, we must try to bring 35 to 20 or to 15. But, as I said, these are matters that we should take in our stride.

The point is, do we have a good business environment in India? I believe we have. Is the environment improving? I believe it is improving. Is there scope for further improvement? I agree there is scope for further improvement.

MR. SPEAKER : The only point is, whether the World Bank and IFC have been told that you do not agree with this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have, Sir. We have told them that we do not agree with this Report.

[Translation]

Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana

+

*347. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

SHRI D.P. SAROJ :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain State Governments have formulated schemes to cover some districts of their States under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and

submitted to the Union Government for approval during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the schemes that have been accorded approval during the current financial year and the amount involved in these schemes; State-wise; and

(d) the funds released to each State under the Yojana during the last two years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty seven States participating in the implementation of Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) (except Goa and Delhi) have so far formulated and submitted 575 draft Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) involving an outlay of Rs. 28772.31 crore covering 546 districts since the launch of RGGVY in April 2005. State-wise details are presented at Annexure-I.

(c) Sanction has been accorded to 317 DPRs for 316 districts involving an outlay of Rs. 11514.23 crore covering electrification of 69534 un-electrified/de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 165124 villages in 27 States. Further, "in-principle" approval has been accorded to 144 projects for 136 districts for electrification of 21105 un-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 88829 electrified villages involving outlay of Rs. 5892 crore to take up preliminary activities upto tendering, tender evaluation etc. Work can be awarded on approval of XI Plan outlay.

State-wise details are presented at Annexure-II.

(d) The implementing states so far have availed Rs. 2480.41 crore under the sanctioned RGGVY projects. State-wise funds released as on 08.12.2006 is at Annexure-III.

Annexure-I

State-wise Details of Draft DPRs received under RGGVY Scheme

As on 08.12.2006

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of projects received	Total No. of Districts involved	Total Cost of Project (Rs. Lakh)	Villages covered for household electrification under the project				Total No. of habitations covered under the project	Total No. of connections proposed to be released to rural households (Incl BPL HH)	No. of BPL HHs to be electrified under the project
					No. of un-electrified villages	No. of de-electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	Total No. of villages covered for household electrification			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	22	80493.81	0	0	27495	27495	76319	3957565	2592808
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	16	58119.67	1802	331	1768	3901	364	78438	40810
3.	Assam	21	21	126390.43	3072	3831	12766	18494	36428	1341936	953044
4.	Bihar	43	38	333056.82	14067	10486	5605	30158	27599	5077218	2606498
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	15	96846.49	951	179	16979	16893	32646	1457589	770372
6.	Gujarat	25	25	30617.12	0	0	17934	17934	15923	1595853	955150
7.	Haryana	18	18	18570.36	0	0	5985	5985	3316	569686	224073
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	45429.80	97	0	17389	17486	18808	44444	12483
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	12	35657.19	198	8	5944	6150	20367	294433	134615
10.	Jharkhand	22	22	261327.82	16965	2774	7622	27361	79099	2926260	1693281
11.	Karnataka	26	26	61336.95	132	0	28695	28827	47448	2005323	902373

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12. Kerala	14	14	14	14	32101.02	0	0	1077	1077	2485	458248	206741
13. Madhya Pradesh	48	48	48	48	249054.42	604	454	48488	49546	47781	3747831	1825851
14. Maharashtra	34	34	34	34	40605.10	6	0	40289	40295	56274	2633641	1876303
15. Manipur	4	4	4	4	16242.73	159	336	727	1222	792	76267	49188
16. Meghalaya	3	3	3	3	6171.20	90	103	1631	1824	1885	55688	37869
17. Mizoram	8	8	8	8	10244.68	42	95	570	707	707	44334	27417
18. Nagaland	5	5	5	5	4161.25	20	12	484	516	733	64548	38440
19. Orissa	23	22	22	22	293483.19	10809	3440	22523	36772	52984	3775005	2436457
20. Punjab	17	17	17	17	14493.02	0	0	11840	11840	4670	405023	148880
21. Rajasthan	41	32	32	32	104946.22	761	3681	34842	39330	32989	2321306	1755720
22. Sikkim	4	4	4	4	5625.82	25	0	418	443	1700	28166	11458
23. Tamil Nadu	29	29	29	29	44834.59	0	0	13137	13137	74498	1887943	585015
24. Tripura	3	3	3	3	16238.64	127	150	150	277	1520	88984	58708
25. Uttar Pradesh	67	65	65	65	330650.02	31657	1077	5608	38342	46021	2118859	1392599
26. Uttaranchal	13	13	13	13	64389.43	787	682	14105	15574	24428	357309	281615
27. West Bengal	26	18	18	18	497141.04	4268	15	0	4283	4283	176170	108558
Grand Total	575	546	546	546	2877230.82	86639	27504	344071	458869	712067	37586067	21726306

Annexure-II*Details of project sanctioned/Approved "In-Principle" under RGGVY by Monitoring Committee on RGGVY*

14.12.2006

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	No. of Districts	No. of un-electrified villages covered	No. of electrified villages covered	No. of un-electrified Rural Households covered		Total Projects Cost in Rs. Lakh	
						Total (Inc. BPL)	BPL households		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A	17	17	0	21623	3166161	2114317	64815.60
		B	5	5	0	5215	633052	385200	13362.87
2.	Assam Pradesh	A	2	2	237	321	7230	4377	4330.11
		B	14	14	1896	1447	69208	36433	53789.57
3.	Assam	A	7	7	1831	3926	445804	329668	30044.38
		B	8	8	2416	4873	341596	278036	47563.78
4.	Bihar	A	29	29	18959	169	1196385	1008898	169438.47
		B	9	9	3895	3932	2745435	965397	100855.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	A	5	5	166	5642	494414	271170	23653.45
6.	Gujarat	A	9	9	0	7347	580071	412628	12922.71
		B	16	16	0	10587	1015782	542522	17694.41
7.	Haryana	A	6	6	0	1820	205646	92948	7699.57
		B	12	12	0	4165	364040	131125	10870.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	A	1	1	0	1118	2531	647	2502.36
		B	3	3	1	4100	11519	3587	7348.98
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	A	4	4	108	2044	126104	71914	14592.77
		B	6	6	76	3227	152316	57538	15163.14
10.	Jharkhand	A	11	11	7563	4226	1256561	777234	106738.49
		B	7	7	8500	2296	1166549	830501	99827.92
11.	Karnataka	A	26	26	132	28695	2005323	902373	61336.95
12.	Kerala	A	7	7	0	373	227320	122187	22175.75
		B	7	7	0	704	230928	84554	9925.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13. Madhya Pradesh	A	16	16	176	17998	1254435	625114	80946.91
	B	5	5	77	5977	432018	212643	38295.40
14. Maharashtra	A	17	17	0	20661	1394893	1016583	21481.37
15. Manipur	A	3	3	244	393	41622	26622	9462.64
	B	1	1	251	334	34645	22566	5780.09
16. Meghalaya	A	3	3	193	1631	55688	37869	6171.20
17. Mizoram	A	8	8	137	570	44334	27417	10244.68
18. Nagaland	A	3	3	12	373	35601	22908	2569.27
	B	2	2	20	111	28947	15533	1591.98
19. Orissa	A	4	3	1329	3353	472752	324443	40977.25
	B	5	5	1920	7579	754050	444086	54602.82
20. Punjab	A	1	1	0	962	69125	25004	2297.11
	B	16	16	0	10878	335898	123856	12195.91
21. Rajasthan	A	27	26	1820	16239	1064622	747711	48092.21
	B	12	6	1974	16015	1085944	891618	44379.79
22. Sikkim	A	4	4	25	418	28166	11458	5625.82
23. Tamil Nadu	A	16	16	0	7758	1125715	388067	26501.26
	B	13	13	0	5379	762228	196948	18333.33
24. Tripura	A	1	1	48	72	20548	13119	1957.77
	B	1	1	79	78	68436	45589	3232.14
25. Uttar Pradesh	A	64	65	30802	3287	1694075	1120648	271951.59
	B	2	0	0	1932	368994	56853	34371.79
26. Uttaranchal	A	13	13	1469	14105	357309	281615	64389.43
27. West Bengal	A	13	13	4283	0	145918	97847	38503.56
Total	A	317	316	69534	165124	17518353	10874786	1151422.67
	B	144	136	21105	88829	10601585	5324585	589185.96
Grand Total		461	452	90639	253953	28119938	16199371	1740608.64

A – Projects Sanctioned.

B – Projects Approved "In-principle".

Annexure-III

Sl. No.	State	Funds released for village electrification/ BPL during 2005-06 (Rs./crore)	Fund released for village electrification/ BPL during 2006-07 upto 8-12-2006 (Rs./crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	19.800
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	
3.	Assam	0	
4.	Bihar	381.976	45.715
5.	Goa	0	
6.	Gujarat	6.500	3.270
7.	Haryana	0	12.330
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	
10.	Karnataka	84.184	50.136
11.	Kerala	0	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0	104.660
13.	Maharashtra	0	
14.	Manipur	0	
15.	Meghalaya	0	
16.	Mizoram	0	
17.	Nagaland	0	
18.	Orissa	3.500	0.000
19.	Punjab	0	
20.	Rajasthan	74.982	30.428
21.	Sikkim	0	
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	

1	2	3	4
23	Tripura	0	
24	Uttar Pradesh	812.607	492.783
25	West Bengal	115.421	60.609
26	Jharkhand	3.500	0.000
27	Chhattisgarh	0	15.970
28	Uttaranchal	59.441	47.139
Sub-Total		1542.111	882.840
BPL claims		55.46	0
Grand Total		1597.571	882.840

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not sitting at my seat as per rule. May I ask my question from here?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, but not every time. You cannot go on switching your seats. But I appreciate your candour.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are very kind.

Sir, Rajasthan is one of the most backward States of the country where people have to suffer a lot due to power cuts. The State Government is earning a bad name for itself and it is being charged that it does not provide power to its people. The State Government is not at fault in it. I would like to submit that all the schemes forwarded to centre so far are very good schemes. My first question is as to how many schemes have been sanctioned village-wise and whether these schemes have been completed?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that there is shortage of power in Rajasthan, I have myself spoken to the Chief Minister in this regard. The Chief

Minister aggressively setting up the units for power generation. I have just laid a foundation at one place recently. I am again going to Suratgarh on 9th instant for laying another foundation stone. I have just stated in my reply to the first question that the States will have to generate power. They have taken steps in this direction. We are conducting meetings with them. Till now, 32305 villages have been included under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme so far. Out of 32305 villages, 30014 villages have since been provided electricity till date.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Sir, I am just asking about the Rajasthan. People are still unhappy there. Due to shortage of power, kerosene and gas have also become scarce, and people are worried. I, therefore, request the Government to fix a date for the completion of the unfinished work in Rajasthan including the villages. I would also like to know whether the Government of Rajasthan have forwarded some more project proposals for approval and if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be approved. This is my simple and direct question.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are paying special attention towards Neyveli and nuclear plant for Rajasthan. We are discussing it time and again with the Power Secretary and the Chief Minister. Firstly, they needed a Coal block; I have discussed this with hon. Prime Minister. I have myself discussed the Coal block issue with the Coal Minister, which they are asking for. We are always ready to extend all assistance required by the State for power generation, but they have to add the capacity so that power supply is facilitated. When winter sets in, we try anyhow to provide electricity to the State suffering from the cold wave. I have already spoken to the Coal Minister two days back on the issue raised by the hon. Member. . . .(Interruptions) This is necessary or otherwise power cannot be generated there. Above the matter raised by the hon'ble Member I would call the officers and ask them about the shortage. This approach is not just for one State. We are working for every State. If the Chief Minister or the Power Minister cannot come, we call their secretaries and explain them that they have to do it. At present, we are

taking some strict measures, so you have to bear with it. Not only that, on the one hand, we are taking strict measures, and on the other, we are providing them loans through REC and PFC.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was started in April, 2005 and it was targeted that all the unelectrified and de-electrified villages all over the country will be electrified by the year 2009. Now, the hon. Minister has stated that only 23,000 and odd villages have been electrified so far. Whatever has been targeted, I think, that target would not be fulfilled by 2009.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Now, it is almost clear. Earlier it was intended that all the villages having population of 300 and below, would be electrified under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Also, MNP includes Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this stipulation that all the villages having population of 300 would be electrified will be done under MNP or under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. It is because it creates confusion now. I hail from a State, from a district where people say that it would not be covered under MNP.

MR. SPEAKER : Arjunji, you have specifically asked whether it is under MNP or under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : While considering the Plans, in the Eighth Plan, in the Ninth Plan, the Rural Development Electrification Schemes were there but since 5th of April, the scheme was switched over to Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. The definition has itself changed now and it will be covered only under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. All the hamlets are also taken there; that is why this figure has been increasing. We are in touch with all the States to help them. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that in

the Eighth Plan, entirely 11,000 villages were done; and in the Ninth Plan, 14,000 were done. But, from April, 2005, if you take it into consideration, 23,000 villages have been completed so far. Now, I am quite sure that we will be able to fulfil all the promises that we have made. In 2009 the entire country's electrification in the rural areas will be done; and by 2012, every house of this country will get electrified.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister why in West Bengal a very less project is provided through Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana though the proposal for the project was sent by the West Bengal Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is too vague. Mr. Minister, do you have any such information?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has given some information on which I do not have all the information but I must tell you that we have very specifically told them that on Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, they will have to do it on priority. I have personally talked to the Chief Minister and the Minister concerned also. If they are not able to do, a few of the villages we have given to our utilities like NTPC. Recently I discussed with the Energy Minister and he has agreed that he will give priority to this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to ask question.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has informed about having received total 43 projects for Bihar and as per the information given in Annexure-II, 29 projects have been approved and for nine projects approval has been accorded in principle. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time by which approval will be given to those nine projects for which approval has been given in principle and also to the remaining 38 projects?

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we

have till now spent Rs. 5000 crore in the Tenth Plan and more amount will be spent. For this purpose a total of Rs. 26 thousand crore are to be spent. However, we are giving money for this purpose in 11th Plan and there is no hurdle in the way of funding for this.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier there was scheme to provide free metres to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, now this scheme has been discontinued. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he is going to take a decision for providing free metres under Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub Plan. My second question is that Enron project in Maharashtra. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Only one question, not two questions. Your question is complete whether free metre is to be given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes. We will take Enron later on.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no proposal to provide free metres to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, however, now it has been decided to give free connection to BPL people and SCs/STs all are covered under BPL. For others, the connection under this scheme is 90 per cent free and remaining 10 per cent is loan. Through this House, I would like to request all the Members that we all should make efforts for the success of Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Programme and if there is any problem they should directly intimate me about it. I would like to assure that we can immediately solve that problem.

DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that in the beginning under the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme it was decided that those villages which have not been electrified as yet, will be electrified. There are villages in Uttar Pradesh or in various States of the country that have 6-6, 7-7, 8-8 hamlets (majre) and each hamlet has more than 300 populations. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether those village which have 6-6, 7-7 hamlets which are yet to be electrified will also be included under this

scheme. If so, then the time by which the funds will be released especially to Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : Sir, be it Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra, the rule is applicable to every place whether it is village or hamlets or majre, all of them which have 300 population will be covered under this scheme. No one will be left out. The funds are provided to Uttar Pradesh as and when demanded, however, I would like to inform you that one per cent of the total budget of the scheme has been earmarked for giving information to the people regarding the scheme. With that one per cent of the funds, boards are displayed to inform the people that this electrification scheme is being implemented under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Electrification Scheme. Such boards are placed in all those villages which have been covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran scheme. The hon'ble Member should see such boards and then they will know whether the particular village has been covered under the Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Scheme or not.

[English]

**Rehabilitation of Power Project
Affected People**

*348. **SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is facing problems in timely completion of hydel power projects on account of rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected people;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) whether any policy has been formed by the Government for proper rehabilitation of project affected people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER : (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The implementation of a few hydro-electric projects has been affected on account of issues relating to the rehabilitation and resettlement of the project affected people. The details of such projects are given in Annexure-I.

(c) and (d) The National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R and R) 2003 (NPRR-2003) for Project Affected Families (PAFs) has been notified by the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources) in February, 2004. The objectives of the policy are as follows:-

- (i) "To minimize displacement and to identify non-displacing or least-displacing alternatives;
- (ii) To plan the resettlement and rehabilitation of Project Affected Families (PAFs) including special needs of Tribals and vulnerable sections;
- (iii) To provide better standard of living to PAFs; and
- (iv) To facilitate harmonious relationship between the Requiring Body and PAFs through mutual cooperation".

Some of the benefits brought out in the Policy for PAFs are given in Annexure-II.

The NPRR-2003 lays down the basic norms and packages to be provided to Project Affected Families. Some of the State Governments have their own R and R policy. The Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are extending R and R benefits to PAFs in accordance with the agreements signed with the concerned State Governments while ensuring that the benefits extended to PAFs are in no case less than the benefits available under the NPRR-2003. On the specific requirements of the State Governments and PAFs, the CPSUs are also extending additional benefits like the development of roads, construction of schools and colleges, hospitals, dispensaries, mobile health vans etc.

Annexure-I

Details of the hydel projects facing problems in timely completion due to rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected people

Sl. No.	Name of the Project/ State/Agency	Present Status	Problems faced
1	2	3	4
1.	Sardar Sarovar Project (1450 MW), Gujarat Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited	All the six units of 200 MW each of River Bed Power House and all the five units of 50 MW each of Canal Head Power House have been commissioned. However, since the dam height has not reached the design level, the full benefits of generation are not being realized.	Commissioning was delayed due to Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R and R) problems of Project Affected Families (PAFs). Further, full generation benefits could not be obtained due to Supreme Court's directions on raising of dam height pari-pasu with the completion of R and R works with the permission of Narmada Control Authority (NCA). The NCA has given permission for raising of the dam height upto 121.92 m on 8th March, 2006. The dam height has been raised upto 119 m before the monsoon period of 2006.. As per design, the full reservoir level of the project is 138 m with top of the dam at a height of 146.5 m.
2.	Indira Sagar Project (1000 MW), Madhya Pradesh National Hydro Development Corporation	All the 8 units have been commissioned. The dam height has been raised upto the designed level of 267 m. However, the reservoir level is being maintained only at 260 m. The project was commissioned without any delay.	Due to non-completion of R and R works and on orders of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur), the reservoir is maintained at 260 m. As per orders of the High Court a resurvey of a few affected villages is being carried out by the Survey of India to reconfirm survey work done earlier.
3.	Tehri HE Project (1000 MW), Uttaranchal Tehri Hydro Development Corporation	Two units of 250 MW have been commissioned. - One unit is under testing for commissioning in December, 2006 - The last unit in advanced stage of boxing and its commissioning is expected in March, 2007	Commissioning was delayed due to opposition/agitation by PAFs; non-vacation of old Tehri town; constitution of various Committees to examine the issues relating to R and R, environment, safety, self-purification of Ganga Jal; local agitation not allowing closure of T-3 and T-4; sudden rockfall in shaft T-3 of right bank spillway; court cases filed restraining closure of T-2, etc.
4.	Koteshwar Dam Power Project (400 MW), Uttaranchal Tehri Hydro Development Corporation	The project was earlier scheduled to be commissioned in April, 2005. It is now expected to be commissioned in March, 2009.	Commissioning has been delayed due to delayed acquisition of land; non-evacuation of three villages namely, Pendars, Mulani and Gairogisera, which was completed in April,

1	2	3	4
			2005 to January, 2006; poor performance of the contractor; and repeated failure of slope on the right bank.
5. Tural HE Project (60 MW), Mizoram North Eastern Electric Corporation Limited	The project was scheduled to be commissioned in July, 2006. The work has been held up since June, 2004.		Work has been held up on account of many reasons including, inter-alia, the law and order problems, local agitation for illegal demand of about Rs. 25 crores as crop compensation on forest land, for which the Forest Department has already been compensated, high amount of Net Present Value (NPV) of diverted forest land and financial re-engineering model for making the project viable.

Annexure-II

Benefits available to Project Affected Families under National Policy on Rehabilitation and Resettlement - 2003 (Chapter VI of the NRR-2003)

1. The resettlement and rehabilitation (R and R) benefits shall be extended to all the PAFs whether belonging to below poverty line (BPL) or non-BPL.
2. Any PAF owning house and whose house has been acquired may be allotted free of cost house site to the extent of actual loss of area of the acquired house but not more than 150 sq.m. of land in rural areas and 75 sq.meter. of land in urban areas.
3. Each PAF of BPL category shall get a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 25000/- for house construction. Non-BPL families shall not be entitled to receive this assistance.
4. Each PAF owning agricultural land in the affected zone and whose entire land has been acquired may be allotted agricultural land or cultivable waste land to the extent of actual land loss subject to a maximum of one hectare of irrigated land or two hectares of un-irrigated land/cultivable waste land subject to availability of Government land in the districts.
5. Stamp duty and other fees payable for registration shall be borne by the requiring body.
6. The land allotted as above shall be free from all encumbrances. The land allotted may be in the joint names of wife and husband of PAF.
7. In case of allotment of wasteland/degraded land in lieu of acquired land, each PAF shall get financial assistance of Rs. 10000/- per hectare for land development. In case of allotment of agricultural land, a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- per PAF for agricultural production shall be given.
8. Each PAF having cattle shall get financial assistance of Rs. 3000/- for construction of cattle shed.
9. Each PAF shall get financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- as transportation cost for shifting of building materials, belongings and cattle etc. from the affected zone to the resettlement zone.
10. Each PAF comprising of rural artisan/small trader and self employed person shall get onetime financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- for construction of working shed/shop.
11. Each PAF owning agricultural land in the affected zone and whose entire land has been acquired shall get one-time financial assistance equivalent to 750 days minimum agricultural wages for "loss of livelihood" where neither agricultural land nor regular employment to one member of the PAF has been provided.

12. Each PAF owning agricultural land in the affected zone and whose entire land has not been acquired and consequently he becomes a marginal farmer shall get one time financial assistance equivalent to 500 days minimum agricultural wages.
13. Each PAF owning agriculture land in the affected zone and who consequently becomes a small farmer shall get one time financial assistance equivalent to 375 days minimum agricultural wages.
14. Each PAF belonging to the category of 'agricultural labourer', or 'non-agricultural labourer' shall be provided a one time financial assistance equivalent to 625 days of the minimum agricultural wages.
15. Each displaced PAF shall get a monthly subsistence allowance equivalent to 20 days of minimum agricultural wages per month for a period of one year upto 250 days of MAW.
16. In the case of acquisition of land in emergent situation such as under Section 17 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 or similar provisions of other Act in force, each PAF shall be provided with transit accommodation, pending resettlement and rehabilitation scheme. Such families shall also get R and R benefits as mentioned in above paras under the Policy.
17. Acquisition of Long Stretches of land : In case of projects relating to railway lines, highways, transmission lines and laying pipelines wherein only a narrow stretch of land extending over several kilometers is being acquired, the PAFs will be offered an *ex-gratia* amount of Rs. 10,000/- per family, and no other Resettlement and Rehabilitation benefits shall be available to them.
18. The Project Affected Families shall be provided necessary training facilities for development of entrepreneurship to take up self-employment projects at the resettlement zone as part of R and R benefits.
19. The PAFs who were in possession of forest lands prior to 25th October, 1980 shall get all the benefits of R and R as given in above paras under the Policy.
20. The PAFs of Scheduled Caste category enjoying reservation benefits in the affected zone shall be

entitled to get the reservation benefits at the resettlement zone.

R AND R BENEFITS FOR PROJECT AFFECTED FAMILIES OF SCHEDULED TRIBES:

1. Each Project Affected Family of ST category shall be given preference in allotment of land.
2. Each tribal PAF shall be entitled to get R and R benefits mentioned above under the Policy.
3. Each Tribal PAF shall get additional financial assistance equivalent to 500 days minimum agriculture wages for loss of customary rights/usages of forest produce.
4. Tribal PAFs will be re-settled close to their natural habitat in a compact block so that they can retain their ethnic, linguistic and cultural identity.
5. Tribal PAFs shall get land free of cost for community and religious gathering.
6. Tribal PAFs resettled out of the district/taluka will get 25% higher R and R benefits in monetary terms.
7. The Tribal Land Alienated in violation of the laws and regulations in force on the subject would be treated as null and void and the R and R benefits would be available only to the original tribal land owner.
8. The Tribals families residing in the Project Affected Areas having fishing rights in the river/pond/dam shall be given fishing rights in the reservoir area.
9. Tribal PAFs enjoying reservation benefits in the affected zone shall be entitled to get the reservation benefits at the resettlement zone.

BASIC AMENITIES TO BE PROVIDED AT RESETTLEMENT ZONE:

Further, while shifting the population of the Affected Zone to the Resettlement Zone, the Administrator for R and R, may as far as possible, ensure that:

1. In case the entire population of the village/area to be shifted belongs to a particular community, such

population/families may be resettled enmasse in a compact area so that socio-cultural relations (social harmony) amongst shifted families are not disturbed

2. In case of resettlement of Scheduled Castes PAFs, it may be ensured that they are resettled in sites close to the villages.
3. The PAFs shall be provided the basic amenities and infrastructural facilities at the resettlement site as per norms specified by the appropriate Government. It is desirable that provision of drinking water, electricity, schools, dispensaries and access to the resettlement sites amongst others be included in the resettlement plan.

Source : Chapter VI of the NPRR-2003

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please be brief and put one specific question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, proper rehabilitation of project-affected people particularly in power projects has not been done. Rehabilitation Policy was announced in 2003, and that too after ten years. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Time will be over. Please put your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a number of projects had to be abandoned because of rehabilitation and settlement problems. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry will formulate a proper Rehabilitation Policy for the rehabilitation of project-affected people, particularly the tribal people, and for expeditious execution of hydel projects.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time. So, you may reply in yes or no.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE : No, Sir. If I say yes, it becomes an assurance because his idea basically is that I should say yes. . . .(Interruptions) I may explain. . .

MR. SPEAKER : No, explanation, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may consider it.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Projects Financed by HUDCO

*343. SHRI HITEN BARMAN :
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the State projects financed by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects of various State Governments pending with HUDCO for financial aid, State-wise;

(c) the estimated cost of these projects;

(d) the details of town/towships to be developed through these projects; and

(e) the time by which these pending projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) During the last three years (2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06), the details of Housing and Urban Infrastructure projects sanctioned to State Governments/Agencies are as follows:-

Housing

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Loan Sanctioned
2003-04	2084.88
2004-05	2958.58
2005-06	779.02

Urban Infrastructure

(Rs in crores)

Year	Loan Sanctioned
2003-04	9234.31
2004-05	7848.52
2005-06	4987.29

The Statewise details are enclosed at Statement-I.

(b) to (d) The details are enclosed at Statement-II.

(e) The Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) provides loan assistance to concerned State Government agencies on fulfilling certain stipulated conditions by the borrowing agencies. All projects are at various stages of appraisal and will be sanctioned as per HUDCO guidelines.

*Statement-I**Status of Schemes Sanctioned to Public Agencies during the last three years by HUDCO*

State	2003-2004			2004-2005			2005-2006		
	No. of Schemes	Project Cost	Loan Amount	No. of Schemes	Project Cost	Loan Amount	No. of Scheme	Project Cost	Loan Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	6	69608.98	45012.11	5	27195.85	11700.00	5	18484.20	0.00
Arunachal Pradesh	6	851.49	763.23	1	215.57	180.00	0	0.00	0.00
Assam	5	4868.10	3486.00	4	9783.86	7079.00	1	11077.00	5000.00
Bihar	1	204.80	0.00	1	140062.50	125000.00	1	60.00	0.00
Chhattisgarh	6	11559.24	5954.00	2	20025.28	10022.73	4	4776.00	3604.00
Gujarat	9	120397.47	12814.75	5	121900.95	10083.06	4	152069.97	35200.00
Himachal Pradesh	4	29759.67	29523.12	3	1034.03	651.21	2	606.00	498.00
Jharkhand	1	8000.00	4000.00	1	55600.00	50000.00	2	6922.40	4800.00
Jammu and Kashmir	4	857.33	0.00	3	2993.91	1231.85	0	0.00	0.00
Karnataka	11	50218.83	33112.19	10	52008.52	39542.52	2	26189.80	12500.00
Kerala	3	11102.40	6300.00	3	14229.16	9535.00	2	15237.20	3723.72
Maharashtra	14	19206.09	0.00	23	24246.58	0.00	16	9307.95	0.00
Manipur	3	1926.06	1000.00	1	113.85	0.00	1	126.00	0.00
Madhya Pradesh	14	11670.26	8302.25	16	5714.13	2122.25	4	1500.07	494.50
Mizoram	3	638.45	501.00	1	578.15	500.00	2	1167.05	1000.00
Nagaland	12	4394.43	3002.14	10	4080.25	3300.00	8	3131.52	2515.00
Orissa	10	3272.50	2500.00	7	6127.09	5410.00	0	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	8	7	8	9	10
Pondicherry	2	496.70	150.00	2	361.20	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Rajasthan	5	5360.85	3000.00	4	15704.50	9864.00	0	0.00	0.00
Tamil Nadu	5	25167.59	6707.29	10	12047.73	441.35	0	0.00	0.00
Tripura	2	484.20	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	1	96.75	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	13	41259.44	25220.89	8	14090.82	6372.00	2	9795.24	8567.00
Uttaranchal	6	18865.34	14823.12	2	687.85	343.92	0	0.00	0.00
West Bengal	14	6291.80	2316.00	17	6133.84	2490.00	2	257.00	0.00
Total	159	446462.02	208488.09	139	534935.60	295858.69	59	260784.15	77902.22

Statement-II

Projects Proposals from State Governments/Governments Agencies received by HUDCO for Loan Assistance (As on 08.12.2006)

State	Agency	Name of Project	Project Cost (Rs. in Cr.)	Loan Amount (Rs. in Cr.)
1	2	3	5	6
ASSAM	HOUSEFED	Office building at front side of housefed, Guwahati	4.18	3.20
		Total:	4.18	3.20
MADHYA PRADESH	Municipal Corpration Gwalior	Widenning, Strengthening and Improvement of Roads in Gwalior City.	5.10	4.50
	MC Dewas	Kshipra Jalawardhan Yojana at Dewas	32.94	23.35
		Total:	38.10	27.85
RAIPUR	Municipal Council Kumhari	Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Scheme at Kumhari, Durg.	3.40	0.63
	Municipal Council Dongargarh	Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Scheme at Dongargarh	2.58	0.44

1	2	3	5	6
	Municipal Council Dongargarh	Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) Scheme at Kurud	2.38	0.42
		Total:	8.30	1.49
UTTAR PRADESH				
	UP Power Corp. Ltd.	Scheme for improvement of power trans- mission	185.88	167.00
		Total:	185.68	167.00
JHARKHAND				
	UDD Government of Jharkhand	Water Supply Scheme at Jamshedpur, Khuynti, Mango, Giridih, Dumka	158.61	140.00
		Total:	158.61	140.00
JAMMU and KASHMIR				
	JKHB	Land Acquisition scheme at Pulwana	19.13	17.00
		Total:	19.13	17.00
		Grand Total:	414.08	365.54

[Translation]

Defective ATMs

*344. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that customers are frequently unable to withdraw the deposited money from ATMs and are facing a lot of inconvenience as a result of defective ATM machines of several public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any shortage of technical staff for rectifying ATMs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effective steps taken by Government to ensure smooth functioning of ATM machines and protecting the interest of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) All ATMs are networked and connected to a central ATM switch by way of leased lines with Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) backup. This minimizes the risk of failure. However, on rare occasions, the customers may not be in a position to withdraw money due to some technical problems which are rectified within minimum possible time. The functioning of the ATM is monitored from a centralized location and suitable instructions are given to the branches to ensure 24 x 7 service to the customers through ATMs.

(c) to (e) ATMs are procured from the vendors who offer Annual Maintenance Contract after the expiry of the warranty periods. Banks have entered into Service Level Agreement with the service providers to ensure maximum uptime of the ATMs to protect the interest of depositors. Banks have also outsourced ATM Management Services for maintaining the uptime of ATMs and rectifying the problems, if any. The outsourced agency manages ATMs with full support of competent technical staff. Banks have

also recruited technical manpower for monitoring their ATM network. Banks have taken all necessary steps to ensure smooth and uninterrupted functioning of ATMs through technically qualified service providers, thereby providing satisfactory services to the customers.

[English]

Generation of Electricity through Sea Water

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

- (a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology is working on generating electricity through sea water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any cost effective analysis has been done in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is planning to set up such projects on pilot basis in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present, generating electricity through OTEC and wave energy is not found to be cost effective at commercial scale due to high capital cost, low level of power generation and other technical reasons.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Use of Electronic Channels in Banks

*350. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL :
SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the government is aware of the organized gangs involved in cheating by cloning international credit cards;
- (b) if so, the bank-wise details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has detected the technique being used in stealing data;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the increasing use of electronic channels for payments has posed a new security problem for banks;
- (f) if so, whether any technique has been developed in this regard to control such crimes; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Fraud Monitoring Cell of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) receives report on all frauds/cheating detected at Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions. RBI has reported that they have no information regarding organized gangs involved in cheating by cloning International credit cards.

(c) and (d) Cloning i.e. skimming and duplicating credit cards is a technique being used in stealing data and making counterfeit cards. Skimming is defined as the transfer of magnetic stripe data from a genuine credit card to the magnetic stripe of a counterfeit plastic card. A few instances of skimming of credit cards for unauthorised uses by unscrupulous elements have been reported to RBI by banks.

(e) to (g) Banks need to put in place appropriate system to mitigate the risk arising out of electronic channels for payments. RBI has issued a circular to Banks on 26.6.2006 advising them to take preventive measures to combat skimming related frauds. These measures, inter-alia, include:-

- Customers should protect their ATM Personal Identification Number (PIN), periodically verify the transaction history to ensure its correctness, immediately inform to the bank if the ATM/Credit card is lost or stolen, etc.

- Banks should conduct regular inspection of ATM machines and ensure that cash is loaded in the machines in the presence of bank officials, conduct random checks for identifying any signs of tampering of fixtures attached to ATMs, investigate customer complaints quickly to determine if ATM was misused, evaluate the latest security features like anti-skimming, features offered by ATM vendors and implement the important features based on the perceived risks, etc.

Solar Energy for Running of Tubewells

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote the use of solar energy for running tubewells to reduce dependency on diesel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the subsidy being provided by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing a scheme on deployment of solar photovoltaic (PV) water pumping systems for applications such as community drinking water supply, agriculture and related uses including running of tubewells. The solar PV water pumping programme is implemented through the state nodal agencies and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Under the scheme, solar photovoltaic water pumping systems with photovoltaic array capacity of 200 watt to 3000 watt can be installed. The Ministry provides a subsidy of Rs. 30 per watt of PV array capacity used in the solar photovoltaic water pumping system, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per system. By 30th September, 2006, a total of 7068 solar photovoltaic water pumping systems have been installed, under the scheme, in different parts of the country.

[English]

Norms for Corporate Debt Market

*352. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will The Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the norms for corporate debt market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing laws and rules are to be amended for this; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time frame for action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) The Government had set up a High-Level Expert Committee on Corporate Bonds and Securitisation (Patil Committee) to look into legal, regulatory, tax and market design issues in the development of the corporate bond market. The Committee submitted its report to the Government in December, 2005. The Budget of 2006-07 announced that the Government has accepted the recommendations of the Report and that steps would be taken to create a single, unified exchange-traded market for corporate bonds. The implementation of the recommendations of the Committee would require changes in various statutes.

(d) The measures already taken in respect of implementation of the recommendations of the Patil Committee include:-

- (i) The Union Cabinet has approved the amendments to the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 to include securitized instruments within the ambit of "securities".
- (ii) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has issued a circular on 12th December, 2006 conveying the decision that the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited would set up and maintain a corporate bond reporting platform, with effect from 1st January, 2007, as envisaged in the first phase of development of the corporate bond market by the Patil Committee.

- (iii) SEBI and RBI had set up internal Working Groups to work out plans for implementation of the recommendations of the report. They have submitted their reports.
- (iv) The Standing Committee of State Secretaries of Stamps and Registration of Department of Revenue has taken up for examination the recommendation regarding stamp duty on debt instruments.

Construction of Houses under IAY

*353. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA :
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of houses built for SCs/STs and other weaker sections in the country during 2005-06 under the Indira Aawas Yojana, State-wise;
- (b) whether some houses built have not been

occupied by the beneficiaries due to remote location of the dwelling units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A Statement containing State-wise number of houses constructed for SCs/STs and other weaker sections in the country during 2005-06 under Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY) is enclosed.

(b) and (c) No such information has been furnished to the Ministry.

(d) The IAY guidelines stipulate that the dwelling units should normally be built on individual plots in the main habitation of the village. The houses can also be built in a cluster within a habitation, so as to facilitate the development of infrastructure, such as, internal roads, drainage, drinking water supply etc. and other common facilities.

Statement

State-wise number of houses constructed for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and for other Weaker Sections in the Country during 2005-06 under the Indira Aawas Yojana (IAY)

Unit in Nos

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of Houses constructed for			
		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe	Others	Total (Col. 3+4+5)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56536	19239	56746	132521
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	5327	0	5327
3.	Assam	23324	36722	44307	104353
4.	Bihar	178659	8043	144949	331651
5.	Chhattisgarh	5162	12568	8848	26578
6.	Goa	10	50	555	615
7.	Gujarat	13302	28469	23831	65602
8.	Haryana	6090	0	3653	9743
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1523	224	1284	3031

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	8231	8231
11.	Jharkhand	18619	33805	22979	75403
12.	Karnataka	24621	9158	23165	56944
13.	Kerala	18817	1981	15615	36413
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17727	22522	19171	59420
15.	Maharashtra	31793	25880	36601	94274
16.	Manipur	60	4429	473	4962
17.	Meghalaya	222	6305	151	6678
18.	Mizoram	0	2182	0	2182
19.	Nagaland	0	7949	0	7949
20.	Orissa	32083	21770	33217	87070
21.	Punjab	6730	0	1138	7868
22.	Rajasthan	17609	7733	13129	38471
23.	Sikkim	230	388	678	1296
24.	Tamil Nadu	39032	1384	26018	66434
25.	Tripura	2392	5183	4327	11902
26.	Uttar Pradesh	112072	452	73017	185541
27.	Uttaranchal	6931	1875	12916	21722
28.	West Bengal	47277	14852	37130	99259
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	90	90
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	101	0	101
31.	Daman and Diu	0	5	1	6
32.	Lakshadweep	0	48	0	48
33.	Pondicherry	76	0	162	238
Total		660897	278644	612382	1551923

R and D Projects

*354. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has initiated R and D projects in the field of agriculture, industry and other vital

areas of development for the country;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) whether the expenditure incurred on R and D projects is low in India in comparison to the advanced countries including China; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from the research projects being undertaken in-house by the Departments like Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Space, Defence, Railways, Telecommunication etc., the Government has been sponsoring research in the various fields including agriculture, industry and other vital S and T areas. The R and D projects sponsored by the various Government Departments are compiled in the publication entitled "Directory of Extramural R and D Projects 2004-2005". According to this Directory, 2749 R and D projects costing Rs. 570.50 crores were supported by various Government Departments in the country. Out of this, 222 R and D projects costing Rs. 64.76 crores and 549 R and D projects costing Rs. 153.54 crores were supported in agricultural sciences and engineering and technology respectively.

(c) and (d) Any comparison of expenditure on R and D projects vis-a-vis other countries is unrealistic in view of the availability of resources, infrastructure for R and D and wage differentials. International comparison in scientific research is generally made in terms of expenditure on R and D as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Presently, India's expenditure on R and D as percentage of GDP is 0.80 as compared to 2.67 in USA, 1.88 in UK, 3.11 in Japan, 2.64 in Germany and 1.23 in China.

In order to boost the R and D activities in the country, the Government has enhanced the S and T Plan outlay of Scientific Departments/Agencies from Rs. 12,022 crores in 9th Plan to Rs. 25,243 crores in 10th Plan and plans to increase it further in 11th Plan. Further, various initiatives have been taken by the Government to encourage investment on R and D both in institutions and industry through several measures. These measures include higher allocation to scientific research, setting up of new institutions for science education and research, creation of centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas in academic and national institutes, strengthening infrastructure for R and D in universities, encouraging public-private R and D partnerships, grants for industrial R and D projects, income tax relief on R and D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored

research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R and D projects, tax holiday and national awards for outstanding R and D.

Rural Electrification Schemes

*355. SHRI M. SHIVANNA :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation provides funds to the State Governments for upcoming projects in the field of generation, transmission, and upgradation of power infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details of the project alongwith funds provided during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Union Government has received Rural Electrification Schemes from States for approval and sanction of funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) as a financial institution provides financial support to the State Governments/State Power Utilities for upcoming projects in the fields of generation, transmission and up-gradation of power infrastructure etc. Details of the projects alongwith funds provided by REC during the last 3 years are at Statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (e) Saction has been accorded to 317 DPRs for 316 districts involving an outlay of Rs. 11514.23 crore covering electrification of 69534 un-electrified/de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 165124 villages in 27 States. Further, "in-principle" approval has been accorded to 144 projects for 136 districts for electrification of 21105 un-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 88829 electrified village involving outlay of Rs. 5892 crore to take up preliminary activities uptil tendering, tender evaluation etc. work can be awarded on approval of XI Plan outlay.

State-wise details are presented given in Statement-II, III enclosed.

Statement-I

Funds provided by REC against Generation Projects sanctioned during 2003-04

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	REC Code	Type of Project	lastalled Capacity (MW)	Project cost	Loan sanctioned by REC	Disbursement during				
								2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	(Upto 30.11.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
ANDHRA PRADESH												
1.	Additional loan for Rayalseema-II	APGENCO	410005	Thermal	2x210	1577.63	25.00	25.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	
2.	Vijaywada Stage-IV Krishna Distt., A.P.	APGENCO	410007	Thermal	660	3300.00	825.00	0.000	0.000	66.000	226.420	
3.	Conaseema Power project, Andhra Pradesh	Konaseema EPS Oakwell Power Limited	410006	Natural Gas	445	1383.00	132.00	0.000	18.298	93.972	12.878	
TAMIL NADU												
1.	Valanitharavi Gas based CCPP in Tamil Nadu	Arkey energy Limited, Hyderabad	480001	Thermal	57.4	194.42	38.00	0.000	38.000	0.000	0.000	
PUNJAB												
1.	Guru Har Gobind Thermal Project Stage II Lehra Mohabbat, Punjab	PSEB	161272	Thermal	500	1789.67	1610.70	0.000	268.120	492.454	417.531	
2.	Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Station, Ropar, Punjab	PSEB	161274	R and M- Thermal	6x210	52.89	29.51	0.000	18.150	9.228	0.266	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	CHHATTISGARH										
1.	Korba (East) Thermal Power project, Chhatisgarh	Chhatisgarh SEB	280001	Thermal	500	2045.00	1431.00	0.000	325.990	129.880	228.735
	WEST BENGAL										
1.	Santalidh Thermal Power Project Extension 5th Unit in West Bengal	WBPDC	590001	Thermal	250	1137.00	955.53	47.770	65.590	163.665	153.753
	GUJARAT										
1.	Gandhi Nagar TPS, Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041139	R and M- Thermal	870	8.96	8.06	0.000	0.806	0.000	0.000
2.	Wanakbori TPS, Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041141	R and M- Thermal	1470	56.31	50.68	0.000	5.068	0.000	4.900
	JAMMU AND KASHMIR										
1.	Begjihar HEP Stage-I in Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir PDCL	4000011	Hydro	0.45	4000.00	400.00	0.000	1180.000	87.000	0.000
	ORISSA										
1.	Samal Barrage Hydro Electric Power Project, Kelei, Angul dist.L.Orissa	Orissa Power Consortium Ltd.	600001	Hydro	20.00	103.86	20.00	0.000	1.400	1.760	5.030
	HIMACHAL PRADESH										
1.	Garvi Stage-II, Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	060423	Hydro	8	39.36	34.15	0.000	3.000	2.467	2.603
2.	Malana II HEP district Kullu, Himachal Pradesh	Everest Power Pvt. Ltd.	610001	Hydro	100	598.00	328.90	0.000	0.000	0.000	22.450

Funds provided by REC against Generation Projects sanctioned during 2004-05

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	REC Code	Type of Project	Capacity last installed (MW)	Loan sanctioned by REC	Disbursement during	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
										(Upto 30.11.2006)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
TAMIL NADU										
1.	Additional loan for Valanthuravi in Tamil Nadu	Arkey energy Limited, Hyderabad	480001	Thermal		10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHHATTISGARH										
1.	2 x 250 MW Coal based Bhilai Expansion Power Project in Durg District of Chhattisgarh State	Bhilai Electric Supply Company Private Limited	660001	Thermal	600	1285.00	100.00	31.00	84.00	
2.	300 MW Pathadi Coal based Thermal Power Project in Chhattisgarh (Unit-I and II)	M/s. Lanco Amarkantak Power Private Limited	880001/2	Thermal	300	516.57	0.00	46.56	34.20	
PUNJAB										
1.	R and M works (Project-II) of Guru Gobind Singh Super Thermal Power Station, Ropar, Punjab	PSEB	161275	R and M-Thermal	6x210	6.82	0.00	1.58	0.01	
GUJARAT										
1.	R and M works at Ukai and Wanakbori Thermal Power Station in Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041142	R and M-Thermal	850+1470	22.464	2.25	0.00	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	R and M works (Phase-II) at Wanakbori Thermal Power Station in Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041143	R and M-Thermal	1470	24.503	2.45	0.00	1.30
3.	R and M works at Dhuvaran Thermal Power Station in Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041144	R and M-Thermal	534	30.375	3.04	0.00	1.16
4.	R and M works at Sikka Thermal Power Station in Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041146	R and M-Thermal	240	4.03	0.40	0.00	0.00
5.	R and M works at Kutch Lignite Thermal Power Station in Gujarat	Gujarat Electricity Board	041147	R and M-Thermal	140+75	1.80	0.18	0.00	0.00
KERALA									
1.	Kuttiyadi Extension Scheme district Kozhikode in Kerala	KSEB	90982	Hydro	100.00	154.35	0.00	31.08	0.00
KARNATAKA									
1.	MGHE Tailrace HEP, Karnataka	Ambuthirtha Power Pvt. Ltd.	460003	Hydro	20.00	23.54	1.97	10.00	7.91
MEGHALAYA									
1.	Myntdu Additional loan, Meghalaya		130060	Hydro	84	94.00	58.32	12.89	62.08
HIMACHAL PRADESH									
1.	Aleo HEP in district Kulthi, Himachal Pradesh	Aleo Manali Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd.	630001	Hydro	3	6.90	2.50	2.00	0.00

Funds provided by REC against Generation Projects sanctioned during 2005-06

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Agency	REC Code	Type of Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Project cost	Loan sanctioned by REC	2005-06	2006-07 (Upto 30.11.2006)
ANDHRA PRADESH									
1.	500 MW Coal based Thermal Power Project at Bhoopalapally in Andhra Pradesh	APGENCO	410008	Coal	500.0	2059.35	1544.51	50	21.766
ARUNACHAL PRADESH									
1	Additional loan for Rine SHP	State Government	230138	Coal	2.0	13.91	6.04	5.659*	0
MADHYA PRADESH									
1	Shree Maheshwar Hydro Power Pvt. Ltd.	M/s. Shree Maheshwar hydel Power Corporation Limited	940001	Hydro	400	2245.30	250.00	10	10
UTTARANCHAL									
1.	Tehri Stage-I Hydro Power Project in Uttaranchal	Tehri Hydro Development Corporation	330001	Hydro	1000	7500.3	1860.00	201.31	1336.548
MIZORAM									
1.	Sertui B HEP (Additional Loan)	Mizoram Government	240013	Hydro	12	72.25	40	25.39*	0
PUNJAB									
1.	Ganguwal and Kotla Power House Phase III (R and M)	BBMB	161348	R and M-Hydro	57	102.00	34.22	10.0991	12.7931

*It includes disbursement against the complete project.

State-wise Sanctions under T and D for last 3 years

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (as on Sept. 1st)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1342	688	1331	269
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	8	1	
3.	Assam	0	0		
4.	Bihar	0	0		
5.	Gujarat	16	54	117	76
6.	Haryana	255	156	1	359
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0	6	84	16
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	0	8	
9.	Karnataka	201	280	454	233
10.	Kerala	138	257		
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	178	84	262
12.	Maharashtra	487	475	1254	2506
13.	Manipur	0	0		
14.	Meghalaya	0	0		
15.	Mizoram	7	0		
16.	Nagaland	0	15	4	
17.	Orissa	296	0	45	
18.	Punjab	160	342	93	48
19.	Rajasthan	245	139	1511	388
20.	Sikkim	0	0		
21.	Tamil Nadu	937	430	215	456
22.	Tripura	0	0		
23.	Uttar Pradesh	75	79	496	142
24.	Uttaranchal	100	0	28	162
25.	West Bengal	857	487	46	21
Grand Total		5117	3592	5769	4938

Disbursement under T and D for last 3 years

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	881	859	508
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	2	5
3.	Assam	0	0	
4.	Bihar	0	0	
5.	Gujarat	121	107	
6.	Haryana	104	132	85
7.	Himachal Pradesh	22	15	26
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	27	32	40
9.	Karnataka	464	224	204
10.	Kerala	255	184	59
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	
12.	Maharashtra	495	350	474
13.	Manipur	0	1	
14.	Meghalaya	0	0	
15.	Mizoram	4	7	
16.	Nagaland	2	13	8
17.	Orissa	0	0	9
18.	Punjab	166	228	291
19.	Rajasthan	178	190	550
20.	Sikkim	0	0	
21.	Tamil Nadu	521	588	343
22.	Tripura	0	0	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	126	46	20
24.	Uttaranchal	29	71	40
25.	West Bengal	198	149	71
Grand Total		3599	3198	2733

Statement-II

State-wise Details of Draft DPRs received under RGGVY Scheme

As on 08.12.06

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of projects received	Total No. of Districts involved	Total Cost of Project (Rs. Lakh)	Villages covered for household electrification under the project				Total No. of villages covered for household electrification	Total No. of habitations covered under the project	Total No. of proposed connections to be released to rural households (Inc BPL HH)	Total No. of BPL HHs to be electrified under the project
					No. of un-electrified villages	No. of de-electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	No. of villages covered for household electrification				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	22	80493.81	0	0	27495	27495	76319	3957565	2592808	
2.	Auranchal Pradesh	16	16	58119.67	1802	331	1768	3901	364	76438	40810	
3.	Assam	21	21	126390.43	3072	3831	12766	18494	36428	1341936	953044	
4.	Bihar	43	38	333056.82	14067	10486	5605	30158	27599	5077218	260649	
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	15	96846.49	951	179	16979	16893	32646	1457589	770372	
6.	Gujarat	25	25	30617.12	0	0	17934	17934	15923	1595853	955150	
7.	Haryana	18	18	18570.36	0	0	5985	5985	3316	569686	224073	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	45429.80	97	0	17389	17486	18808	44444	12483	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	12	35657.19	198	8	5944	6150	20367	294433	134613	
10.	Jharkhand	22	22	261327.82	16965	2774	7622	27361	79099	2926260	1693281	
11.	Karnataka	26	26	61336.95	132	0	28695	28627	47448	2005323	902373	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12. Kerala	14	14	14	14	32101.02	0	0	1077	1077	2485	458248	206741
13. Madhya Pradesh	48	48	48	48	249054.42	604	454	48488	49546	47781	3747831	1825851
14. Maharashtra	34	34	34	34	40605.10	6	0	40289	40295	56274	2633641	1876303
15. Manipur	4	4	4	4	15242.73	159	336	727	1222	792	76267	49188
16. Meghalaya	3	3	3	3	6171.20	90	103	1631	1824	1885	55688	37869
17. Mizoram	8	8	8	8	10244.68	42	95	570	707	707	44334	27417
18. Nagaland	5	5	5	5	4161.25	20	12	484	516	733	64548	38440
19. Orissa	23	22	22	22	293483.19	10809	3440	22523	36772	52984	3775005	2436451
20. Punjab	17	17	17	17	14493.02	0	0	11840	11840	4670	405023	148860
21. Rajasthan	41	32	32	32	104948.22	761	3681	34842	39330	32989	2321306	1755720
22. Sikkim	4	4	4	4	5825.82	25	0	418	443	1700	28166	11458
23. Tamil Nadu	29	29	29	29	44834.59	0	0	13137	13137	74498	1887943	585015
24. Tripura	3	3	3	3	16238.64	127	150	150	277	1520	89984	58708
25. Uttar Pradesh	67	65	65	65	330650.02	31657	1077	5608	38342	46021	2118859	1392599
26. Uttaranchal	13	13	13	13	64389.43	787	682	14105	15574	24428	357309	281615
27. West Bengal	26	18	18	18	497141.04	4268	15	0	4283	4283	176170	108558
Grand Total	575	546	546	546	2877230.82	86639	27504	344071	455869	712067	37586067	21726306

Statement-III*Details of project sanctioned/Approved "In-Principle" under RGGVY by Monitoring Committee on RGGVY*

14.12.2006

Sl. No.	State	No. of Projects	No. of Districts	No. of un-electrified villages covered	No. of electrified villages covered	No. of un-electrified Rural Households covered		Total Projects Cost in Rs. Lakh	
						Total (Inc. BPL)	BPL households		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	A	17	17	0	21623	3166161	2114317	64815.60
		B	5	5	0	5215	633052	385200	13362.87
2.	Arnachal Pradesh	A	2	2	237	321	7230	4377	4330.11
		B	14	14	1896	1447	69208	36433	53789.57
3.	Assam	A	7	7	1831	3926	445804	329668	30044.38
		B	8	8	2416	4873	341596	278036	47563.78
4.	Bihar	A	29	29	18959	169	1196385	1008898	169438.47
		B	9	9	3895	3932	2745435	965397	100855.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	A	5	5	166	5642	494414	271170	23653.45
6.	Gujarat	A	9	9	0	7347	580071	412628	12922.71
		B	16	16	0	10587	1015782	542522	17694.41
7.	Haryana	A	6	6	0	1820	205646	92948	7699.57
		B	12	12	0	4165	364040	131125	10870.79
8.	Himachal Pradesh	A	1	1	0	1118	2531	647	2502.36
		B	3	3	1	4100	11519	3587	7348.98
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	A	4	4	108	2044	126104	71914	14592.77
		B	6	6	76	3227	152316	57538	15163.14
10.	Jharkhand	A	11	11	7563	4226	1256561	777234	106738.49
		B	7	7	8500	2296	1166549	830501	99827.92
11.	Karnataka	A	26	26	132	28695	2005323	902373	61336.95
12.	Kerala	A	7	7	0	373	227320	122187	22175.75
		B	7	7	0	704	230928	84554	9925.28

1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Madhya Pradesh	A	16	16	176	17998	1254435	625114	80946.91
		B	5	5	77	5977	432018	212643	38295.40
14.	Maharashtra	A	17	17	0	20661	1394893	1016583	21481.37
15.	Manipur	A	3	3	244	393	41622	26622	9462.64
		B	1	1	251	334	34645	22566	5780.09
16.	Meghalaya	A	3	3	193	1631	55688	37869	6171.20
17.	Mizoram	A	8	8	137	570	44334	27417	10244.68
18.	Nagaland	A	3	3	12	373	35601	22908	2569.27
		B	2	2	20	111	28947	15533	1591.98
19.	Orissa	A	4	3	1329	3353	472752	324443	40977.25
		B	5	5	1920	7579	754050	444086	54602.82
20.	Punjab	A	1	1	0	962	69125	25004	2297.11
		B	16	16	0	10878	335898	123856	12195.91
21.	Rajasthan	A	27	26	1820	16239	1064622	747711	48092.21
		B	12	6	1974	16015	1085944	891618	44379.79
22.	Sikkim	A	4	4	25	418	28166	11458	5625.82
23.	Tamil Nadu	A	16	16	0	7758	1125715	388067	26501.26
		B	13	13	0	5379	782228	196948	18333.33
24.	Tripura	A	1	1	48	72	20548	13119	1957.77
		B	1	1	79	78	68436	45589	3232.14
25.	Utter Pradesh	A	64	65	30802	3287	1694075	1120648	271951.59
		B	2	0	0	1932	368994	56853	34371.79
26.	Uttaranchal	A	13	13	1469	14105	357309	281615	64389.43
27.	West Bengal	A	13	13	4283	0	145918	97847	38503.56
	Total	A	317	316	69534	165124	17518353	10874786	1151422.67
		B	144	136	21105	88829	10601585	5324585	589185.96
	Grand Total		461	452	90639	253953	28119938	16199371	1740608.64

A – Projects Sanctioned.

B – Projects Approved "In-principle".

Transfer of Technologies

*356. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has a mission to spread the commercial application of research and transfer of technology from laboratories to the corporate world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring industry and academia closer?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) is a unique public sector enterprise wholly devoted to transfer of technologies from R and D establishments and academic institutions to industry as well as their commercialization. This mission is accomplished in the following manner:-

- (i) Various R and D laboratories, universities and industrial units either assign the technologies developed by them to NRDC for transfer to the corporate world and their commercialization or NRDC, proactively sources commercialisable technologies from R and D system/industry in India and abroad. For example, many R and D laboratories, universities and industries, such as CSIR labs, DRDO establishments, Central Silk Board, Central Coir Research Institute, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Central Power Research Institute, AIIMS, Delhi University and Indian Oil Corporation have assigned technologies in area such drugs, chemicals, pesticides, silk processing, mechanical and construction industry to NRDC, for commercial exploitation. NRDC on the other hand has signed MoUs with a number of universities for commercialization of their technologies. These include Haryana Agricultural University, Punjab Agricultural University, GB Pant Agricultural University, IISc Bangalore and Delhi University.

(ii) NRDC prepares detailed technology transfer documentation and searches for appropriate licenses for the technologies assigned to it by giving them adequate publicity through newspaper advertisements, participation in exhibitions and conducting market surveys.

(iii) NRDC also does value addition in the assigned technologies and prepares the basic design engineering packages to facilitate their commercialization. At times, NRDC also participates in the equity of the venture based on newly commercialized technology.

(iv) Intellectual property protection has become an important consideration in transfer and commercialization of technology. NRDC provides technical, legal and financial assistance to the originator of the technology for patenting it in India and abroad before transferring it to a licensee on exclusive or non-exclusive basis.

NRDC, during its existence for over 5 decades has become a large depository of around 2500 indigenous technologies in diverse sectors of industry and has transferred/licensed technologies to around 4500 entrepreneurs in India and abroad for commercial exploitation.

(c) NRDC, recently has been aggressively scouting for technologies from academic institutions for transfer to industry and their commercialization since most of them do not have their own technology transfer cells. NRDC has filed 20 patents based on R and D work being carried out in various universities, on its own expense and commercialized 9 technologies out of these on a non-exclusive basis.

In addition, the government has been taking a number of steps to bring industry and academia closer. Important ones include:-

- (i) 125% weighted IT deduction on industry-sponsored projects in universities and research institutions.
- (ii) Support to collaborative R and D and technology development projects of industry and academic

institutions under Pharmaceutical Research and Development Support Fund of DST, Technology Development and Demonstration Programme of DSIR, Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) of DBT and New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI) of CSIR. Under NMITLI, 42 networked projects involve 65 industry partners and 222 R and D establishments.

- (iii) DST has set up about 15 Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Parks (STEPs) to provide R and D support to SSIs through interaction with academic and R and D institutions.
- (iv) DST has established Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in some 12 academic institutions with a view to nurture technology based start-ups by ensuring the support and advice of academia to the entrepreneurs. Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) in IIT Delhi also has a TBI which enables entrepreneurs to have intense linkage with IIT faculty in commercialization of their technologies.
- (v) TIFAC (DST) has established 26 Centres of Relevance and Excellence (COREs) in select academic institutions which have specialized analytical and testing facilities managed by professionals from academic institutions. These facilities are for use by industry, thus promoting linkages between industry and academia.
- (vi) The government from time to time including NRDC supports and organizes conferences to promote industry-institute linkages.

[Translation]

Recovery of Taxes

*357. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the break up of both direct and indirect taxes outstanding during each of the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to recover outstanding amount of direct and indirect taxes; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The break up of both direct and indirect taxes outstanding during each of the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. In crores)		
Financial year	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
2003-04	87,885	15,516.69
2004-05	98,614	15,859.09
2005-06	1,17,083	21,593.43

(b) Recovery of arrears is an on going process. The Government has taken a number of steps to recover the outstanding amount which include constitution of Task Forces to develop and implement multi-pronged strategy for effecting substantial recovery from arrears of direct and indirect taxes.

As far as direct taxes are concerned, apart from the statutory steps being taken for recovery of outstanding tax dues as prescribed under the Income Tax Act (including attachment of bank accounts/debtors, attachment and sale of immovable property, etc.), the other special measures taken to expedite recovery of direct tax arrears include identification of cases involving substantial amount of arrears pending before Commissioners (Appeals) and ITAT and requesting these authorities to dispose of such appeals early so that the demand can be collected during the current financial year itself; requesting the President of ITAT not to allow stay of demand beyond 180 days as prescribed in section 254(2A) of the Income-tax Act, requesting Settlement Commission to dispose of high-demand cases expeditiously, etc.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, the strategy devised for expeditious collection of arrears is as under:

- (1) Regular review of progress made in arrears recovery at the level of Commissioners/Chief Commissioners;

- (2) moving applications for vacation of stay orders in important cases;
- (3) filing early hearing applications in Courts/CESTAT;
- (4) targeting defaulters with coercive action;
- (5) persuading major units to pay outstanding arrears;
- (6) follow-up action in cases pending in BIFR/DRT/OL/COD;
- (7) quick realisation of arrears involved in favourable orders of CESTAT/Courts; and
- (8) posting of defaulters list on the CBEC website.

(c) The amount of arrears recovered are as under :

(Rs. in crores)

Financial year	Direct Taxes	Indirect Taxes
2003-04	5,540	668.36
2004-05	7,084	2642.87
2005-06	8,064	3139.65
2006-07 (upto October, 06)	7,767	1633.01

[English]

Micro Financing System

*358. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN :

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is one of the largest emerging markets for Micro Finance in the World;

(b) if so, whether out of the total estimated demand of Micro Credit of Rs. 1,50,000 crore actual disbursement till now as per the Reserve Bank of India is only Rs. 8,000 crore;

(c) whether in order to regulate Micro Credit Sector, the Government proposes to bring forward a legislation to focus on developing the Micro Finance movement in the Rural Areas;

(d) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out by the Government to Tap this emerging market;

(e) whether any target has been fixed by the public sector banks to sanction loans during the current year through Micro Financing System, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are different models for purveying microfinance. Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks lend directly to Self Help Groups(SHG) organised by them/Non Government Organisations(NGOs) under SHG Bank Linkage Programme or lend to Micro Finance Institutions(MFIs) for on lending to SHGs organised by the MFIs. As on 31st October, 2006, Banks have directly lent Rs. 12,618 crores to over 23.72 lakh SHGs. Additionally, 23.89 lakh SHGs have been provided Rs. 7498.57 crores of credit and subsidy under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) Programme as on 30th October, 2006.

(c) and (d) The enactment of a new law on Micro Financial Sector (Development and Regulation) will ensure a legal framework for the entities engaged in micro finance and facilitate an environment for development of micro finance services in the country with greater transparency, effective management and better governance. The flow of micro finance services to the un-banked population of the country will facilitate wider financial inclusion.

(e) and (f) A target of credit linkage of 3,85,000 new SHGs by banks under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme has been fixed for the year 2006-07.

Projects under JNNURM

*359. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by the Union Government from the State Governments under JNNURM

during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the funds released for projects cleared by the Union Government during the above period;

(c) whether a number of projects of the State Governments are pending for clearance; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to clear the projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched only on 3rd December, 2005. The number of proposals received under the JNNURM, State-wise, since the launch of the Mission and upto 12.12.2006 is given in statement enclosed.

(b) Total funds released for projects approved under JNNURM by the Union Government till 12.12.2006 is Rs. 51331.60 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sanction of the projects under JNNURM is an ongoing process. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are scrutinised by the technical agencies. As soon as DPRs are cleared by them, they are placed before competent sanctioning authority, viz, the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) and Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC)/Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), as the case may be depending upon the cost of the project. Projects are appraised by technical agencies through interactive process. States/Cities are constantly pursued to expedite clarifications/modifications suggested by technical agencies.

Statement

State-wise Status of Proposals Received under JNNURM (As on 12.12.2006)

S.No.	State	Proposals Received
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50

1	2	3
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Chhattisgarh	5
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	3
6.	Gujarat	57
7.	Haryana	2
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
9.	Karnataka	22
10.	Maharashtra	90
11.	Manipur	2
12.	Madhya Pradesh	20
13.	Nagaland	2
14.	Orissa	4
15.	Punjab	2
16.	Rajasthan	9
17.	Tamil Nadu	5
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2
19.	West Bengal	15
Total		298

National Rural Housing Policy

*360. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated National Rural Housing Policy;

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

(c) if not, the time by which the new policy is likely to be formulated;

(d) whether any suggestions have been received from certain quarters on the issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (e) The Government is contemplating to formulate a National Rural Housing Policy which is presently in the preliminary stage. The Development Alternatives (an NGO), have suggested a frame-work for a rural habitat policy for India. The National Housing Bank have also given suggestions on financing the rural housing sector. These suggestions are being examined and will suitably be incorporated in the draft Rural Housing Policy.

Construction of Flats by DDA

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

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has formulated any standards for the construction of flats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures taken to ensure that these standards are followed at the time of construction;

(d) whether DDA has received any complaints regarding use of sub-standard materials in the construction of houses; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that it follows Central Public Works Department (CPWD) specifications and standards laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), in respect of flats constructed by it.

(c) The DDA has further informed that checks by its Field Engineers are carried out at the time of construction. The quality of construction is also checked by Senior

Engineers, Quality Assurance Cell of DDA and the Chief Technical Examiner at various stages.

(d) and (e) DDA has informed that during the last 3 years, 5 complaints alleging use of sub-standard material in construction of houses in the following works have been received:-

- (i) Construction of flats at Sector-18, Dwarka.
- (ii) 384 SFS houses including internal water supply, sewerage, roads in Sector-3, Pocket-I and II Dwarka (Phase-I).
- (iii) 270 MIG flats in Pocket 23, Sector 24, Rohini.
- (iv) Flats in Pocket 4, Sector 24, Rohini, Phase-II.
- (v) Construction of 504 HIG houses in Pocket - K and L at Sarita Vihar.

Displeasure has been conveyed to two DDA officials and penalty has been imposed on nine DDA officials in one complaint. The National Council for Cement and Building Materials has been appointed as consultant to facilitate investigation into another complaint. Investigation has also been taken up in the remaining three complaints.

Study on Bio-fuel

3385. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any study regarding bio-fuel;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to undertake bio-fuel projects in the interest of rural people, particularly farmers; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuels in July, 2002. The Committee submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in April, 2003. The main recommendations in the

Report include launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on plantation of *Jatropha curcas* on forest and non-forest waste lands. The Ministry of Rural Development was made as the Nodal Ministry in July, 2003 for launching the National Mission on Bio-diesel.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development have taken up a National Mission on Bio-diesel with focus on large scale plantation of *Jatropha curcas* and *Pongamia pinnata* on forest and non-forest wastelands. The plantations would be taken up essentially on degraded forest lands and wastelands belonging to the village communities/ panchayats/government as well as unutilized marginal lands belonging to the marginal and small farmers as a means of providing them supplementary livelihood opportunities. Under this National Mission, the Ministry of Rural Development has processed the proposal for demonstration of *Jatropha* and *Pongamia* in 3 lakh hectares of land with the Expenditure Finance Committee of the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Rural Development have provided financial assistance of Rs. 49 crores to nine States for raising *Jatropha* nurseries.

Revision of Pay Scale of RRB Staff

3386. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has revised the salary structure including pay, all other allowances and benefits for Regional Rural Bank Staff (RRBs) on 22.2.1991 and 20.03.1993 as per Bipartite Settlement in the Banking Industry;

(b) whether the order issued by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development revising the allowances etc. of RRB staff, causing disparity, has been challenged in different High Courts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has advised the Sponsor Banks on 6.10.2005 to revise all other allowances and benefits of RRB staff as per 8th Bipartite Settlement in the Banking Industry;

(e) whether there is disparity between RRB staff and Sponsor Bank staff in terms of pay and allowances; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government for removing such disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) On the basis of National Industrial Tribunal(NIT) Award dated 30.4.1990 and the recommendations of the Equation Committee dated 16.1.1991, the Government issued the instructions in terms of Provisions of Section 17 of the RRBs Act, 1976 on 22.2.1991 for implementation of NIT Award and recommendations of the Equation Committee, thereon. Subsequently, NABARD issued clarifications on the issues arising out of the Implementation of the NIT award read with Equation Committee recommendations, Staff Service Regulations, Recruitment and Promotion Policy etc. vide letter dated 20.3.1993.

(b) and (c) As per the information furnished by NABARD, Writ Petitions were filed by RRBs Officers Associations in the High Courts on the issues relating to festival advance, incidental expenses on transfer, leased accommodation and non inclusion of Rs. 100/- special pay in re-fixation of pay.

(d) to (f) In terms of Government of India's letter dated 6.10.2005 the pay and allowances of RRB employees have been revised equal to the corresponding category of employees of nationalized banks. Further, the Sponsor Banks have been advised to negotiate the other allowances with the RRBs sponsored by them.

[Translation]

Regional Saras Fairs

3387. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain States, particularly Jharkhand has sent any proposals to the Union Government during the current year to organise the regional saras fairs;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on each such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN

THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Various State Governments including Government of Jharkhand have submitted the proposals

to organise SARAS Fairs during 2006-07. Based on these proposals, a Calendar of SARAS Fairs has been prepared by the Ministry for the year 2006-07 and is given in the statement enclosed. The SARAS Fair in Jharkhand (Ranchi) is to be organized from 16-30 January, 2007.

Statement

Calendar of SARAS Fairs to be organized during 2006-07

Sl. No.	State	Venue	Date
1	2	3	4
1.	New Delhi	Dilli Haat	11 to 24 April, 2006 (organized)
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	11 to 24 May, 2006 (organized)
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	11 to 25th July, 2006 (organized)
4.	New Delhi	Dilli Haat	12 to 25 September, 2006 (organized)
5.	Haryana	Gurgaon	15 to 30 September 2006 (organized)
6.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	2 to 14 October, 2006 (organized)
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	6 to 16 October, 2006 (not organized)
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	2 to 13th October, 2006 (organized)
9.	Manipur	Imphal	14 to 23 October, 2006 (organized)
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabd	31 October to 11th November, 06 (organized)
11.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	1 to 10 November, 2006 (organized)
12.	IITF SARAS 2005	Pragati Maidan New Delhi	14 to 27 November, 2006 (organized)
13.	Chattisgarh	Raipur	1 to 15 December, 2006
14.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	4 to 13 December, 2006
15.	Kerala	Alappuzha	15 to 31 December, 2006
16.	Goa	Panaji	22 December to 2 January, 2007
17.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	23rd December 06 to 3rd January 07
18.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	16 to 30 January, 2007
19.	Tripura	Agartala	1 to 10 February, 2007
20.	Assam	Guwahati	1 to 15 February, 2007

1	2	3	4
21.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	18th February to 3rd March, 07
22.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	4 to 14 March, 2007
23.	Karnataka	Bangalore	7 to 18 March, 2007
24.	Bihar	Patna	10 to 19 March, 2007

Promotion of Small Technical Inventions

3388. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a fund to promote the small technical inventions and to bring these new invented technologies into the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a separate fund to promote the small technical inventions and to bring these new invented technologies into the market. However, the Government has been promoting small technical inventions and helping their entry into the market through some of its schemes.

The Technopreneur Promotion Programme (TePP) launched in 1988 extends financial assistance to individual innovators for converting their inventive ideas into working prototypes/models. Any Indian citizen, including a farmer, an artisan, a housewife, a student, an engineer or a scientist with an original idea/know-how/invention can apply for support under this programme. A maximum support of Rs. 10 lakhs is provided per project. One hundred and fifty one (151) inventions of new innovators have been funded so far with a financial outlay of Rs. 300 crores.

A National Innovation Foundation (NIF) was set up in 2000 for scouting grass-root innovations and compiling them in different forms. Some of the innovators were helped to upscale their inventions. Small Industry Business Research Initiatives (SIBRI), a scheme recently launched

by the Government helps small industries in the area of biotechnology with loan/grant-in-aid for converting their inventions into marketable technology.

Bhopal Pattnam Power Project

3389. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which the work on the proposed Bhopal Pattnam Power Project in collaboration of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh on Indrawati River in Gadchiroli district is likely to commence;

(b) whether the modalities of distribution of power produced from the said project have been finalized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) As per the available information, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Bhopalapatnam Hydroelectric Project (1,000 MW) was received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in May, 1982. The DPR was examined in CEA/Central Water Commission (CWC) and their comments were sent to Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board (MPEB). The DPR was returned to MPEB in March, 1985 due to non-submission of replies to various observations of CEA/CWC. The project was reportedly rejected in October, 1989 by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as the execution of the proposed project involved submergence of about 80,000 hectare of forest land including Indravati National Park and displacement of a large number of tribal families.

No further proposal has been received from the concerned State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Employment Opportunity for Unskilled Migrants from Rural Areas

3390. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the uneducated and unskilled migrants from rural areas face difficulties in getting employment opportunity in the cities and towns;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to provide them guidance to save them from exploitation and misery;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up separate cells for registering such entrants in the cities/towns and organise meetings/informative sessions to inform them of the available opportunities and their rights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) Acknowledging the fact of lack of employment opportunities for the unskilled urban poor, who may or may not have migrated from the rural areas, the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), the employment oriented urban poverty alleviation programme of the Central Government, stresses upon the skill training/ upgradation of the urban poor to make them better equipped for self-employment or wage employment.

The community empowerment is the focal theme of the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana. Under this, community development societies take the initiative to generate awareness among the urban poor about the programmes of the Government, available opportunities for the urban poor and their rights.

Expansion under AIRs

3391. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering to expand the present list of transaction under Annual Information Returns (AIRs) of Income-Tax;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) the transactions likely to be added in the list;

(d) whether the Finance Ministry proposes to restructure the Central Information Branch to make it more efficient in collection of information about tax evasion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) With a view to expand and deepen the tax base, the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, 2006, made an announcement for prescribing a few more transactions to be reported in AIRs. However, no decision has yet been taken as to which new transactions are to be prescribed for reporting in AIRs.

(d) and (e) The Government has formulated new roles and functions of this branch in order to align its functions with implementation of the AIR Scheme, using PAN as the key identifier.

[Translation]

Energy from Jatropha

3392. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether electricity is being generated from Jatropha;

(b) if so, whether the Government is providing financial assistance to State Governments for generating electricity from Jatropha in the country;

(c) the details of financial assistance given for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the States in which programmes of setting up plants to generate electricity from Jatropha have been implemented in the country with this financial help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) :

(a) and (b) Electricity can be generated from oil produced from seeds of *Jatropha* as well as other edible and non-edible oils. A Pilot Demonstration project has been taken up by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to study the feasibility of producing electricity from *Jatropha* and other non-edible oils such as mahuwa, pongamia and kusum in the four States of U.P., Karnataka, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Under the Pilot Demonstration Project, total financial assistance of Rs. 15.74 lakh, Rs. 13.91 lakh and Rs. 16.60 lakh have been provided respectively to Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka during 2003-04 and 2005-06, and financial assistance of Rs. 7.79 lakh has been provided for Jharkhand in 2003-04.

Construction of Night Shelter in Patna

3393. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to construct night shelter in Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed shelter is likely to be constructed alongwith the cost likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Night Shelter in this Ministry.

[English]

Power Transmission Projects

3394. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several power transmission projects are being implemented under the joint ventures between Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) and private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any agency to monitor the implementation of these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has implemented specific transmission lines of 'Transmission System associated with Tala HEP, East-North Interconnector and Northern Region Transmission System' in Joint Venture with M/s. TATA POWER by forming a Joint Venture Company (Powerlinks Transmission Ltd.). The project was completed in August, 2006 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1612 Crores. The transmission system consisted of 2340 Ckt. Kms. of 400 KV lines from Siliguri (West Bengal) to Mandola (Uttar Pradesh.). PGCIL and M/s. Tata Power contributed 49% equity and 51% equity respectively in this project.

PGCIL has selected M/s. Reliance Energy Ltd. as the Joint Venture Partner for execution of specific transmission lines associated with Parbati-II and Koldam HEP and has finalized agreements required for formation of joint venture.

PGCIL has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with promoters of the following power projects to set up Joint Ventures for implementing dedicated transmission systems for evacuation of power from the under mentioned generation projects:-

- (i) 1100 MW generating project developed by M/s Torrent Power Generation Company Ltd. (TPGL) near Surat in Gujarat. The JV agreement between PGCIL and M/s. Torrent Power AEC Ltd. has been signed.
- (ii) 1000 MW Karcham-Wangtoo Hydro Power Project being developed by M/s. Jaypee Karcham Hydro Corporation Ltd. in Himachal Pradesh.
- (iii) 1200 MW Teesta-III generating project being developed by M/s Teesta Urja Limited.
- (iv) 1500 MW gas based Generation project being developed by M/s. Essar Power Limited at Hazira near Surat in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The implementation of these projects is monitored by PGCIL. The implementation of all projects of PGCIL are also monitored by the Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Power.

Third Permanent Base in Antarctica

3395. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of setting up Third Permanent Base in Antarctica;

(b) whether certain global groups have urged India to share Australia's existing Mawson station;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the decisions taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) A Comprehensive Environment Evaluation (GEE) report for the Third Research Station at Larsemann Hills Area (latitude 69° South and longitude 76° East), is being prepared based on surveys conducted in last three years at the selected site. This is being done as per the guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Protocol on Environmental Protection or the Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty. The report will then be submitted to the Committee on Environmental Protocol (CEP), constituted under the Protocol. The Committee after evaluating the CEE, will put it to an Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) for approval. The setting up of new research station can be taken up only after the approval of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting. However regular scientific experiments are continued at the site of the new station during Antarctic summer by sending annual expeditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise

Inland Container Depot

3396. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Ankleshwar has started functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Ankleshwar is functioning with effect from 07.08.2006.

(c) Not applicable, in view of above.

[Translation]

Appointment of Notary Public

3397. SHRI JAI PRAKASH [MOHANLAL GANJ] : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of candidates applied and appointed Notary Public in various States during the last one year and the current financial year, state-wise;

(b) the number of applications lying pending, state-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency; and

(d) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) and (b) A State-wise statement showing the number of candidates applied and appointed Notary Public out of these applications and the no. of applications lying pending during the last one year and the current financial year by the Central Government, is enclosed.

(c) In regard to point (c) it is stated as follows:-

(i) The procedure to be followed for appointing as Notary Public is laid down under the Notaries Act, 1952 and the Notaries Rules, 1956. Under Section 3 of the said Act, the Central Government as well as the State Governments are empowered to appoint Notaries. The Central Government has power to appoint Notaries for

the whole or any part of India, whereas a State Government is empowered to appoint Notaries for whole or any part of the State concerned. Under Rule 3 of the Notaries Rules, a person from amongst legal practitioners may apply for appointment as a notary, if he had been practicing at least for 10 years. In case the applicant for notary-ship is a person belonging either to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes or a woman, then the condition for eligibility for appointment as a notary is 7 years of legal practice. A person is also eligible for appointment as a notary if he has been a member of Indian Legal Service under the Central Government or if he has been for ten years, a member of Judicial Service, or held an office under the Central Government or a State Government requiring special knowledge of law after enrolment as an Advocate or held an office in the Department of Judge Advocate General or in the legal department of the Armed Forces.

- (ii) The eligible persons may apply for appointment as notary on a prescribed form i.e. Memorial, which has to be countersigned by a Magistrate, a Nationalized Bank Manager, a Merchant and

two prominent local residents. The Competent Authority, designated by the Central Government, thereafter examines the Memorial and calls for comments/objections from the State Bar Council where the memorialist is enrolled as an advocate. The applicant is also requested to submit an affidavit deposing that he is neither a notary already appointed by any State Government nor his application for appointment as Notary is pending with the concerned State Government and also state the number of courts and the number of notaries in the desired area of practice. After considering the objections and the various facts the Competent Authority submits a report to the Central Government under Rule 7. On receipt of the report of the Competent Authority, the Central Government after considering the same takes an appropriate decision.

(d) In regard to point (d) it is submitted that the procedure followed for appointment as Notary has already been mentioned above. No time limit has been prescribed for appointment of Notary in the Notaries Act 1952 and Notaries Rules 1956. Since, the above said formalities have to be completed before appointing Notary public, it may take time.

Statement

The number of Candidates applied and appointed Notary Public by me Central Government during the last one year and the current financial year and the number of applications lying pending

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ U.T.	Number of candidates applied for Notary public during the last one year and the current financial year		No. of Notaries appointed out of these applications	No. of applications pending during the period
		2005	2006		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	53	47	63
2.	Assam	—	01	01	0
3.	Bihar	—	05	03	02
4.	Gujarat	218	158	118	258
5.	Kerala	77	28	56	39

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Madhya Pradesh	17	14	11	20
7.	Tamil Nadu	76	53	70	59
8.	Maharashtra	345	220	251	314
9.	Karnataka	102	83	61	123
10.	Orissa	03	03	02	04
11.	Punjab	143	60	157	46
12.	Rajasthan	126	81	71	136
13.	Uttar Pradesh	317	125	263	179
14.	West Bengal	34	13	11	36
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-
16.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-
17.	Haryana	127	72	178	21
18.	Himachal Pradesh	02	01	02	01
19.	Manipur	-	-	-	-
20.	Tripura	01	02	01	02
21.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-
22.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
23.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
24.	Anmachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
25.	Goa	07	03	02	08
26.	Uttaranchal	01	02	03	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	-	03	03	0
28.	Jharkhand	-	16	-	16
29.	Delhi	47	27	47	27
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
31.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-
34.	Pondicherry	-	01	01	0
35.	Chandigarh	02	02	-	04

**NABARD Assistance for Rural
Electrification**

3398. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The financial assistance provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to Rajasthan under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Rural Electrification during the Tenth Five Year Plan: and

(b) the funds utilised for the purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) During the period from 1st April 2002 to 1st December 2006 covered under Xth Five Year Plan period, NABARD has sanctioned projects involving a total loan of Rs. 2,016.53 crore out of RIDF for various purposes to the State Government of Rajasthan. However, no amount was sanctioned for Rural Electrification out of RIDF during this period.

The funds disbursed so far for various purposes is Rs. 915.53 crores.

[English]

Completion Certificate by Property Developers

3399. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a provision for submitting completion certificate to the bank by property developers for the loan financed by them;

(b) if so, whether many of the property developers in the country are unable to produce certificates to the banks within the stipulated time;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the banks have initiated any action in the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions on 17th November, 2006 advising the banks to strictly comply with the directions of the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi regarding Unauthorized Construction, Misuse of Properties and Encroachment on Public Land. As per the instructions, it is the responsibility of the borrower availing loan for building construction to obtain completion certificate within 3 months of completion of construction, failing which the banks shall have the power and the authority to recall the entire loan with interest, costs and other usual bank charges. An Architect appointed by the bank must also certify at various stages of construction of buildings that the construction of the building is strictly as per sanctioned plan and shall also certify at a particular point of time that the completion certificate of the building issued by the competent authority has been obtained.

(b) to (f) Some banks have indicated that the repayment schedule is fixed on the basis of cash flow projections which is monitored periodically. The funds are released stage to stage after obtaining the certificate from Chartered Engineer and Chartered Account regarding amount spent/invested in the project. In cases of delay in completion of the project Bank considers rescheduling of drawals and repayment. Sometimes bank finance is adjusted from advance payment/sale proceeds received by the property developers from the ultimate buyers of the properties even before the project is fully completed/occupied. Therefore, completion certificate may not always be followed up/stipulated.

[Translation]

MNCs in India

3400. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the year-wise details of foreign companies which have set up commercial establishments in India during the last three years;

(b) the States where these companies have set up commercial establishments;

(c) the details of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment through said companies during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise; and

(d) the details of MNCs evincing interest in setting up their enterprises in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Year-wise details of state-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from April 2003 to September 2006 are given in

Statement-I enclosed. This includes the investment made on automatic route as well as those made after the approval by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). Details of state-wise approvals of FDI inflows are also separately given in Statement-II. Details of companies investing in India are published in the 'SIA Newsletter' brought out monthly by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). It is widely circulated including Parliament Library. The data is also available at the website http://siadipp.nic.in/publication/pub_mn.stp.

Statement-I

Year-wise FDI Inflows Received from January 2003 to September 2006

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Regional Office of RBI	States Covered	2003 Jan-Dec	2004 Jan-Dec	2005 Jan-Dec	2006 Jan-Sep	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	275.99	858.09	723.28	1,675.47	3,532.53
2.	Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tirpura	15.45	20.00	0.00	0.00	35.45
3.	Patna	Bihar, Jharkhand	1.13	0.00	0.00	0.60	1.73
4.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1,042.63	688.46	635.21	1,270.00	3,636.30
5.	Bangalore	Karnataka	999.07	1,064.25	1,606.98	1,353.58	5,023.88
6.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	44.69	49.55	26.25	40.77	161.26
7.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	25.71	61.64	53.82	72.54	213.71
8.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	1,022.81	3,246.50	2,272.90	6,566.68	13,108.89
9.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	0.00	0.00	261.66	103.59	365.26
10.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	2.14	4.27	2.66	226.40	235.47
11.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	805.46	366.10	1,096.49	2,210.05	4,478.09
12.	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.03	15.24	15.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13. Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands		146.79	459.56	405.42	258.79	1,270.56
14. Chandigarh	Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh		18.12	71.89	377.79	40.26	508.06
15. New Delhi	Delhi, Part of UP and Haryana		2,104.72	3,303.61	4,297.61	5,293.07	14,999.00
16. Panaji	Goa		131.22	79.85	81.40	347.57	640.04
17. State Not Indicated			2,928.37	4,507.60	7,429.22	8,899.74	23,764.93
Grand Total			9,564.00	14,781.37	19,276.72	28,374.35	71,990.44

Note: (i) Includes 'equity capital components' only.

(ii) The Region-wise FDI inflows are classified as per RBI's – Region-wise inflows, furnished by RBI, Mumbai.

(iii) *Represents inflows through acquisition of existing shares. For this, region-wise information is not provided by Reserve Bank of India.

Statement-II

*Year-wise break-up for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved by Government during
April 2003 to September 2006*

(Amount in Crores)

Sl No.	State	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		Total	
		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Mar		Apr-Sep			
		FIN	FDI	FIN	FDI	FIN	FDI	FIN	FDI	FIN	FDI
		in Rs		in Rs		in Rs		in Rs		in Rs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	107	526.66	78	689.10	25	371.82	6	181.87	216	1,769.46
2.	Assam	0	0.00	1	0.40	1	0.51	0	0.00	2	0.91
3.	Bihar	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
4.	Gujarat	52	148.04	35	1,711.81	9	153.05	2	3.30	98	2,016.20
5.	Haryana	26	248.29	16	34.07	12	57.54	3	5.49	57	345.40
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0.10	2	52.63	1	9.00	0	0.00	4	61.73
7.	Karnataka	257	449.41	191	1,099.44	39	917.02	9	3,571.69	496	6,037.57

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8.	Kerala	31	21.22	11	230.43	6	76.77	1	0.09	49	328.51
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7	0.44	1	0.05	2	6.00	0	0.00	10	6.49
10.	Maharashtra	361	1,527.34	302	1,579.60	111	3,961.85	19	252.67	793	7,321.46
11.	Manipur	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00
12.	Orissa	2	0.10	2	6.14	1	0.35	1	192.50	6	199.09
13.	Punjab	9	465.50	10	690.49	3	19.11	0	0.00	22	1,175.10
14.	Rajasthan	15	28.03	4	4.14	2	0.20	1	0.00	22	32.38
15.	Tamil Nadu	223	815.18	109	348.17	39	261.63	5	173.00	376	1,597.98
16.	Tripura	2	2.41	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.41
17.	Uttar Pradesh	25	102.32	15	18.44	9	82.48	0	0.00	49	203.24
18.	West Bengal	36	303.45	29	278.23	9	113.66	1	0.00	75	695.34
19.	Chhattisgarh	0	0.00	3	200.16	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	200.16
20.	Jharkhand	1	0.20	1	2.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.20
21.	Uttaranchal	1	0.00	0	0.00	3	28.63	0	0.00	4	28.63
22.	Chandigarh	10	5.75	9	127.99	0	0.00	0	0.00	19	133.74
23.	Delhi	328	1,163.36	213	1,063.52	71	740.99	13	2,345.75	625	5,313.62
24.	Goa	39	19.13	39	9.07	3	39.41	0	0.00	81	67.61
25.	Pondicherry	8	42.61	2	0.12	0	0.00	0	0.00	10	42.73
26.	Daman and Diu	3	0.24	2	5.43	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	5.67
27.	State Not Indicated	82	353.73	84	576.27	79	1,750.98	15	627.73	260	3,308.71
Grand Total		1628	6,223.52	1159	8,727.71	425	8,591.00	76	7,354.09	3288	30,896.32

[English]

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Online Trading by PSBs

3401. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Public Sector Banks propose to start online trading in collaboration with some online trading firms; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Four Public Sector Banks (PSBs) i.e. State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India and Union Bank of India have started on-line trading of shares for their customers. Some other PSBs are also in various stages of starting on-line trading.

*[Translation]***Loan to Fake Companies**

3402. SHRI CHANDRADEV PRASAD RAJBHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether several renowned companies take loans from banks under fake names and do not repay the loans-in-time;
- (b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Government during the last one year and the current year;
- (c) the action taken against such companies; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) No such specific instance has been brought to the notice of the Government in the last one year. However, as and when any such instance is reported, the same is referred to the concerned bank and/or Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for taking appropriate action. Government/RBI have prescribed Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and taken several measures to prevent the occurrence of frauds in Banks. Banks have been advised from time to time to strengthen the vigilance set up and introduce preventive and prohibitive measures. The Fraud Monitoring Cell of RBI receives reports on all frauds involving Rs. 1 lac and above detected at Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions. The names of borrowers in frauds of Rs. 5 lac and above are circulated among all banks advising them to carry out in depth inquiries before granting any credit facilities to them. Modus operandi of frauds are also circulated amongst banks to alert them against perpetration of such frauds. In all the cases of frauds, banks are advised to file complaints with Police/CBI, make efforts to recover the amount involved, examine staff accountability, review systems and procedures in order to prevent recurrence of similar frauds and get all cases of frauds of Rs. One crore and above reviewed by the Special Committee of the Board. RBI has been advising Banks/FIs from time to time about the common fraud prone areas and the measures to be taken by them to prevent/reduce the incidence of frauds.

*[English]***Solar Energy Research Centre**

3403. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments regarding establishment of Solar Energy Research Centres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) A proposal for establishment of a Solar Energy Research Centre for cold regions of country at Shimla was received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

- (c) The proposal was examined. The State Government has been suggested to consider setting up the Centre with its own funds.

*[Translation]***Scam in Power Department of U.P.**

3404. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any complaint regarding irregularities and scam in the Department of Power, Uttar Pradesh has been received by the Union Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Use of Buildings for Commercial Uses**

3405. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer

to the reply given to USQ No. 4462 dated 19.5.2006 regarding use of building for commercial purposes and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action taken by NDMC to demolish unauthorised constructions; and

(c) the details of unauthorised constructions demolished during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has reported that large scale commercialization of residential area was not detected within its jurisdiction. In cases where misuse had been detected, action has been taken under the provisions of the NDMC Act, 1994, as indicated in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) NDMC has reported that action to demolish unauthorised construction is taken under relevant law and unauthorised constructions in 21 premises were demolished during the last 2 years. A list of the premises demolished is at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Action taken	2003	2004	2005
(i) Notice under section 252 of NDMC Act, and prosecution case filed in Court.	11	10	06
(ii) Notice under section 252 of NDMC Act, and prosecution case decided by Court.	06	06	Nil
(iii) Notice under section 252 of NDMC Act and decided by the department after removal of misuse.	06	14	04
Total	23	30	10

Statement-II

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Flat No. 1303, Naurang House, K.G. Marg. | 12. Flat No. 709 Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 2. Qr. No. 7, Scindia House, Connaught Place. | 13. LB-17 Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 3. Flat No. 205-206, Naurang House, K.G. Marg. | 14. LB-16 Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 4. Backside of C-11 Connaught Place. | 15. LB-14 Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 5. 21-A Shankar Market, Connaught Place. | 16. LB-19 Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 6. M-H6, Connaught Place. | 17. Upper Basement, Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khatnba Road. |
| 7. Flat No. 603 Surya Kiran Building, K.G. Marg. | 18. Lower Basement, Inder Parkash Building, Bara Khamba Road. |
| 8. N-52 A(N-87) Connaught Place. | 19. Flat No. 418, Antriksh Bhawan, K.G. Marg. |
| 9. L-7 B Connaught Place. | 20. Flat No. 15, Khan Market. |
| 10. Basement of E-13-29 Harsha Bhawan, Connaught Place. | 21. Flat No. 17, Khan Market. |
| 11. Gr. Floor, 5, Babar Road. | |

Tax on Agricultural Income

3406. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representations with regard to the plight of farmers in Sangrur district of Punjab due to levy of tax on their agricultural land;

(b) if so, complete details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to mitigate the problems faced by the Punjab farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No representation has been received regarding levy of Central Income-tax on agricultural land of farmers in Sangrur district of Punjab. In fact, agricultural income is exempt from Central Income-tax. Even the capital gain arising from the transfer of agricultural land situated beyond the specified urban limits is exempt from Central Income-tax. Further, capital gain arising from the compulsory acquisition of agricultural land situated within specified urban limits is also exempt from Central Income-tax.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to Part (a).

Processing PAN Card

3407. MS. INGRID MCLEOD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint has been received in regard to outsourcing of PAN Card services to UTSL and NSDL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether PAN Cards are safely reaching to applicants; and

(d) if not, the steps taken thereto?

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

(b) These relate to non-receipt of PAN cards.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In most of the cases PAN cards

are safely reaching the applicants. However, in some cases, PAN cards are returned undelivered from the addresses given in the application. In such cases, PAN cards are re-dispatched as and when the applicant informs about the non-receipt of the card.

LIC Scheme for Diabetic Patients

3408. DR. M. JAGANNATH :

SHRI A. SAIPRATHAP :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some private companies operating in life insurance sector have launched insurance schemes for diabetics;

(b) if so, whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India proposes to start similar schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has cleared two products by name 'Diabetic Care' (Critical illness) and 'Diabetic Care Plus' (Critical illness) submitted by ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd.

(b) IRDA has not received any such proposal from the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) or any other life insurance company for providing cover for diabetics.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that it might consider introducing such products in future.

Loans by Housing Finance Companies

3409. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of housing loans provided separately to the economically weaker section of the society

especially in tribal areas during each of the last three years by HUDCO;

(b) the number of people benefited therefrom, State-wise;

(c) the amount of housing loan sanctioned to scheduled tribes and weaker sections of the country during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans;

(d) whether the Government has received loans from World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) for housing during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount of loan provided to people belonging to economically weaker sections during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The total amount of project loans sanctioned by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) for Economically Weaker Sections of beneficiaries including tribal areas during the last 3 years is as given below :-

(Rs. in Crores)

2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban	EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban	EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban
590.91	203.08	2002.50	270.54	48.00	171.18

The number of EWS category of people benefited during last 3 years from the above sanctioned loans are as indicated below :

NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS

Yr. 2003-2004		Yr. 2004-2005		Yr. 2005-2006	
EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban	EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban	EWS-Rural	EWS-Urban
487313	181988	864857	225230	7600	175046

State-wise details are enclosed at Annexure-I.

Weaker Sections during the 9th and 10th Five Year Plan

(c) The extent of loan sanctioned to Economically

is as indicated below:-

IXTH 5-YR. PLAN

(Rs. in Crores)

1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	Total
351.26	1953.99	2136.81	1585.28	1013.86	7041.20

IXTH 5-YR. PLAN

(As on 31.10.2006)

2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
775.67	797.76	2273.04	219.18	151.07	4216.72

Details are at Statement-II enclosed.

World Bank and ADB during last 3 years.

(d) and (e) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has not received any loan from

(f) State-wise cumulative status of dwelling units sanctioned by HUDCO for EWS category upto 31.10.2006 is at Statement-III enclosed.

Statement-I

Statewise performance report during the year 2003-2004 as on 31/03/2004

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	States/UTs Names	No. of Schemes	Proj Cost	Loan Sanction	Amount Released	Repayment Received (R)	EWS (U)	EWS (R)	Dwelling Units					Plots	Sanitation Units	
									LIG	MIG	HIG/ Rental	UPGRD	Others			Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
OTHER : EXCLUDES BASIC SANITATION, ILCS AND NIGHT SHELTER PAY AND USE TOILETS.																
STATES																
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38	2182.93	1467.74	579.93	157.44	200079	19066	0	0	2385	0	2	221532	1216	1500000
2.	Anunachal Pradesh	6	8.51	7.63	0.30	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0
3.	Assam	10	70.32	46.76	18.09	33.81	0	1111	561	78	24	0	3	1777	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	2.05	0.00	0.00	0.71	0	512	0	0	0	0	0	512	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	184.32	66.42	16.41	8.60	0	10100	0	0	84	0	10250	20434	0	15822
6.	Delhi	4	229.75	90.18	32.72	5.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
7.	Goa	3	232.34	137.00	35.70	7.66	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	26	0	0
8.	Gujarat	14	4204.05	908.14	54.37	215.51	0	9259	0	0	0	0	2	9261	0	1756
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	2127.28	745.67	131.35	14.89	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
10.	Haryana	0	0.00	0.00	141.34	33.45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	2	90.27	46.57	0.00	4.63	0	20000	0	0	0	0	0	20000	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	4020.66	310.25	0.00	0.42	0	894	0	0	0	0	0	894	0	276
13.	Kerala	7	365.33	250.02	108.15	106.82	15750	10586	0	0	0	0	0	26336	0	0
14.	Karnataka	57	5218.74	2471.97	1114.78	946.62	285234	43122	293	577	205	233167	219	542817	3400	0
15.	Meghalaya	3	153.44	112.40	32.90	363.34	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
16. Maharashtra	24	10282.69	1964.17	1454.82	222.53	0	33588	0	0	554	0	0	0	1	34143	0	7615
17. Manipur	4	24.05	10.00	8.12	2.70	0	940	601	66	0	0	0	0	0	1607	0	3860
18. Madhya Pradesh	27	615.56	408.53	136.34	27.50	0	1983	211	50	91	0	0	0	8	2343	12	0
19. Mizoram	3	6.38	5.01	5.18	1.13	0	115	108	57	0	0	0	0	0	280	148	0
20. Nagaland	16	66.90	49.26	48.67	21.67	0	603	16	8	40	0	0	0	16	683	2	0
21. Orissa	13	642.77	631.70	311.67	20.23	6250	377	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6627	0	0
22. Punjab	6	24.54	18.28	15.19	16.87	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Rajasthan	12	3257.51	873.96	432.53	80.92	0	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	800	0	0
24. Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Tamil Nadu	30	844.55	535.85	486.24	223.85	0	1314	0	0	712	55115	251	87392	0	0	0	0
26. Tripura	2	4.84	0.00	5.00	0.66	0	1076	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1076	0	0
27. Uttaranchal	9	248.44	186.85	46.83	2.91	0	2085	0	0	50	0	0	2	2137	2	30	0
28. Uttar Pradesh	23	1478.38	929.12	240.21	142.74	0	9709	0	145	0	0	0	0	3	9857	1062	0
29. West Bengal	22	1602.16	1011.79	525.79	130.70	0	4340	0	0	823	0	0	0	2	5165	0	2034
UNION TERRITORIES																	
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Pondicherry	2	4.97	1.50	1.35	0.16	0	408	0	49	0	0	0	0	0	457	0	80
Total	364	38203.58	13284.78	5983.77	2794.99	487313	181988	1790	1030	4968	288282	10797	978168	5842	1531478		

Total Sanctions Including HUDCO Niwas

Lan Amoung 13413.54 Crores

Amount Released 6147.45 Crores

Dwelling Units 969883

Statewise performance report during the year 2004-2005 as on 31/03/2004

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	States/UT's Names	No. of Schemes	Proj Cost	Loan Sanction	Amount Released	Repayment Received	Dwelling Units							Plots	Sanitation Units	
							EWS (R)	EWS (U)	LIG	MIG	HIG/ Rental	UPGRD	Others			Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
OTHER : EXCLUDES BASIC SANITATION, ILCS AND NIGHT SHELTER PAY AND USE TOILETS.																
STATES																
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24	2611.19	1658.28	786.92	434.06	68857	23732	0	0	664	0	210	91483	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	6.51	5.50	1.95	0.00	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0
3.	Assam	18	156.10	93.73	24.71	12.31	0	81	616	568	96	0	44	1405	0	0
4.	Bihar	2	1403.07	1251.70	0.83	12.41	500000	0	0	0	0	0	1	500001	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	287.47	143.46	22.54	12.24	0	0	10000	0	178	0	22	10200	0	0
6.	Delhi	3	107.47	72.70	156.85	78.45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	1	59.00	50.00	79.90	37.96	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	10	6486.36	1268.63	21.66	285.60	0	783	0	0	0	0	52	845	0	514
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5	138.23	119.24	109.88	27.32	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	32	58	0
10.	Haryana	2	60.51	33.97	96.75	34.73	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	3	696.74	600.55	150.00	0.00	200000	0	0	0	0	0	0	20000	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4	35.12	15.47	0.00	1.18	0	1032	0	0	144	0	0	1176	0	0
13.	Kerala	5	206.40	152.43	13.71	79.07	0	7696	7260	0	0	0	1	14979	0	0
14.	Karnataka	30	5639.97	1300.43	515.18	1056.24	83000	51455	0	0	3050	0	9	137514	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	1	20.57	10.00	33.11	8.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	36	30457.66	3308.50	1478.15	206.01	0	38031	0	0	870	0	64	36965	0	17133

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
17. Manipur	1	1.14	0.00	0.00	0.70	0	253	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	253	0	0
18. Madhya Pradesh	35	1657.53	1271.23	1105.26	383.96	0	6839	0	325	875	0	156	8195	438	80		
19. Mizoram	1	5.78	5.00	5.62	2.21	0	0	327	0	0	0	0	0	0	327	0	0
20. Nagaland	25	117.65	84.26	65.17	11.31	0	240	0	0	195	0	2	437	0	48		
21. Orissa	14	581.90	452.03	7.84	50.48	15000	202	0	0	108	0	4	15314	0	0		
22. Punjab	0	0.00	0.00	7.31	23.29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23. Rajasthan	5	288.98	198.64	226.31	88.41	0	12335	0	0	0	0	0	0	12335	7306	0	0
24. Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25. Tamil Nadu	22	2146.08	477.06	162.25	949.19	0	67559	0	0	64	0	0	67623	0	1605		
26. Tripura	0	0.00	0.00	5.45	0.46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27. Uttaranchal	6	58.91	34.16	19.53	3.74	0	1806	0	0	0	0	0	41	1847	0	80	
28. Uttar Pradesh	16	1048.04	694.61	532.02	133.75	0	8629	0	0	700	0	26	9355	7669	155		
29. West Bengal	27	747.59	466.32	212.20	208.77	0	3642	0	36	1120	0	1	4799	287	8678		
UNION TERRITORIES																	
30. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	6.18	4.00	1.17	0.49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31. Pondicherry	3	20.06	12.45	12.45	0.16	0	903	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	903	0	0
Total	317	55052.62	13784.35	5846.80	4153.26	864857	225230	18223	929	8136	0	635	1118010	15758	28293		

Total Sanctions Including HUDCO Niwas

Lan Amount 13662.21 Crores

Amount Released : 5919.89 Crores

Dwelling Units : 1119742

Statewise performance report during the year 2005-2006 as on 31/03/2004

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl#	States/UT's Names	No. of Schemes	Proj Cost	Loan Sanction	Amount Released	EWS		Dwelling Units				Total	Plots	Sanitation Units	
						(R)	(U)	LIG	MIG	HIG/ Rental	UPGRD				Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
OTHER : EXCLUDES BASIC SANITATION, ILCS AND NIGHT SHELTER PAY AND USE TOILETS.															
STATES															
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	2615.23	2082.20	535.98	0	40662	0	0	72	0	0	40724	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1.65	1.32	1.75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	10	132.73	59.87	42.39	0	0	0	0	730	0	5	735	0	0
4.	Bihar	10	16.84	10.00	8.43	0	150	0	0	8	0	60	218	0	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	14	1573.59	403.23	32.05	0	1333	2000	30	441	0	31	3835	0	0
6.	Delhi	1	102.07	55.00	94.43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Goa	1	25.63	17.00	0.10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	12	15442.04	1100.40	711.78	0	2044	0	0	66	0	5	2115	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	5751.06	834.98	29.16	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	57	0	0
10.	Haryana	1	225.51	100.00	33.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1368	0
11.	Jharkhand	6	87.00	59.28	400.36	7600	3118	0	0	96	0	0	10812	0	0
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	18.57	12.00	200.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	5	230.24	108.48	3.00	0	31315	0	0	0	0	0	31315	0	0
14.	Karnataka	10	5375.56	996.59	246.24	0	73000	0	0	0	0	0	73000	0	3000
15.	Meghalaya	2	17.02	8.88	11.94	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	31	1833.51	814.82	292.15	0	19504	0	0	1194	0	303	21001	0	960

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17.	Manipur	1	1.26	0.00	0.00	0	280	0	0	0	0	0	280	0	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	18	12980.45	1039.30	254.68	0	2048	0	0	369	0	62	2479	0	0
19.	Mizoram	6	80.49	37.77	27.00	0	0	110	260	0	0	0	370	0	0
20.	Nagaland	21	102.79	78.05	74.80	0	530	71	29	148	0	19	797	0	0
21.	Orissa	5	2153.70	398.00	0.89	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Punjab	3	80.21	38.01	27.15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
23.	Rajasthan	4	851.86	649.30	40.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	813	0
24.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	6	51.83	30.07	328.68	0	0	0	0	184	0	0	184	0	0
26.	Tripura	2	121.04	54.00	9.29	0	215	0	0	0	0	0	215	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	5	98.47	48.36	21.68	0	0	0	0	720	0	0	720	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	9	916.14	456.80	263.41	0	0	0	0	503	0	0	503	0	0
29.	West Bengal	14	402.66	214.62	22.15	0	859	0	0	996	0	111	1966	0	0
UNION TERRITORIES															
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Chandigarh	1	0.73	0.35	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Pondicherry	1	615.42	553.88	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		224	52005.07	10040.38	3713.43	7600	175046	2181	319	5527	0	653	191326	2181	3990

**The Status of Repayment Figures made available from Loan Account Wing is as on 30/11/2005.

Total Sanctions Including HUDCO Niwas
 Lan Amount : 10098.83 Crores
 Amount Released : 3765.69 Crores
 Dwelling Units : 192197

Statement-II

Yearwise loan/dwelling units sanctioned for 9th Plan and 10th Plan as on 31/10/2006

Year	Loan Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in crore)	Dwelling Units
	EWS	EWS
1997-1998	351.26	306802
1998-1999	1953.99	1704586
1999-2000	2136.81	1398343
2000-2001	1585.28	2709115
2001-2002	1013.86	621250
Total	7041.2	6740096
2002-2003	775.67	631768
2003-2004	797.76	724416
2004-2005	2273.04	1090087
2005-2006	219.18	182646
2006-2007 (As on 31st Oct., 2006)	151.07	830.24

Statement-III

Statewise Dwelling Units Sanctioned as on 31/10/2006

Sl. No.	State	EWS
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2379801
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1600
3.	Assam	37987
4.	Bihar	72421
5.	Chhattisgarh	27624
6.	Delhi	7045

1	2	3
7.	Goa	5369
8.	Gujarat	417541
9.	Himachal Pradesh	66003
10.	Haryana	46910
11.	Jharkhand	264094
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	20043
13.	Kerala	1057346
14.	Karnataka	1659097
15.	Meghalaya	9239
16.	Maharashtra	288326
17.	Manipur	4214
18.	Madhya Pradesh	67944
19.	Mizoram	6493
20.	Nagaland	4621
21.	Orissa	221824
22.	Punjab	85221
23.	Rajasthan	141056
24.	Sikkim	6650
25.	Tamil Nadu	1147952
26.	Tripura	6288
27.	Uttaranchal	51088
28.	Uttar Pradesh	497478
29.	West Bengal	3079678
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	28
31.	Chandigarh	6955
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	45
33.	Pondicherry	2740
Total		11690721

IT Exemption for Software Companies

3410. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether software companies registered with Software Technology Parks have been granted IT exemption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend the same facility to other sectors too; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Section 10A of the income-tax Act provides for 100% deduction for 10 years, of the export profits of undertakings engaged in manufacture or production of articles or things or computer software, and which are, inter-alia, set up in a Software Technology Park. The deduction is available up to assessment year 2009-10.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Agreement with US on Coal-fired
Emission-Free Power Project**

3411. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to participate in Coal-fired emission-free power project (Future Gen) of America;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) India has, on 3rd of April 2006, signed a Framework Protocol with USA on cooperation on the

FutureGen Project initiated by USA as a public-private partnership. This is a US\$950 million project. India's contribution will be US\$10 Million payable over a period of five years. The FutureGen Plant is planned to operate as a 275 MW facility that would produce both electricity and hydrogen deploying advance coal gasification technology integrated with combined cycle electricity generation and capture and sequestration of carbon dioxide. The project aims to design, test and development first coal-fired emission-free power plant in a time frame of 10 (ten) years. The Framework Protocol has given India right of full membership of FutureGen Government Steering Committee in consideration of the contribution of US\$10 Million. The Project is being implemented by a consortium of electric utility generators and coal producers. The Steering Committee has been set up to provide guidance to the consortium relating to scope, design objectives, testing requirements and evaluation. India has also secured access to the Project facility and the reports and other information relating to the Project.

[English]

Public Private Partnership

3412. SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is encouraging public-private partnerships for investment in city infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the role and responsibilities of each one in this regard?

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

(b) The role and responsibility would depend on the projects prepared by State Governments.

[Translation]

Banks in Insurance Sector

3413. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRIMATI INIVEDITA MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain nationalized banks propose to join hands with leading overseas insurance companies to enter insurance market in India and abroad;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has given approval to following nationalised banks for setting up of Joint Ventures in insurance business with foreign participation:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank/insurance company	Name of the foreign partner	Date of RBI approval
1.	Punjab National Bank (30%) Insurance Broking JV with Vijaya Bank (19%)	Principal Financial Group of USA (26%)	29.01.2005
2.	Punjab National Bank (30%) Life Insurance JV with Vijaya Bank (12%)	Principal Financial Group of USA (26%)	01.02.2006
3.	Allahabad Bank-General Insurance JV (30%) with Indian Overseas Bank (19%)	M/s. Sompo Japan (26%)	22.03.2006

*Figures in brackets indicate equity participation of the Joint Venture partners.

[English]

Putting up Details of Tax Payers on Net

3414. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI M. APPADURAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal with the Income Tax department to put up the details of the tax payers on the Net; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE: (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to Part (a).

Misuse of Tsunami Funds

3415. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently received any representation from United States Terrorism Experts alleging about transferring of Tsunami funds in terror hands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending PAN Applications

3416. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of Permanent Account Number (PAN) applications are pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of pendency;

(c) the reasons for Government's inaction; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) In total 1,74,857 PAN applications were pending as on 30.11.2006. Their break-up are as under :

Financial Year	Number of pending applications
2003-04	29,018
2004-05	19,222
2005-06	26,519
2006-07 (till 30.11.2006)	1,00,098
Total	1,74,857

(c) PAN is normally issued within 15 days in a case where complete application is received. Old pendency is because of incomplete and defective applications which have not been rectified by the applicants.

(d) In order to rectify the deficiencies in the PAN applications, following measures have been taken:-

- (i) The PAN service providers inform applicants to rectify the defects.
- (ii) The status of applications is displayed by the service providers on their website.
- (iii) A call centre has been set up about the status of PAN applications.

[Translation]

**Drinking Water Supply through Panchayati
Raj Institutions**

3417. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether rural drinking water supply scheme is being implemented through the Panchayati Raj institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Swajaldhara scheme was launched in December 2002 wherein projects may be

taken up by the Village/Block level Panchayati Raj Institutions or User Groups that come forward and agree to adhere to the principles of implementing projects with a participatory, demand driven approach. The projects are expected to ensure that the public obtain the level of service they desire and can afford to pay part of the capital cost and fully for the operation and maintenance. Further, full cost recovery of operations and maintenance and replacement costs is expected to generate a sense of ownership and ensure the financial viability and sustainability of the schemes.

Up to 20% of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) funds may be allocated for the Swajaldhara scheme annually. At the beginning of each financial year, funds under Swajaldhara scheme are allotted to all States from the Centre as per the inter-State ARWSP allocation ratio fixed for the year. The States then make district-wise allocations and consider specific proposals at District Water and Sanitation Committee (DWSC)/State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) level and approve them in conformity with Swajaldhara Guidelines.

Swajaldhara has the following key elements:-

- Demand-driven and community participation approach.
- Panchayats/communities to plan, implement, operate, maintain and manage all drinking water schemes.
- Capital cost sharing and 100% sharing of Operation and Maintenance cost by users. The proportion of capital cost shared should increase proportionately with increasing service demand. The community contribution can be in the form of cash or kind (labour, land or material), except for SC/ST habitations, where it may only be in kind.
- Full ownership of drinking water assets with Gram Panchayats.
- Full Operation and Maintenance (O and M) by the Users/Panchayats.

- After the completion of the scheme, the same shall be commissioned and taken over for operation and maintenance by the Gram Panchayat/Village Water and Sanitation Committee/Beneficiary Group in a Gram Sabha meeting.

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

3418. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the criteria of population of 20 thousand to 50 thousand based on 1991 census under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to implement Accelerated Urban Sewerage Programme on the lines of Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with the Life Insurance Corporation of India, HUDCO and other financial institutions in order to make adequate financial arrangements to implement Accelerated Urban Sewerage Programme and Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) has been subsumed in recently launched scheme, namely Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) which envisages development of infrastructure facilities including water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage etc. in cities/towns which are not covered under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such scheme of Accelerated Urban Sewerage Programme has been launched.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Setting up of Technology Centre

3419. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to sign any MoU with Italy for setting up of technology centre to tap non-conventional energy sources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) :

(a) and (b) A proposal for Agreement on Indo-Italian Renewable Energy programme between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Ministry of Environment and Territory, Government of Italy has been received in this Ministry, which aims at, among other things facilitating project proposals in New and Renewable Energy.

IT Raids

3420. SHRI SITARAM SINGH :
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Income Tax raids have been conducted recently in Delhi, Faridabad and Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of search and seizure operations conducted by the Income Tax Department during Financial Year 2006-07 (upto 10.12.2006) in Delhi, Chandigarh and Faridabad are as under:-

	No. of Search warrants executed	Value of assets seized (Rs. in lakhs)
Delhi	200	2241.73
Chandigarh	55	258.20
Faridabad	50	274.83

[Translation]

Shortage of Coal and Gas for Power Projects

3421. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA :

SHRI RANEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the demand and supply position of coal and gas for power projects, State-wise;

(b) whether the concerned companies are not able to meet the requirement of coal and gas of different power plants;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to allow coal and gas starved power projects to import coal and gas as per their requirement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps taken to fulfil the coal and gas demand of different power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Coal linkage accorded and receipt at the coal based thermal power stations, state-wise and normative gas requirements at 90% PLF and actual gas supplied to Gas based power plants, state-wise, for the period from April to October 2006, enclosed as Statement I and II respectively.

While there is significant shortage in supply of gas to the power plants, there has been marginal shortfall in supply of coal to the power plants from the domestic sources.

(c) and (d) There are no restrictions on power utilities for import of coal and gas. In order to bridge the gap

between demand and supply of domestic coal and to build adequate coal stock at the power stations, the power utilities in the country were advised to import 20 Million Tonnes of coal during the year 2006-07. To reduce the gap between demand and availability of indigenous gas, some of the power utilities are procuring Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RING) from domestic suppliers who are importing LNG and supplying it to them after regasification.

(e) Following steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government to ensure that there is adequate supply of coal and gas to the power plants in the country during 2006-07:

(i) **Coal:**

- The coal supply position to thermal power station is rigorously monitored in Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis.
- A Sub-group of the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd., reviews and resolves the problems in coal supply to thermal power stations on weekly/fortnightly basis.
- The Infrastructure Constrains Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month.
- New Coal blocks are being allocated by the Min. of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.

(ii) **Gas:**

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has enunciated following actions to improve the gas availability in the power stations:-

- Augmentation of production of natural gas from the existing domestic gas fields/wells.
- Increasing availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for Exploration and Production (E and P) activities in various sedimentary sources basis of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- Encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and also making efforts for import of gas through international pipelines projects.
- In order to explore and produce new sources of natural gas from coal bearing area, Government has formulated a Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy providing attractive fiscal and contractual framework for exploration and production of CBM in the country.

Statement-I*State-wise Coal Linkage Vs Receipt for TPSs from April-October 2006*

Sl. No.	Name of TPS	Linkage Thousand Tonnes	Indegenous Receipt Thousand Tonnes
1	2	3	4
1.	Delhi	3315	2782
2.	Haryana	5270	3937
3.	Punjab	5595	5162
4.	Rajasthan	7725	6701
5.	Uttar Pradesh	28521	26347
6.	Gujarat	10150	9136
7.	Madhya Pradesh	14730	13272
8.	Chhattisgarh	10720	10066

1	2	3	4
9.	Maharashtra	19995	18521
10.	Andhra Pradesh	20840	18367
11.	Karnataka	5255	4016
12.	Tamil Nadu	7720	7156
13.	Bihar	3960	2867
14.	Jharkhand	4975	3413
15.	West Bengal	21660	17472
16.	Orissa	13910	12218
Total all India		184341	161433

Statement-II*State-wise Gas requirement at 90% PLF and actual Gas Consumption of gas based power plants*

(as on 31st October 2006)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Gas Requirement (MMSCMD)	*Actual Gas Supply (MMSCMD)
1	2	3	4
Northern Region			
1	Delhi	2.94	2.48
2	Haryana	2.06	1.49
3	Rajasthan	2.53	2.09
4	Uttar Pradesh	7.05	4.95
Total (NR)		14.58	11.01
Western Region			
1	Gujarat	16.21	11.03
2	Maharashtra	5.24	3.42
Total (WR)		21.45	14.45

1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	8.82	3.12
2	Pondicherry	0.16	0.18
3	Tamil Nadu	3.98	1.78
Total (SR)		12.96	5.08
North Eastern Region			
1	Assam	3.00	2.42
2	Tripura	1.47	1.32
Total (NER)		4.47	3.74
Grand Total		53.46	34.28

* Normative gas requirement taking C.V. of gas = 9000K.Cal/M, station heat rate-2900 K.Cal/kWh for open cycle and 2000 K.Cal/kWh for close cycle

[English]

ASI Clearance to DDA Plots

3422.SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI GANESH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of plot holders (allotted by Delhi Development Authority to cooperative housing society) are awaiting clearance from Archaeological Survey of India (ASI);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has informed that some of the plot holders, who had applied for grant of licence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 for construction on the plots, have been denied permission

since the plots, on inspection, were found to be located in the prohibited area of centrally protected monuments.

(c) The matter is subjudice in High Court.

Rationalisation of Duty on Watches

3423.SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that watches/parts thereof are being smuggled/illegally imported into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to check such activities;

(d) whether All India Federation of Horological Industries (AIFHI) has requested the Government for rationalization of duty on watch and watch components; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following are the details of smuggled watches/parts seized during the last three financial years:-

Year	Value of seized goods (Rs. in crores)
2003-2004	2.87
2004-2005	4.00
2005-2006	1.97

(c) All field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have been adequately sensitized to maintain strict vigil to prevent and thwart the smuggling of watches and parts thereof.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Ministry has recently received a representation from All India Federation of Horological Industries (AIFHI) for rationalization of duty on watch and watch components. The said representation is under examination.

Education Cess

3424. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been persistent demands from various quarters to withdraw the education cess;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Government has received a number of representations for the withdrawal of education cess from various industry associations and Chambers like Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bangalore), ASSOCHAM (UP), Income Tax Payers Association (New Delhi), Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, All India Association of Industries (Mumbai), etc.

(c) Such representations are examined as part of the budgetary exercise and the decision of the Government gets reflected in the Finance Bill.

**Reduction in Customs Duty on Ships
for Breaking**

3425. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI :
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the present rate of customs duty levied on ship breaking for the scrap metal is higher than the duty levied on the metal scrap in neighbouring countries particularly, Bangladesh and China;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to reduce the customs duty on ships for breaking/recycling; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Basic customs duty on ships for breaking is 5%. As per Integrated Database of World Trade Organization (WTO), rate of customs duty on ships for breaking in Bangladesh is 1000 Bangladesh Taka per light displacement tonnage or LDT (about 3.7% on ad valorem terms based on current prices). In Pakistan, the customs duty rate is 5%, while for China, the rate is 3%. Thus, the rate of customs duty in India for import of ships for breaking is not significantly higher than that in the neighbouring countries.

(b) and (c) Government had received a request from Government of Gujarat, seeking reduction in customs duty on ships imported for breaking-up. Taking into consideration all the relevant factors, Government has decided not to make any change in customs duty on ships imported for breaking-up.

Shortage of Gas for Samalkot Power Station

3426. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a shortage of gas for operating the Samalkot Combined Cycle Power Station in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the corrective steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gail India Limited has informed that current supplies to Samalkot Combined Cycle Power Station (CCPP) of M/s. Reliance Energy, Samalkot, Andhra Pradesh is around 0.56 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) against allocation of 1.0 MMSCMD (0.64 MMSCMD firm + 0.36 MMSCMD fall back).

(b) GAIL India Limited has further informed that due to low availability, the present gas supply in Krishna Godavari Basin is around 6.20 MMSCMD against total allocation of 16.36 MMSCMD and all the available gas is being supplied to existing customers on a pro-rata basis based on request of Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) In view of the depleting domestic gas supply sources, efforts are being made by GAIL India Limited to augment the availability of natural gas in the region through increase in domestic availability of natural gas from New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) sources.

Allotment of Land for Commercial Activities

3427. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has allotted land in the press area at Bahadurshah Jaffar Marg to various print media and electronic media for operating their activity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that these media agencies have constructed multistoried commercial buildings on such land and have let out to others for commercial activities;

(d) if so, whether it is not a violation of terms and conditions meant for allotment of land; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken for such violation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The details are given in the Statement enclosed. No allotment was made to electronic media.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Action has already been initiated under the terms of lease deed against the unauthorized constructions and misuse.

Statement

Details of allotments made in the press area at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg to print media

Sl. No.	Plot No.	Name of the allottee	Area
1.	3	United India Periodicals Private Limited	0.50 acre
2.	4	Children's Book Trust	0.673 acre
3.	5	Daily Pratap	0.364 acre
4.	5-A	Associated Journals Ltd.	0.3365 acre
5.	6	M/s. Gulab Singh and Sons Private Limited	0.675 acre
6.	7	M/s. Bennet Coleman and Co. Limited	0.677 acre
7.	8	Daily Tej Private Limited	0.251 acre
8.	8-A	Daily Milap	2965 Sq.yds.
9.	9 and 10	The Express Newspapers Limited	1.179 Acres

[Translation]

Development of Land for Commercial Use

3428. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether 525 hectare area of land was given to the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for developing it for commercial use;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time limit has been prescribed for development of this land and its allotment; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be developed for commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it has not received land measuring 525 ha. for developing it for commercial use.

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

[English]

Civic Amenities

3429. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria of classifying a human dwelling as slum;

(b) whether the above criteria are taken into consideration for providing clean water supply, power supply, sanitation and sewage and other civic amenities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such criteria are in conformity with the international norms to define a slum; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The criteria of classifying a slum as adopted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI) is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Under the programmes implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the above criteria are adopted.

(e) and (f) As per the definition of UN-HABITAT, slum is a contiguous settlement, where inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. The criteria for defining slum adopted by UN-Habitat, is more or less similar to the criteria adopted by the Government of India.

Statement

National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO)

1. A slum is a compact settlement with a collection of poorly built tenements, mostly of temporary nature, crowded together usually with inadequate sanitary and drinking water facilities in unhygienic conditions such type of area considered as "non notified slum" if at least 20 household lived in that area.
2. Area notified as slums by the respective municipalities, corporations, local bodies or development authorities are treated as "notified slum".

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA (RGI)

1. All specified areas in a town or city notified as slum by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act including a slum Act.
2. All areas recognized as slum by State/Local Government and UT Administration, Housing and slum Board, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any act.
3. A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking facilities.

[Translation]

Power from Waste

3430. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE :

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study regarding utilization of funds meant for power generation from urban and industrial waste and solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute District Level Advisory Committees in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) and (b) On utilization of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) for power generation, disbursement of central financial assistance towards past subsidy for setting up such plants, the Supreme Court in its interim order has stayed such disbursement since May, 2005 on a PIL suggesting conversion of Municipal Solid Waste in Class-I cities to compost as the preferred route. In so far as utilization of solar energy for power generation purposes is concerned, the same is not being supported in view of the high cost of generation, currently placed at around Rs. 20/kWh (without battery back-up). Under the programme on Energy Recovery from Industrial Waste central financial assistance is released on re-imbusement basis on successful commissioning of the project. Further, state government departments/state nodal agencies are required to periodically submit progress reports, utilization certificates and audited statements of expenditure in support of utilization of funds released. This apart, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audits accounts of concerned state government departments.

(c) and (d) District-Level Advisory Committees for Renewable Energy have already been constituted in 550 districts to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes at the field level. The Committee is headed by the District Collector/Deputy Commissioner with the Project Director, District Rural Development Agency or the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad as Member-Secretary. Membership comprises

district officers belonging to allied departments such as Forests, Industries, Agriculture, Information Technology, Education, Health, etc.; Representatives of the District Bar Council (or Government Pleader), Lead Bank, Non-Government Organizations, Rotary Club, Lions Club, locals industry associations, etc. have also been included as members. At least six members of the Committee are required to be women.

[English]

Group Housing Societies

3431.SHRI D.B. PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ No. 1833 answered on 15.03.2005 and state :

(a) the present status of the Completion Certificate in respect of 35 Group Housing Societies in Paschim Vihar;

(b) whether completion certificates have not been given to some societies due to the unauthorised construction in these societies; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to regularise the minor unauthorised construction and to provide completion certificates to those societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that Completion Certificates in respect of 2 out of the 35 Group Housing Societies have been issued. The reasons for not issuing Completion Certificate in respect of the remaining 33 Group Housing Societies are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Unified Building Bye Laws, 1983 provide for regularisation of compoundable deviations in buildings. It is incumbent upon the Cooperative Group Housing Societies to apply for completion/occupancy certificate after completing all formalities as per the Building Bye Laws and Master Plan for Delhi.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of society	Reasons for not issue of Completion Certificate
1	2	3
1.	Gasta CGHS	Not applied.
2.	Maha Manav CGHS	-do-
3.	North End CGHS	-do-
4.	Jahaj CGHS	-do-
5.	IITD CGHS	-do-
6.	Liberal CGHS	-do-
7.	Mayur CGHS	-do-
8.	University Teacher CGHS	-do-
9.	Sahidya CGHS	-do-
10.	Lake View CGHS	Applied for rectification/removal/regularisation of unauthorised construction on 16.10.06.
11.	Backward Class CGHS	Not applied.
12.	Delhi University Teachers CGHS (Non-Academic)	-do-
13.	Ashoka CGHS	CC not issued due to unauthorised construction.
14.	Sub Vihar CGHS	CC rejected due to non-completion of documents and development work.
15.	Shiv Vihar CGHS	-do-
16.	Nav Bharat CGHS	CC not applied. Unauthorised Construction carried out. Not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.
17.	Rabindra CGHS	CC not issued due to non-completion of development work and unauthorised construction existing. Not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.
18.	Delhi Rail Karamchari CGHS	-do-
19.	Lord Budha CGHS	CC not issued due to non-completion of development works
20.	Land and Housing CGHS	CC rejected due to non-completion of documents. Not applied for regularisation of existing structure.

1	2	3
21. Sunshine CGHS		CC rejected due to non-completion of documents and unauthorized construction. Not applied for regularisation of existing structure.
22. Mayur Bagh CGHS		CC not issued due to unauthorized construction. Not applied for regularisation of existing structure.
23. S.B. Miles CGHS		-do-
24. Virat CGHS		-do-
25. Vindhychal CGHS		CC not issued due to non-deposition of compounding fees.
26. Delhi Chartered Accountant CGHS		CC not issued due to non-completion of development work.
27. Baljeet Nagar CGHS		CC not issued to non-completion of development work.
28. New Delhi Bangali CGHS		CC not issued due to unauthorized construction. Not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.
29. J.K. Apartments CGHS		-do-
30. CIS Officers CGHS		CC not issued due to non-submission of documents and non-rectification/removal of non-compoundable of deviations/encroachment.
31. I.M.D. CGHS		CC not applied, unauthorised construction carried out, not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.
32. Adarsh Jeewan CGHS		CC not issued due to in-complete development work, unauthorized construction. not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.
33. Venus CGHS		CC not issued due to unauthorized construction. Not applied for rectification/removal/regularisation.

*CC denotes Completion Certificate.

[Translation]

Interest on Home Loan

3432.SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banks and financial institutions providing home loans are charging high rate of interest from the customers by keeping them in the dark as reported in Dainik Jagran dated November 1, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any action against such banks/financial institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given any directions in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (f) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its mid-term Review of Annual Policy for the year 2006-07, has pointed out that some banks, while lending for housing are not fully transparent in indicating the circumstances and factors governing the benchmark in respect of floating rates as well as in regard to reset clauses. Banks are, therefore, urged to review all practices which are less than fair or transparent. Banks are also urged to afford an opportunity to borrowers to obtain fair and transparent terms consistent with legal requirements and fair practices.

Foreign Exchange Reserve

3433.SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the total amount of foreign exchange reserve in the country;
- (b) the names of the countries whose currencies are available in foreign exchange reserve of the country;
- (c) the amount invested out of above reserve by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years and the details thereof;
- (d) the impact on the prices of commodities due to non-utilisation of above reserve for productive work; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) India's foreign exchange reserves (comprising of foreign currency assets, gold, Special Drawing Rights and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund) stood at US\$ 175.5 billion as on December 1, 2006.

(b) and (c) The country's international transactions are generally carried out in major intervention currencies like US Dollar and Euro. The country's foreign exchange reserves are invested by the Reserve Bank of India, in multi-currency and multi-asset portfolios keeping in view considerations of safety, liquidity and return.

(d) and (e) For every unit of foreign exchange accretion, corresponding value in Rupees is released in the domestic economy. As such, the issue of non-utilisation of the reserves does not arise.

Monitoring Mechanism for Banks

3434.SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has established a monitoring mechanism to monitor the functioning of banks in February, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases detected by this monitoring mechanism; and
- (d) the outcome of action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has put in place a mechanism to monitor the overall performance of all Public Sector Banks on the basis of the 'Statement of Intent on Annual Goals (SOI)' submitted by them on various performance parameters including deposits, advances, non-performing assets (NPAs), cost to income ratio, profit, etc.

(c) and (d) The performance of each public sector bank vis-a-vis the annual goals outlined in its SOI is reviewed on a periodic basis and appropriate directions are issued to the banks, wherever required.

[English]

Loans from Bilateral and Multilateral Funding Agencies

3435.SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government has to pay commitment fees in respect of loans received from bilateral and multilateral agencies; and

(b) if so, the justification therefor and the details of commitment fee paid during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Commitment fees is the charge levied by the development partner for committing their funds. The details of the commitment fees paid during each of the last three years are as follows:-

Year	Commitment fees paid (in Rs. Crore)
2003-04	93.16
2004-05	165.11
2005-06	148.16

[Translation]

Funds for Rural Areas

3436. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has cast aspersion on Union Government regarding paucity of funds in the rural areas;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase flow of funds and investment in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The Government has substantially increased the budgetary outlays for the various rural sector programmes such as Rural Roads, Drinking Water, Rural Electrification, Rural Telecommunication etc. In addition, various other schemes and programmes such as Bharat Nirman,

National Rural Health Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Backward Regions Grant Fund etc. are also under implementation to increase the flow of funds and investment in the rural areas.

[English]

Setting up of Small Hydro Power Projects

3437. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring uniform policy for development of Small Hydro Power Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have shown their reservations towards the said policy;

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

(e) the steps taken to resolve those issues?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) As per the Allocation of Business Rules, the development of Small Hydro Projects (SHPs) upto 25 MW is a subject allocated to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The existing Hydro Policy, 1998 which was supplemented by the Electricity Act 2003, National Electricity Policy (2005) and Tariff Policy (2006) has adequate provisions for development of small hydro power projects. As per the said Policy, soft loans are provided for development of SHPs through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited/Power Finance Corporation Limited/Rural Electrification Corporation Limited. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has announced various financial incentives/subsidies for accelerated development of small hydro power projects upto 25 MW capacity. Further, 16 States have also announced policies for attracting private investment in small hydro power.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Out of Court Settlement of Disputes

3438. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote out of court settlement of disputes in view of heavy pendency as reported in Dainik Jagran dated November 18, 2006; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K.VENKATAPATHY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Legal Services Authority is taking steps to promote Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanism, which aims at expeditious settlement of disposal of disputes at pre-litigation and post-litigation stages, by way of arbitration, conciliation, mediation, judicial settlement or through Lok Adalats. Alternative Disputes Resolution centers in all High Courts are also being set up.

Revision of Voters Lists

3439. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaint regarding irregularities in voter list has been received;

(b) if so, the number of persons in each State whose names were either dropped from the voter list during last two revisions;

(c) the number of persons whose applications were rejected for issue of voter I-card, alongwith the reasons for rejection;

(d) whether non-citizens too have been included in voter lists;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes any special drive to delete the names of non-citizens;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has intimated that there is no centralized system of maintaining the individual records of complaints and disposal thereof at the Commission level. The Electoral Registration Officer at district and/or sub-division level, are statutory authorities responsible for maintenance and updation of electoral rolls. Complaints are received and acted upon by them on the basis of the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. Besides Electoral Registration Officer the complaints can also be received at the level of District Election Officer and Chief Electoral Officer. These complaints too are sent to Electoral Registration Officer for taking appropriate action.

(c) Voter I-Card is issued to a person whose name is registered in the electoral roll in force by the Electoral Registration Officer. The electors are not required to file any application for the same.

(d) to (g) The electoral rolls for the territorial Assembly Constituencies are prepared under the superintendence, direction and control of the Election Commission of India under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Registration of Electors Rules 1960. As per these provisions only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion in the electoral rolls. However some times during intensive revision (House to House enumeration) or summary revision (the period for filling claims and objections), names of some ineligible persons who may not fulfill the qualification of Indian citizenship may find their way into the electoral roll due to false information provided by the persons. Whenever such cases of wrongful inclusion come to the notice of the Electoral Registration authorities, immediate action is taken to remove such names from the electoral roll. As such no data of foreign citizens who have got their names registered in the electoral roll is available with the Election Commission.

[Translation]

Allocation of Power from Auraiya Power Plant

3440. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to continue the power supply in Gwalior Malanpur from Auraiya Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether some power projects related proposals of Madhya Pradesh are also pending with the Union Government for approval; and

(d) if so, the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Madhya Pradesh (M.P.) had requested this Ministry in September, 2006 to permit flow of 100 MW power from Northern Region via 220 kV Auraiya - Malanpur link to address voltage problem of Gwalior area.

(b) Prior to 11.09.2005, MP was allocated 200 MW of power from unallocated/surrendered power of NTPC stations in Eastern Region which included 50 MW power from ER stations flow via NR using inter-regional links between ER and NR and 220 kV Auraiya - Malanpur link between NR and WR.

However, the constituents of NR felt constrained to draw their share from NTPC stations in Eastern Region (ER) and bilateral power through ER-NR link, as its capacity got reduced to the extent of 50 MW due to capacity being earmarked for ER power to MP. Accordingly, the above flow of 50 MW power from ER to MP through Auraiya - Malanpur link was discontinued w.e.f. 11.09.2005.

The reasons for discontinuance of above flow of ER power to MP through Auraiya-Malanpur link has been communicated to MPSEB with the request that MPSEB may avail power by entering into bilateral agreements with Northern Regional constituents to address the low voltage problem in Malanpur area.

(c) and (d) As per the Electricity Act 2003, any generating company may establish, operate and maintain a generating station without obtaining a license under this Act if it complies with the technical standards relating to

connectivity with the grid specified by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Generating Company need not obtain any clearance/license under the said Act for setting up of thermal power plants. However, techno economic clearance from CEA for hydro projects is required. No proposals of Madhya Pradesh for setting up hydro projects are pending in CEA for clearance.

[English]

Identification of Natural Calamity Areas

3441. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has made any study regarding Natural Calamities like Landslides and 'Avalanche' in some areas in India recurring almost every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any machinery to identify such places for precautionary measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes study of all conspicuous landslides including recurring type, almost every year in the northeastern and northwestern Himalayas, northeastern states of the country and also in the western ghats/Nilgiri hills in the southern part of India, to delineate the tentative causative factors and to suggest suitable slope protective measures. In the landslide prone regions of the country there are several types of landslides like old stabilized, dormant etc. (.) GSI carries out detailed investigations of all these slides.

Some of the recurring types of landslide studied recently are :

- (i) Sonapur slide on Shillong-Silchar National Highway, Meghalaya;
- (ii) 9-Mile slide on NH-31A, Lantakhola slide, B-2 slide, Elachi slide, Serwani slide etc. in Sikkim;
- (iii) Paglajhora slide, Darjeeling, W. Bengal;
- (iv) Devastating Varunavat slide, Uttarkashi,

Survee slide, Mussouri, Uttaranchal; (v) Bhilar and some other conspicuous slides in Raigarh District of Maharashtra; (vi) Hospital slide, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu.

The study on snow avalanches in India is done by Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment, (SASE) Defence Research and Development Organization, Ministry of Defence. The focus is on helping troops deployed in snow bound avalanche prone areas in their day to day movement. All avalanche prone areas that affect troops movement in western Himalayan region have been registered by SASE. IMD is providing meteorology data for predicting the avalanches.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There are methodologies by which landslide vulnerable zones can be demarcated to identify such vulnerable zones. GSI has already completed inventory of about 1150 landslides spread over north eastern states, northeast and north west Himalayas, western ghats and Nilgiri hills. GSI is also engaged in carrying out landslide hazard zonation mapping on different scales to demarcate the landslide prone hilly terrain into different zones according to their degree of susceptibility to landslides. The main purpose of this study is to guide the planners regarding the land use pattern.

The risk reduction due to avalanches is attempted by the following methods:

- (i) Avalanche Awareness
- (ii) Avalanche Forecasting

Regular Avalanche forecasting bulletins are issued from Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment to people living in avalanche prone areas about impending danger. Civilian population living in the interior region of Himalayas are also informed through Press Information Bureau and local broadcasting stations about the impending danger.

Genetic Engineering

3442. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have demanded that the performance of Bt. Cotton

varieties must be reviewed to determine their suitability to the Indian conditions;

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

(c) whether the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) has approved new varieties of Bt. Cotton for some States despite objections raised in the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. No Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) has demanded review of performance of Bt. Cotton varieties to determine their suitability to the Indian conditions. However, NGOs like the Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Bharat Krishak Samaj, Gene Campaign and Greenpeace have submitted representations to Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India alleging failure of the crop due to poor yield, inability to provide protection from bollworm attack, susceptible to other insects such as sucking pests, jassids, poor germination, genetic purity etc. and most of them were specific to Warangal Distt. of Andhra Pradesh. The representations of the above NGOs were considered in the GEAC meetings and clarifications were sought from various state governments and also from Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur who reported that the performance of Bt. cotton varieties were good and no susceptibility to bollworm developed, The Bt. gene has been introduced in Cotton specifically to control bollworm infestation. The success of a Bt. variety, therefore, has to be measured in terms of its effectiveness against bollworm only. There has been an overall increase in the cultivation of Bt. cotton during 2002-2004 in India. Reports received from CICR, Nagpur indicates that the bollworm infestation in Bt. cotton crops has been generally below the Economic Threshold Level (ETL) of damage.

(c) and (d) The GEAC has approved in total 62 Bt. cotton hybrids for environmental release and commercial use by private sector companies and the details are given

in the statement enclosed. The hybrids approved for environmental release has been tested for its safety, efficacy agronomic advantage and economic viability prior to its release through a rigorous testing procedure. The Bt. seeds were extensively tested in the contained and multi-locational trials under supervision of the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) as per the detailed guidelines and procedures framed for the purpose.

Subsequent to this, Bt. seeds were put under the large scale field trials as approved by the GEAC under the Indian Council of Agriculture and Research (ICAR) testing system. The GEAC has taken into consideration the recommendations of the Monitoring-cum-Evaluation Committee (MEC) and ICAR with respect to findings of the biosafety studies and agronomic evaluation while approving the Bt. hybrids for commercial cultivation.

Statement

Bt. Cotton varieties approved for commercial cultivation in the various zones during 2002-2006

Sl. No.	Name of Hybrids	Name of Company	Gene Event	Zone
1	2	3	4	5
April 2002				
1.	MECH 12 Bt***	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central (renewed)
2.	MECH 162 Bt***	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South (renewed)
3.	MECH 184 Bt***	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South (renewed)
April 2004				
4.	RCH 2 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South
April-June 2005				
5.	NCS – 207 Mallika	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South
6.	NCS – 145 Bunny	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South
7.	RCH – 144 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central
8.	RCH – 118 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central
9.	RCH – 138 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central
10.	RCH – 20 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	South
11.	RCH – 368 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	South
12.	RCH – 134 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	North
13.	RCH – 317 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	North
14.	MRC – 6322 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	South
15.	MRC – 6918 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	South

1	2	3	4	5
16. MRC-6301 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central and North	
17. MRC-6304 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
18. Ankur-651 Bt.	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central and North	
19. Ankur 2534 Bt.	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
20. Ankur-09	M/s Ankur Seeds Ltd	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central	
April-July, 2006				
21. MRC-6025 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North Zone	
22. MRC-6029 Bt.	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
23. NCS-913 Bt.	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North/Central/South Zone	
24. NCS-138 Bt.	M/s Nuziveedu Seeds Ltd	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
25. RCH-308 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
26. RCH-314 Bt.	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	North	
27. RCH-377 Bt.	Ms/Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
28. RCH-111 BGI	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 53 1 Event)	South Zone	
29. RCH-371 BGI	M/Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	South Zone	
30. RCHB-708 BGI	M/s Rasi Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	South Zone	
31. GK-205 Bt.	M/s Ganga Kaveri Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
32. GK-204 Bt.	M/s Ganga Kaveri Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
33. GK-209 Bt.	M/s Ganga Kaveri	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	South Zone	
34. GK-207 Bt.	M/s Ganga Kaveri	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac gene (Event 1)	South Zone	
35. KDCHH-9810 Bt.	M/s Krishidhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
36. KDCHH-9632 Bt.	M/s Krishidhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
37. KDCHH-9821 Bt.	M/s Krishidhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
38. ACH-33-1 Bt.	M/s Ajeet Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry</i> 1 Ac (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	

1	2	3	4	5
39. ACH-155-1	M/s Ajeet Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
40. Tulasi-4 Bt.	M/s Tulasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
41. Tulasi-117 Bt.	M/s Tulasi Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
42. NPH-2171 Bt.	M/s Prabhat Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
43. Brahma Bt.	M/s Emergent Genetics	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
44. VICH-5 Bt.	M/s Vikram Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central and South Zone	
45. VICH-9 Bt.	M/s Vikram Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone and South Zone	
46. PRCH-102 Bt.	M/s Pravardhan Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
47. PCH-2270 Bt.	M/s Prabhat Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac gene</i> (Event 1)	South Zone	
48. VCH-111 Bt.	M/s Vikki Agrotech Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac</i> (MON 531 Event)	Central Zone	
49. MRC-7301 BG II	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	Central Zone	
50. MRC-7328 BG II	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	Central Zone	
51. MRC-7347 BG II	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	Central Zone	
52. MRC-7351 BG II	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	South Zone	
53. MRC-7201 BG II	M/s Mahyco	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	South Zone	
54. KDCHH-441 BG II	M/s Krishidhan Seeds Pvt. Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	Central Zone	
55. ACH-11-2 BG II	M/s Ajeet Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac and Cry 2 Ab</i> (MON 15985 Event)	Central Zone	
56. JKCH-1947 Bt.	M/s J.K. Agri Genetics Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac gene</i> (Event 1)	North Zone	
57. JK Varun Bt.	M/s J.K. Agri Genetics Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac gene</i> (Event 1)	Central Zone	
58. JKDurga Bt.	M/s J.K. Agri Genetics Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac gene</i> (Event 1)	South Zone	
59. JKCH-99 Bt.	M/s J.K. Agri Genetics Seeds Ltd.	<i>cry 1 Ac gene</i> (Event 1)	South Zone	

1	2	3	4	5
60.	NCEH-6R	M/s Nath Seeds Ltd.	(<i>cry 1 Ab + Cry Ac</i>) GFM	North Zone
61.	NCEH-2R	M/s Nath Seeds Ltd.	(<i>cry 1 Ab + Cry Ac</i>) GFM	Central Zone
62.	NCEH-3R	M/s Nath Seeds Ltd.	(<i>cry 1 Ab + Cry Ac</i>) GFM	South Zone

States covering each zone: Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat).

South Zone (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) and North Zone (Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana).

***Approval not renewed for Andhra Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

Purchasing Power of Rupee

3443.DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the purchasing power of the Indian Rupee is continuously declining over the last few years;

(b) if so, the average value of Rupee in the year 1991-92 and 2006-07 based on the value of the Rupee in 1980-81;

(c) whether there is variation in the purchasing power of the rupee in different cities of the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the value of Rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (e) Sir, the average value of the Indian rupee, taking 1980-81 as base, was 37 paise in 1991-92 and 14 paise in 2006-07 (average of April-October).

There are variations in purchasing power of the rupee in different cities. This variation is due to the differential weighting pattern of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial workers (CPI-IW) in different cities of the country, as well as differences in price behaviour across cities. This results in different rates of increase of CPI-IW in various

cities, the reciprocal of which gives the purchasing power of the rupee.

Rise in the level of prices i.e. inflation, results in a decline in the value of the rupee. Government, in order to control inflation, has recently taken various measures in this direction. These include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, lowering of duties, effective management of supply and demand of essential commodities through import, strengthening of the public distribution system and curbing of export of certain commodities.

[*English*]

Study in Fog in Eastern and Northern Regions

3444.SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the most of the northern and eastern part of the country experiences a thick fog during winter months for more than a decade;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any plan to conduct research to study the problem; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The fog over most parts of northern and eastern India during winter months is a well known phenomenon.

(b) and (c) Since the occurrence of fog during winter months has been a concern particularly for aviation sector, a lot of research has been done by IMD and other research institutes/organizations about different aspects of fog, like, onset time, duration, conditions for fog formation etc. Further, to alleviate the problems of aircraft operations in fog conditions, instruments for assessing visibility and other now-casting and soft computing aids are also proposed at all airports by IMD.

The mesoscale models of IMD and NCMRWF have the potential to serve as tools for studying the problem of fog. These models are run in real time and are used by forecasting centres as guidance for providing location specific forecast. With the enhanced observational network, which is included in the modernization plan of IMD, the mesoscale models may be effective aids in improving the fog forecast.

National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi has been conducting studies on the conditions for fog formation and the role of anthropogenic pollutants in altering fog conditions. They are on a joint programme with Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computer Simulation (C-MMACS) of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to predict visibility in fog season using a model built by C-MMACS for Delhi and neighbourhood.

Evaluation of Private Insurance Companies

3445. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private insurance companies functioning in the country;

(b) whether the Government has undertaken any evaluation of functioning of these companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) As reported by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), there are, as on date, 24 private players in the insurance sector of the country of which 15 are in life sector and 9 in the non-life sector.

(b) and (c) IRDA has reported that it has been constantly reviewing and monitoring the functioning of insurance companies in terms of the provisions contained in Insurance Act, 1938, various regulations notified by the Authority and circulars issued from time to time. In addition, it has also been undertaking on site inspections of insurance companies in respect of specific areas of operations.

Guidelines on Foreign Banks

3446. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently issued guidelines on foreign bank's exposure in Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFI)s;

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

(c) whether many foreign banks have violated the policy of RBI during the last one year; and

(d) if so, the action taken against those banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) As per guidelines on "Financial Regulation of Systemically Important Non-Banking Financial Companies and Banks' Relationship with them", issued by Reserve Bank of India on December 12, 2006, banks, including foreign banks, may assume exposure on a single Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)/NBFC-Asset Finance Company(AFC) upto 15%/20% respectively, of their capital funds provided the exposure in excess of 10%/15% respectively, is on account of funds on-lent by the NBFC/NBFC-AFC to infrastructure sector. Further, banks may also consider fixing internal limits for their aggregate exposure to all NBFCs put together.

(c) and (d) Do not arise since the aforesaid guidelines have come into effect only on December 12, 2006.

Vacant Posts in DRDAs

3447. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 65% of the senior officers posts especially under Group A are lying vacant in District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) in all the States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contaminated Water

3448. SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the water supplied by Delhi Jal Board contains high levels of carcinogenic contents as found by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modality has been evolved by the Government for bringing down the toxic levels to WHO standard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that as per study carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and independent tests conducted by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), the treated water of DJB conforms to the permissible standards of the WHO Drinking Water Guidelines and norms.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Number of Scientists

3449. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of scientists among ten lakh Population in India, China and other developed countries; and

(b) per capita investment in research and development in India, China and other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) The information on the number of scientists per million population engaged in research and the per capita R and D expenditure in India, China and data as of 2002 for other developed countries is as follows:-

Sl. No.	Country	No. of Scientists Per million people	Per Capita R and D in US\$
1	2	3	4
1.	Australia	3446	281.07
2.	Austria	2346	564.59
3.	Canada	3487	459.63
4.	China	633	12.15
5.	Denmark	4822	869.68
6.	France	3134	552.08
7.	Germany	3222	613.94
8.	India*	110	3.53
9.	Japan	5085	976.58
10.	Rep. of Korea	2979	288.50
11.	Singapore	4352	475.52
12.	Sweden	5171	1104.20

1	2	3	4
13. United Kingdom		2691	436.40
14. United States		4526	962.15

Source : *Research and Development Statistics 2004-05
UIS, UNESCO 2005

World Development Indicators 2004/05, The
World Bank

China excludes Hong Kong

Note: 1 million = 10 lakhs

Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme

3450.SHRI RANEN BARMAN :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI HITEN BARMAN :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY
ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the programmes and schemes
formulated and implemented by the Government to
alleviate urban poverty in the country, scheme-wise and
State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and utilized by each State
Government during the last three years for implementation
of the above schemes, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the number of persons benefited from these
schemes;

(d) whether the funds allocated for alleviation of
urban poverty is very minuscule as compared to the
allocation for rural poverty alleviation;

(e) if so, the details there of for the last three years;
and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI
SELJA) : (a) In order to ameliorate the living conditions
of the urban poor and to focus on employment generation
among the urban poor in the country, Ministry of Housing
and Urban Poverty Alleviation is already implementing an

employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Scheme
named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY),
on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The Scheme
strives to provide gainful employment to the urban
unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly,
encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by
those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and,
secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their
labour for construction of socially and economically useful
public assets.

(b) The Central funds released to the States/UTs an
expenditure reported by the States/UTs through Quarterly
Progress Reports, during the last three years, is given in
the statement enclosed.

(c) Since the inception of the Scheme of Swarna
Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana on 1.12.1997, as reported
by the States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports
received upto 30.11.2006, cumulatively the number of
persons benefited under the Scheme are as under :

Total number of urban poor assisted to : 911056
set up micro/group enterprises

Number of urban poor imparted skill : 947819
training

Number of mandays of work generated : 586.86 lakh
under the wage employment component

(d) to (f) The Central allocation for the Scheme of
Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana has been very meagre
keeping in view the total number of urban poor of 67.1
million estimated in 1990-2000. The Central allocation of
funds for SJSRY during the last three years are given
below. It is observed that due to vigorous efforts of the
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for
enhancement in budget allocation, the Central allocations
under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana have
substantially increased in the recent years.

(Rupees in Crore)

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Allocation	105.00	123.00	160.00	250.00

Statement

*State-wise Central Fund released and Expenditure reported during last three year under
Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozagar Yojana (SJSRY)*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Central Fund Released	Central Fund Expenditure reported*	Central Fund Released	Central Expenditure reported*	Central Fund Released	Central Fund Expenditure reported*
		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1390.19	1390.19	1116.41	319.86	1526.17	289.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.84	140.34	7.69	26.16	0.00	125.11
3.	Assam	0.00	669.94	245.07	405.94	0.00	538.51
4.	Bihar	425.38	425.38	468.09	468.09	681.66	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	229.65	170.00	119.31	115.06	405.67	146.52
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	260.19	170.04	164.36	283.12	0.00	572.16
8.	Haryana	569.95	435.52	668.47	432.66	681.12	673.71
9.	Himachal Pradesh	32.58	60.09	2.17	38.59	45.36	34.45
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30.41	106.20	128.17	72.25	9.06	55.92
11.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Karnataka	577.46	985.44	1165.15	796.92	822.99	756.29
13.	Kerala	610.50	610.50	554.95	554.95	681.26	117.91
14.	Madhya Pradesh	818.32	687.70	931.49	886.47	1596.76	1196.69
15.	Maharashtra	322.56	1335.80	1508.66	1835.83	2552.92	2055.94
16.	Manipur	0.00	164.45	0.00	0.00	111.39	232.70
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	522.79	522.79	491.04	491.04	351.90	351.90
19.	Nagaland	1.90	59.67	34.02	34.02	194.51	194.51
20.	Orissa	0.00	291.61	48.91	162.04	469.86	211.92
21.	Punjab	0.00	199.77	0.00	107.35	39.68	36.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Rajasthan	122.96	151.86	256.29	217.68	495.38	497.69
23.	Sikkim	163.21	34.62	0.00	92.43	0.00	36.26
24.	Tamil Nadu	648.58	648.58	511.69	511.69	924.36	397.61
25.	Tripura	354.26	146.10	352.18	434.68	0.00	130.49
26.	Uttaranchal	46.27	41.39	160.31	11.12	309.14	16.08
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1571.74	1732.80	2622.61	2811.28	3071.43	3155.45
28.	West Bengal	883.26	739.08	424.02	767.88	617.47	755.29
29.	Andman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	31.97	0.00	58.16	0.00	63.67
30.	Chandigarh	278.37	73.90	28.64	49.84	0.00	42.12
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14.63	69.29	0.00	7.35	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00	21.09	0.00	25.30	0.00	20.81
34.	Pondicherry	191.00	55.76	191.00	235.34	0.00	401.59
Total		10074.00	12191.87	12200.70	12253.10	15588.09	13107.92

*The Expenditure includes the funds spent from the releases made during earlier years as the Scheme of SJSRY is an on going Scheme.

Training to Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions for Rural Development

3451. DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up any institute for imparting training in the field of rural development to elected representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions;

(b) if so, the details of such institutions set up in each State alongwith their locations; and

(c) the number of people imparted training in these institutions during each of the last three years and thereafter, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAH

SAHU) : (a) and (b) The State Institutes of Rural Development (SIRDs) and Extension Training Centres (ETCs) are State level Institutes for imparting training in the field of rural development to rural development functionaries and elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions at State level and at District/Block level respectively. The Ministry of Rural Development supports the training activities of the States including training to elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions for effective implementation of Rural Development programmes by providing financial support to SIRDs and ETCs. There are 28 SIRDs, one in each State and 89 ETCs all over the country. The list of SIRDs alongwith their location is at Statement-I and the list of ETCs alongwith their location is at Statement-II enclosed.

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

Statement-I**Name and Place where the SIRDe are functioning**

State	Places where the SIRDe are functioning
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad
Arunachal Pradesh	State Institute of Rural Development, Itanagar
Assam	State Institute of Rural Development, Khanpara, Guwahati
Bihar	Rural Development Training Institute, Phulwari Sharif, Patna
Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Institute of Rural Development, Nimora, Raipur
Goa	Goa Institute of Rural Development and Local Administration, Panaji
Gujarat	State Institute of Rural Development, Ahmedabad
Haryana	Haryana Institute of Rural Development, Nilokheri (Karnal)
Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration, Fairlawns, Shimla
Jharkhand	State Institute of Rural Development, Ranchi
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu and Kashmir Institute of Management, Public Administration and Rural Development, Srinagar and Jammu
Karnataka	Abdul Nazir Sab State Institute of Rural Development, Mysore
Kerala	State Institute of Rural Development, Kottarakara, Kollam

1	2
Madhya Pradesh	Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Rural Development, Jabalpur
Maharashtra	Yeshwant Rao Chavan Academy of Development Administration, Pune
Manipur	State Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Imphal
Meghalaya	State Institute of Rural Development, Nongstder
Mizoram	State Institute of Rural Development, Kolasib
Nagaland	State Institute of Rural Development, Kohima
Orissa	State Institute of Rural Development, Bhubaneswar
Punjab	State Institute of Rural Development, Nabha
Rajasthan	Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Gramin Vikas Sansthan, Jaipur
Sikkim	State Institute of Rural Development, Jorethang (Karfectar)
Tamil Nadu	State Institute of Rural Development, Maraimalaiagar (Kancheepuram)
Tripura	State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development, Agartala
Uttar Pradesh	DDU-State Institute of Rural Development, Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow
Uttaranchal	State Institute of Rural Development, Rudrapur
West Bengal	State Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development, Kalyani (Nadia)

Statement-II

<i>Name and Place where the ETCs are functioning</i>	
State	Places where the ETCs are functioning
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Srikalahasti, Warangal, Bapatala (Guntur), Samalkota (East Godavari) and Rajendranagar (Hyderabad) – 5
Arunachal Pradesh	Pasighat – 1
Assam	Jorhat, Joysagar, Kahikuchi and Hailakandi – 4
Bihar	Gaya, Saharsa and Muzaffarpur – 3
Chhattisgarh	Chandkuri (Raipur) – 1
Gujarat	Junagarh, Disa and Navasari – 3
Haryana	Nilokheri – 1
Himachal Pradesh	Mashobra – 1
Jammu and Kashmir	R.S. Pura (Jammu) and Budgam (Srinagar) – 2
Jharkhand	Jasidih (Santhal Pargana) and Hazaribagh – 2
Karnataka	Gulbarga, Sirsi, Mysore, Gowripet (Kolar) and Mandya – 5
Kerala	Kottarakara, Mannuthy (Thrissur) and Taliparamba (Kannur) – 3
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain, Bhopal, Multai, Jabalpur, Indore, Nowgaon (Chhattarpur) and Gwalior – 7
Maharashtra	Parbhani, Jalna, Buldana, Kosbad Hill (Thane), Gargoti (Kohlapur), K. Bamda (Kolhapur), Manjri Farm (Pune) and Amaravati – 8

1	2
Meghalaya	Nongsder – 1
Mizoram	Pukupui and Thingsulthiah – 2
Nagaland	Tuensang and Phek – 2
Oriasa	Bhubaneswar, Keonjhar and Bhawanipatna – 3
Punjab	Batala and Nabha – 2
Rajasthan	Dungarpur, Ajmer and Mandore – 3
Tamil Nadu	T. Kullupatty, S.V. Nagaram, Bhavani Sagar, Pattukkottai and Krishnagiri – 5
Uttaranchal	Rudrapur, Hawalbagh, Haldwani, Haridwar and Pauri Garhwal – 5
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Bakewar, Baraut, Bichpuri, Chirgaon, Dhorigat, Bulandshahar, Fizabad, Kalakankar, Mainpuri, Lakhaoti, Chargaon, Raibareilly, Ghazipur, Badaun and Afim Ki Kothi – 16
West Bengal	Cooch Bihar, Burdwan, Digha and Raiganj – 4
Total	89

[Translation]**Loan to Micro Financing Institutions**

3452. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV :
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to ban loans to the micro financing institutions by the banks for providing credit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether inquiry has been completed on funds

given to these institutions during first six months of the current year; and

(d) if so, the total funds made available alongwith the number of such institutions which have been given funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There were some issues regarding Micro Finance Institutions, (MFIs) in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had appointed Dr. V.P. Johari to enquire into the issues relating to MFIs. The Committee in its report has, inter-alia, recommended that:-

- A Government official should be a special invitee on the Board of the MFI.
- Before financing MFIs the banks should ensure that they follow a model code of conduct while transacting with the poor and that MFIs should not be involved in the Government sponsored programmes such as SGSY.

(d) The present system of data collection by Reserve Bank of India does not generate the information of funds made available by banks to Micro Finance Institutions. However, the cumulative lending by banks to 23.72 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs) under SHG Bank Linkage Programme upto 31st October, 2006 is Rs. 12,618 crores. Additionally, 23.89 lakh SHGs have been provided Rs. 7498.57 crores of credit and subsidy under the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) Programme as on 30th October, 2006.

Code of Conduct for Banks

3453. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether code of conduct for treatment of customers is being followed by the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases registered in connection with violation of the said code during last one year; and

(d) the action taken against the officials who violated the code of conduct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The Code of Bank's Commitment to Customers (Code) released by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI) on July 1, 2006 sets out minimum standards of banking practices for banks to follow and emphasizes transparency in banks' dealings with its customers. To achieve the avowed transparency, it provides for documentation of banks' fees and service charges in the form of a Tariff Schedule and requires banks to set out a cheque collection policy, compensation policy and a security repossession policy. The Code lays great emphasis on providing full information to the customer before a product or service is sold to him. For post sale conduct, the code insists on banks giving one month's notice to customer before making any change in their tariff schedule or any change in terms and conditions governing the product, which may adversely affect the customer. The detailed Code is available on the BCSBI website (<http://www.bcsbi.org.in>).

As per the information furnished by RBI, the BCSBI has approved the membership of 60 scheduled commercial banks which cover more than 98% of the branch network of commercial banks in India. Any scheduled commercial bank deciding to become member of BCSBI has to commit itself to adopt the Code.

(c) and (d) The banks that have accepted membership of the BCSBI are in the process of being compliant with the provisions of the Code within a mutually agreed time frame. The question of violation of the provisions of this Code will arise only after the said agreed time frame.

[English]

Sewerage and Drainage System in Orissa

3454. SHRI B. MAHTAB : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for solving the problem of potable water, sewage system and solid waste in selected cities of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to modernise the sewerage and drainage system in Orissa with the assistance of Japanese Government;

(e) if so, the amount of Japanese assistance;

(f) the time by which the work is likely to be completed; and

(g) the present status of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) to provide infrastructure facilities including water supply, sewerage, drainage and solid waste management in all the towns/cities of the country including State of Orissa. Two towns of Orissa are covered under JNNURM and 136 towns under UIDSSMT.

(c) Integrated Sewerage Project for Bhubaneswar at an estimated cost of Rs. 755.76 crore has been received from the Government of Orissa, seeking assistance under JNNURM. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under technical appraisal.

(d) The Government of Orissa has submitted proposal to provide sewerage system in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambhalpur and Bahrampur towns, drainage system and solid waste management facilities in Cuttack town at a cost of Rs. 1213.70 crore, seeking assistance from Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).

1. Bhubaneswar Sewerage – Rs. 427.00 crore. system
2. Cuttack Sanitation Project – Rs. 341.10 crore.
3. Sambalpur Sewerage – Rs. 298.00 crore. system

4. Berhampur Sewerage – Rs. 147.60 crore. system

(e) to (g) Draft agreement between Government of India, JBIC and Government of Orissa has been signed on 5.12.2006. As per the draft agreement, JBIC has agreed to provide an assistance of Japanese Yen (JY) 19061 million out of the total cost of JY 23817 million and the project is likely to be completed by 2012.

Issue of Public Share

3455.SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government is considering public share issue of the Rs. 5000 crore by National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, NTPC made a public offer comprising of 5.25% of paid-up capital as fresh issue and 5.25% as offer of sale by Government of India following the approval of Government of India in the year 2004.

Representation from Indian Automobile Industry

3456.SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received from the Indian Automobile Industry for tax holiday for investments exceeding Rs. 500 crores on the lines of infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Automobile Industry is also demanding 100% tax deductions on export profits and one-stop clearance for FDI proposals in the auto sector; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The Memorandum of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) contains numerous fiscal policy proposals. Such proposals are considered during the budgetary exercise and the decision of the Government gets reflected in the Finance Bill.

IIFC

3457. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has set up India Infrastructure Finance Corporation (IIFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any projects has been identified under IIFC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFC), was incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on January 05, 2006 with an authorized capital of Rs. 1,000 crore and a paid up capital of Rs. 10 crore. The paid up capital has since been increased to Rs. 100 crore.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance amounting to Rs. 5,186 crore has been sanctioned so far to 32 projects. Sectoral break up is as follows:-

Table

India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited

Sector	No. of Projects	Project Cost (Rs. crore)	Loan sanctioned from IIFCL (Rs. crore)
Road	23	12746	2057
Sea Port	3	1542	216
Power	5	15467	1763
Airport	1	5826	1150
Total	32	35581	5186

[Translation]

Fiscal Position of the Country

3458. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fiscal position of the country has improved with the enforcement of the FRBM Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) comparative details in this respect;

(d) whether the Government is making any other efforts in this direction; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. While the Fiscal deficit has declined from 6.2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2001-02 to 4.1% of GDP in 2005-06, the Revenue deficit as a percentage of GDP stands reduced from 4.4% to 2.7% in the same period. The Fiscal and Revenue Deficit targets set for the BE 2006-07 is 3.8% and 2.1% of GDP, respectively.

The Government's efforts to achieve fiscal consolidation are directed towards pursuing a rational and stable tax policy to improve revenues while at the same time, achieving better expenditure management. Measures to increase tax compliance, improve efficiency in tax administration, introduction of "Outcome Budgets", monitoring of utilization certificates/unspent balances against budgetary allocations, and introduction of cash management system in some high spending ministries are some examples of continuing efforts in this direction.

[English]

Development in Bio-technology

3459. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of funds for the development of bio-technology during each of the last three years;

(b) the performance and prospective expansion plans of bio-tech sector;

(c) whether the Government proposes to invite and encourage private sector for larger investments in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) The allocation of plan funds for Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India during the last three years was Rs. 521 crores in 2006-2007; Rs. 445 crores in 2005-2006; and Rs. 310 crores in 2004-2005. The expenditure was incurred on R and D, product and process development, establishment of biotechnology parks and clusters in areas of biotechnology applications in Agriculture, Health-care, Environment and Industrial development. Besides, the Department of Biotechnology, other S and T agencies like Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) also support biotechnology R and D and applications.

(b) The performance of the various programmes and projects is available in detail in the Annual Reports of the Department of Biotechnology posted at the website: www.dbtindia.nic.in. In general, the biotechnology sector is developing at a satisfactory rate in terms of infrastructure, patents, publications and product development specially in case of vaccines and diagnostics for communicable diseases, bio-pharmaceuticals, genetically modified crops, biopesticides and biofertilisers. The biotech industry revenues are closer to Rs. 6521 crores in 2005-2006 with an annual growth rate of 37.42% over previous years. A National Biotechnology Development Strategy has been formulated for major expansion in human resource development, industrial promotion and development, sectoral R and D for technology development, establishment of new institutes in cutting edge areas of biotechnology and streamlining of regulatory system.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the Government has taken special measures to promote the biotechnology industry and to facilitate increase in turnover of biotech sector. Initiatives have been taken to provide an enabling environment for

industrial growth such as exemption of biotech sector from compulsory licensing; permitting 100% FDI; reducing the area of SEZ to bring it at par with IT sector; providing fiscal incentives to recognised in-house R and D of industries in terms of "exemption of custom duty on capital goods, reduction in import duty and 150% weighted deduction against expenditure incurred on R and D. To encourage public-private partnerships for joint R and D and technology development, soft loans are provided by Technology Development Board of Department of Science and Technology as well as under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI), CSIR. Recently, Department of Biotechnology has launched a novel scheme "Small Business Innovative Research Initiative" to provide grant and soft loan for strengthening R and D and product development in small and medium biotech industries.

Shelter for the Poor

3460. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Human Settlements Management Institute (HSMI) and Centre for Development alternative, Ahmedabad have recommended for providing permanent housing shelter to the poor and needy people;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions from experts for providing low-cost housing shelter to the poor people in time bound manner;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry is not aware of any such suggestion made by these agencies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Trading in Tobacco

3461. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to accord permission for undertaking trading activity in tobacco products to foreign companies through RBI route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% on wholesale/ cash and carry Trading of goods is allowed on the automatic route. There is no separate policy for trading of Tobacco/Tobacco products.

FDI upto 100% is allowed with the prior Government approval for manufacture of Cigars and Cigarettes, subject to the conditions of Industrial Licence under the Industries (Development and Regulations Act, 1951).

[Translation]

IT Defaulters

3462. SHRI GANESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to publish the list of income-tax defaulters in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The Union Government does not propose to publish the list of income-tax defaulters in the country.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The steps taken/being taken by the Government against the defaulters varies from case to case and is governed by the provisions of Chapter XVII read with Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961. The steps

include issuance of statutory notice u/s 220(2), charging of interest and levy of penalty for non payment of dues, attachment of bank accounts of the defaulter and amounts owed by debtors to such a defaulter, attachment and sale of movable/immovable properties of the defaulter, arrest of the defaulter, appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable/immovable properties etc.

[English]

Assistance from DFID

3463. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of States which got fund/loan assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) during each of the last three years;

(b) the purposes for which loan/assistance obtained by States, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which the fund has been utilized by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal have got grant assistance from the Department for International Development (DFID) during the last three years. Assistance received from DFID has been utilised for implementing projects in social sectors such as primary education, health, urban services, rural livelihood, environment and sanitation and reform programmes leading to poverty reduction. The States-wise disbursement and utilization of funds received from DFID during the last three years are as under:-

(Fig. in Rs. crores)

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	624.326	233.909	202.750
Himachal Pradesh	0.505	3.724	10.406
Karnataka	8.924	6.246	6.227

1	2	3	4
Kerala	21.215	0.000	0.000
Madhya Pradesh	0.000	12.189	50.490
Orissa	32.047	137.429	179.748
Rajasthan	2.057	34.481	34.563
West Bengal	83.938	157.695	173.566

SFS Scheme

3464.SHRI HITEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to construct houses under self-financing scheme in different cities of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) So far as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is concerned, "Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation" takes up housing projects on self-financing basis for Central Government Employees. The projects are taken up in different parts of the country based on the demand amongst the Central Government Employees and depending upon the availability of land at such places from time to time.

[Translation]

Transfer of Land for Group Housing Societies to Private Sector

3465.SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ) : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) regarding transfer of land reserved for the group housing societies to private sector for construction of houses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has forwarded a copy of the agenda and minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 19.10.2006, wherein the proposed norms for development and disposal of group housing plots in Narela sub-city through private sector were approved. The norms relate inter alia to permissible FAR, height, ground coverage, density and parking and also provide for allocation of 15% of FAR for EWS housing.

(c) The proposal is under examination of the Government.

[English]

Slum Dwellers

3466.SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the per capita income of slum dwellers staying in the metropolitan cities;

(b) whether the slum dwellers have been benefited from the Urban Poverty Alleviation Schemes of Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation does not have any data regarding per capita income of slum dwellers staying in the Metropolitan Cities.

The employment oriented urban poverty alleviation scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, is applicable for the all urban poor, living below the poverty line in urban areas, including

slums. The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) strives for providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and also by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is monitored at the National level through Quarterly Progress Reports received from the States/Union Territory (UT)

Governments. Only State/UT-wise details are available in the Ministry and city-wise data is not maintained.

The number of urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro-enterprises, number of urban poor imparted skill training and number of mandays of work generated under the wage employment component of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during the last two years i.e. 2004-05 and 2005-06, State/UT-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-wise beneficiaries assisted under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2004-2005			2005-2006		
		Number of Urban poor assisted to set up micro/group enterprises	No. of Persons Trained	No. of mandays of work generated (In lakhs)	Number of Urban poor assisted to set up micro/group enterprises	No. of Persons Trained	No. of mandays of work generated (In lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17704	5631	6.11	2020	3957	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	0	3.88	0	0	2.59
3.	Assam	1150	4638	0.94	2825	2230	0.63
4.	Bihar	0	0	3.28	34087	4233	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	1903	4559	0.56	558	2027	0.25
6.	Goa	53	345	0	22	0	0
7.	Gujarat	4307	5958	0.27	2028	1585	0.12
8.	Haryana	2362	4171	0.37	2553	3078	0.69
9.	Himachal Pradesh	302	839	0	89	450	0.08
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1265	1748	0.29	822	987	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	4572	2709	1.24	3451	3451	1.28
13.	Kerala	3007	4736	0.12	1982	2541	0.53
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8704	7524	1.47	817	5078	0.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15. Maharashtra		19114	14518	0.53	9579	18382	2.77
16. Manipur		0	2506	0	0	0	2.47
17. Meghalaya		0	0	0	0	0	0
18. Mizoram		1175	379	0	156	2126	22.36
19. Nagaland		265	250	0	131	154	0.53
20. Orissa		3967	2273	0.78	1179	1063	0
21. Punjab		527	1440	0.25	17	1236	0.01
22. Rajasthan		4660	1957	0.5	3260	5555	0.16
23. Sikkim		76	176	0.56	104	170	0
24. Tamil Nadu		2356	5016	0.59	1412	4756	0
25. Tripura		544	4783	1.07	878	3081	0.48
26. Uttaranchal		153	1212	0	0	0	0
27. Uttar Pradesh		6919	29031	4.2	6345	5253	4.69
28. West Bengal		4033	2361	1.92	4030	20222	1.46
29. Andman and Nikobar Islands		4	0	0.87	16	0	0.62
30. Chandigarh		72	961	N.A.	35	0	N.A.
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		10	98	0	0	0	0
32. Daman and Diu		0	0	0	0	0	0
33. Delhi		214	220	N.A.	170	300	N.A.
34. Pondicherry		1108	1792	1.46	1122	2152	0.64
Total		90566	111831	31.24	79688	94067	42.86

**Financial Assistance for Construction of
the Court Buildings**

3467. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of
LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has
sought financial assistance from the Union Government for
construction of court buildings, to improve the existing

structures and also for construction of residential colonies
for judges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW
AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) Yes,
Sir.

(b) Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed sanction of Rs. 206.26 crore for the construction of 156 court buildings and Rs. 6.89 crore for the construction of 299 residences for judges/judicial officer in the 10 year perspective plan .

(c) Proposal of Government of Tamil Nadu has been taken into account in this Department's proposal for seeking an outlay for the scheme "Development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary" in the Eleventh Plan.

Pension Benefits in Banks

3468.SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government is aware about the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in case titled as DS Nakara V/s Union of India and others about pensioners benefit in banks;

(b) if so, whether the judgement has been implemented; and

(c) if so, the number of pensioners benefited as a result thereof?

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

Foreign Investment in Indian Entities and Projects

3469.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has launched a massive drive for inviting foreign investments in Indian entities and projects;

(b) if so, the details of overseas investments secured this year so far; and

(c) the details of the guidelines laid down and directions issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent FDI policy according to which FDI upto 100% under the automatic route is allowed in most sectors/activities. The FDI policy, including caps on foreign equity limits and procedures are reviewed on a continuing basis with a view to creating an improved investment regime for attracting higher FDI inflows.

(b) Cumulative FDI inflows during the period August 1991 to September 2006 is US \$ 43.286 billion. During the current financial year (upto September 2006) FDI inflow is US \$ 4.384 billion.

(c) The details are available in "Foreign Direct Investment Policy: April, 2006" available at http://www.dipp.gov.in/publications/fdi_policy_2006.pdf.

Life of Currency Notes

3470.SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has assessed the life of currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether life of currency can be increased by using more improved paper; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) A study on the statistical estimation of life of Indian Banknotes had been entrusted by RBI to the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata which submitted its report in 2003. The life of a banknote was defined as the period between the date of issue from Reserve Bank of India as fresh note and the date of return from circulation as soiled note. The estimates arrived at by the Indian Statistical Institute, on the average life of notes, are as under:-

Denomination	Rs. 10	Rs. 20	Rs. 50	Rs. 100	Rs. 500
Average	3 years	4 years	5 years	5 years	5 years
Mean Life	6 months	9 months	10 months	10 months	10 months

(c) and (d) Circulation life of banknotes depends on factors like climatic conditions, usage, handling habits, velocity and the overall growth in economy. Considering the above factors, exploration of scientific alternatives to increase the life of Indian banknotes are resorted to as a continuous process.

[Translation]

Loan from PFC

3471. SHRI FURKAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand has sought loan from Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation for financing power projects in the State;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the loan asked for has been provided;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (e) At the request of power utilities, Power Finance Corporation sanctioned counterpart loans under APDRP worth Rs. 222 crore to Jharkhand State Electricity Board (JSEB) and a loan of Rs. 1892 crore to Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (TVNL) in the State of Jharkhand. Against these sanctions as per terms and conditions of loans, amount of Rs. 65.54 crore has been released.

[English]

Insurance Fraud

3472. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the law commission has observed that Indian laws are inadequate to handle insurance frauds;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the frauds in insurance companies have increased during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government proposes to take to make the effective laws to deal with insurance frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that it has not received any reports of increase in frauds either within or against insurance companies during the last three years.

(e) In the public sector insurance companies, their Vigilance Departments under the charge of Chief Vigilance Officer do investigate and take action in respect of internal frauds, if any. In respect of the individuals committing frauds on insurance companies, the companies are expected to file complaints to the police under the provisions of Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Pending Cases of New India Assurance Company

3473. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2062 dated 11.02.06 and to state :

(a) whether information in regard to pending cases of New India Assurance Company has since been collected;

(b) if so, details in this regard ;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The USQ No. 2062 was asked by the Hon'ble member on 11th August, 2006. The assurance given has

since been fulfilled on 10.11.2006. A copy of the same is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

Ministry of Finance Department of Economic Affairs Date of Fulfillment: 10.11.2006

Question No. and Date	Subject	Promise Made	When and How Fulfilled	Reasons for Delay
USQ No. 2062 by Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel	'PENDING CASES WITH NEW INDIA ASSURANCE COMPANY' Asking for:	(a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.	The information is given at Annexure.	
	(a) whether some claims of stolen Share are pending with the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai during the year 2000;			
	(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reason for their pendency;			
	(c) whether the securities Companies have submitted the findings of FIR to the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai;			
	(d) if so, whether the said securities Companies have also taken action against the employees found guilty;			
	(e) whether the New India Assurance Company Limited has refused to give claim in spite of their employees were not found guilty by the Mumbai Police;			
	(f) if so, the reason for denying such claims by Assurance Companies; and			
	(g) the corrective measures taken by the Government and the New India Assurance Company Limited to clear the said pending claims without further delay to give the relief to the claimants?			

Annexure*The New India Assurance Company*

(a) The New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL) has reported that as on date, only one claim of the year 2000 is outstanding for the lost/stolen share.

(b) Detail of the Share and reasons of pendency :

Name of the Insured : M/s. Coimbatore Capital
 Claim No. : 112700/46/00/51/90000059
 Policy No. : 112700/46/00/51/00000062
 Detail of case : Share were lost in Transit by the Courier M/s. Blue Dart Express Ltd.
 Date of Loss : 5.9.2000.
 Reason for pendency : The Company has written letters to submit the following documents so that the claim can be processed.

1. Court Injunction Order to 'Stop Transfer' of the shares lost in transit.
2. Letter of Subrogation and Power of Attorney duly Notarised.
3. Confirmation Letter whether the Insured has got any duplicate shares for the share lost by them.

The insured had filed a suit in the Court for injunction to 'Stop Transfer' of the shares lost in transit. The insured is yet to submit copy of 'Court Injunction' to the company alongwith other required documents. The Insurance Co. has written letters and reminders for submission of the said documents.

(c) The insured M/s. Coimbatore Capital has submitted the copy of FIR No. 266/2000 dated 4.9.2000 of Mumbai Police.

(d) No employee of the insured is involved. The shares were lost during transit by the courier company.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) The Company has written various letter and reminders to the claimant for submission of required documents as indicated at part 'b' above to enable them to process and settle the claim at the earliest. The Insurance Company shall process and dispose of the claim, no sooner the said documents were received.

[Translation]

Thermal Power Projects

3474.SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :
 SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether both the thermal power projects of R.V.U.N. have been included in the list of imported coal based power projects; and

(b) if so, whether indigenous coal is being allocated for Kota and Suratgarh thermal power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requirement of coal for Kota and Suratgarh thermal power stations of Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL) for 2006-07 is of the order of 12 Million Tonnes (MT). Coal to the tune of 10.2 MT is to be supplied to RRVUNL from domestic sources and they have been advised to import about 1.2 MT of coal (equivalent to 1.8 MT of domestic coal) during the year.

[English]

Purchase of Ready Built Houses

3475.SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government to release funds to purchase the ready built houses constructed by the Karnataka State Housing Board in and around Bangalore and Mysore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

UNDP Report on Sanitation

3476. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the recently released UNDP report on sanitation stating that India is lagging behind on the sanitation front and two-third of its population have no access to sanitation;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Human Development Report 2006, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provides a figure of 33% as the percentage of people with sustainable access to improved sanitation in India. The Government is according priority to water and sanitation under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

[Translation]

Master Plan of Delhi

3477. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU :

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to appoint a panel of specialists for various issues relating to Master Plan of Delhi 2021 as reported in Dainik Jagran dated November 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) No panel of experts has been constituted by the Government. However, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it had set up several sub-groups comprising of specialists in various fields like housing, transportation, environment, industries, social infrastructure etc. while formulating draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021. Experts and professionals from different fields, organisations, NGOs and local bodies have been involved from time to time.

Backlog of Reserved Posts

3478. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) employees in the public sector banks, bank-wise;

(b) whether there is any backlog of vacancies for SCs/STs and OBCs in the public sector banks;

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

(d) the steps taken or being taken to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) Bank-wise details of number of SCs, STs and OBCs employees working in the Public Sector Banks/FIs as on 31.12.2005 (latest available) is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) The Government instructions regarding Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe were forwarded to all the Public Sector Banks, Financial Institutions and Insurance Companies with the direction to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies as per the

scheduled given by the Department of Personnel and Training (DOP and T). The progress made by the Banks/FIs and Insurance Companies had been reviewed in several meetings held with the General Managers of

Banks/FIs and the matter has been pursued with them constantly. Out of 3558 identified reserved vacancies, 3381 vacancies have been filled up by 30.11.2006. The filling up of backlog vacancies for OBCs is not monitored.

Statement

Representation of SCs/STs/OBCs in Public Sector Banks

(As on 31.12.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	SC	ST	OBC	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad Bank	3673	1014	219	4906
2.	Andhra Bank	2414	725	413	3552
3.	Bank of Baroda	6730	2335	2168	11233
4.	Bank of, India	8574	3032	1333	12939
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	3316	1041	636	4993
6.	Canara Bank	9465	2483	2702	14650
7.	Central Bank of India	8573	2481	1662	12716
8.	Corporation Bank	2046	480	863	3389
9.	Dena Bank	2283	1108	195	3586
10.	Indian Bank	5243	954	618	6815
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	6504	937	695	8136
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	2966	631	886	4483
13.	Punjab National Bank	13160	2653	4045	19858
14.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1579	210	196	1985
15.	Syndicate Bank	5342	1545	232	7119
16.	Union Bank of India	6476	1489	2084	10049
17.	United Bank of India	3882	887	202	4971
18.	UCO Bank	4632	1156	93	5881
19.	Vijaya Bank	1475	550	785	2810
20.	State Bank of India	36699	11210	5391	53300
21.	SB of Bikaner and Jaipur	2410	856	156	3422

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	SB of Hyderabad	2185	697	1080	3962
23.	SB of Indore	1115	679	221	2015
24.	SB of Mysore	1696	497	562	2755
25.	SB of Patiala	3292	168	730	4190
26.	SB of Saurashtra	1186	728	242	2156
27.	SB of Travancore	1964	375	1465	3804
28.	I.D.B.I.	522	184	155	861
29.	NABARD	883	421	507	1811
30.	EXIM Bank	23	18	16	57
31.	National Housing Bank	7	4	13	24
32.	S.I.D.B.I.	143	57	79	279
33.	Reserve Bank of India	5520	2085	660	8265
Total		155978	43690	31304	230972

[English]

**Double Taxation Agreement with
Mauritius**

3479. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the achievement of the Government in strengthening the mechanism for Exchange of Information on tax matters with Government of Mauritius;

(b) whether Business group are against change in tax treaty;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) A Joint Working Group (JWG) on India-Mauritius DTAC has been constituted. The 'Terms of Reference' of the JWG include

strengthening the mechanism for 'Exchange of Information' under the India-Mauritius DTAC by:-

- *(i) Recommending to the Executive and Legislative organs of both countries appropriate legislative changes in the domestic laws wherever required in order to ensure that the competent authorities have adequate powers to obtain and share information including banking information under the India-Mauritius DTAC.
- (ii) Entering into "Comprehensive Agreement on Exchange of Information in Tax Matters" based on the new OECD Model Agreement.

The Joint Working Group has held two meetings in Delhi and in Port Louis respectively.

(b) No representation has been received in this regard from any Business group.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply at (b).

Reduction in Share of Power

3480. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
 SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :
 DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :
 SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY :
 SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
 SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
 SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM :
 SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :
 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the allocation of power to Gujarat from unallocated quota of central sector power projects of western region and eastern region has been reduced;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government of Gujarat has raised an objection to this reduction; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The allocation of power from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) in Western Region (WR) was revised in February, 2006 and power was allocated to more deficit States/UTs in the region by reducing the allocation of comfortable States/UTs, including that of Gujarat as Gujarat was under drawing from the grid and was selling power.

The allocation of power from unallocated/surrendered quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region (ER) was revised in November, 2005 and the allocation of most of the States in other regions including that of Gujarat was reduced due to demand of Eastern Region constituents for restoration of ER power to them.

(c) and (d) The Government of Gujarat had requested for restoration of allocation and the reasons for reductions in the allocation of Gujarat from the CGSs of WR and ER

have been communicated to the State Government. Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. have requested for reinstating the allocation from unallocated power of CGSs in WR and ER. The allocation of unallocated power of CGSs is reviewed and revised from time to time depending on the prevailing power supply position and the nature of requirement (emergent/seasonal) of the States/UTs.

Revision of Wages of Development Officers

3481. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE :
 SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Development Officers in the Public Sector General Insurance Companies alone has been denied revision of wages which was due since August 2002;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The General Insurers' Public Sector Association of India (GIPSA) has reported that the wage revision proposal (due from 1.8.2002) for all classes of employees, including Development Officers, in the four public sector insurance companies consisted of an organizational agenda for improving the productivity and efficiency of the companies. The organizational agenda inter-alia included a Transfer and Mobility Policy (TMP) for all classes of employees and the respective Unions/Associations were required to agree to the same as a part of wage-revision package. The Class-I, Class-III and Class-IV employees' Unions/Associations gave consent to the organizational agenda and thus availed the benefits of wage revision which was accordingly notified on 21.12.2005. However, the wage revision in respect of Class-II employees (Development Officers) could not be implemented due to their Unions/Associations not agreeing to the organizational agenda. The matter is presently sub-judice as some of the

Development Officers and their Associations have challenged the same before various Courts.

Funding Infrastructure Projects

3482. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to hold talks with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and others to woo private lenders to fund infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount expected to be raised for the infrastructure projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a meeting involving Infrastructure Division, Capital Market Division and Banking Division of Department of Economic Affairs and RBI on this issue in which it was proposed to prepare a master paper outlining the problems involved in the participation of private lenders in funding infrastructure projects. The process of preparation of the Master Paper is in progress. Once it is complete the modalities of holding talks with RBI, SEBI and others would be finalised.

(c) The Committee on Infrastructure, headed by the Prime Minister, has estimated the investment requirements in some of the key sectors as Rs. 2,20,000 crore in the National Highways sector by 2012; Rs. 40,000 crore for Airports by 2010 and Rs. 50,000 crore for the Ports sector by 2012. Various estimates indicate that the total investment requirement for Infrastructure sectors in the next 4-5 years is \$320-350 bn. A major chunk of the above requirements should come from the private sector.

Coal Linkage for Power Projects

3483. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC) has sought Power Ministry's intervention for expediting the coal linkage for 250 MW

Santalidih Expansion Project and coal linkage proposals for power projects at Katwa, Sagardighi and Bakreshwar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Power has not received any request for coal linkage for 250 MW Santalidih Expansion Project from West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (WBPDC). Long term coal linkage for power projects at Katwa, Sagardighi and Bakreshwar was considered by Ministry of Coal's Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) on 11.5.2006. However, the Committee did not grant long-term coal linkage for these projects, as coal blocks had already been allotted to WBPDC.

Central Electricity Authority (CEA) vide its letter dated 15th November, 2006 has requested WBPDC to identify end use projects of the allotted coal blocks and submit application for tapered coal linkages in case of any shortfall.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds for Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes

3484. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated so far by the Union Government to the State Governments to run the water supply and sanitation schemes during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent out of it on the above work during the said period; and

(c) the amount spent during the first three quarters and the last quarter in each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[English]***Civic Amenities**

3485. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints from residents of Type I and II Government quarters in Metropolitan cities about slum-like conditions in the area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Information is to be collected from the Estate Managers and ADGs of the Regions of the Metropolitan cities.

*[Translation]***Central Government Quarters in Delhi**

3486. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Type I to Type VI quarters for Central Government employees in Delhi, Type-wise;

(b) whether some of the quarters are lying vacant for the last few years;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to construct some more quarters for the Central Government employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) The number of General Pool Residential Accommodations (GPRA) for Central Government employees in Delhi, Type-wise (Type I to Type VI) is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) A total of 807 General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) are lying vacant under the various

categories of accommodations. Type-wise break-up of the vacant quarters is given in the Statement at Annexure. Out of 807 quarters, 132 quarters are lying vacant for non-payment of Electricity Bills, 295 quarters are lying vacant as it has been declared dangerous by CPWD, 76 quarters are lying vacant for temporary repairing, 228 quarters are lying vacant in unpopular locations and due to bad surroundings and 76 quarters are lying vacant due to lack of facilities like separate toilets, bath rooms, etc.

(d) and (e) Government has sanctioned construction of some quarters for the Central Government Employees in Delhi. Construction work of 319 transit accommodations at HUDCO Place, Andrewsganj, New Delhi is in progress and to be completed by December, 2006. Construction for 2242 General Pool Residential Accommodation under the various categories of accommodations in Delhi has been sanctioned. Construction is yet to commence for reasons of approval of plans, allocation of funds and handing over of sites etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Type of accommodation	Number of accommodation	Number of accommodation lying vacant
1.	I	16960	240
2.	II	23705	436
3.	III	11870	103
4.	IV	5435	17
5.	IV (Spl.)	798	—
6.	V A (DII)	1360	—
7.	V B (DI)	885	—
8.	VI A(CII)	446	7
9.	VI B(CI)	158	4
Total		61617	807

Gramin Vyapar Kendras

3487. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Gramin Vyapar Kendras being run in each State, location-wise;

(b) the targets and objectives of these Vyapar Kendras;

(c) the source of finance of these Kendras;

(d) the details of the governing bodies constituted for this purpose;

(e) whether this scheme is likely to be extended to some other States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Gramin Vyapar Kendras/Rural Business Hubs (RJBH) is an initiative of Ministry of Panchayati Raj. As per the information furnished by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the details of Gramin Vyapar Kendras or Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) MoUs signed in various States location-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) are working together to facilitate building linkages between Panchayats, industries and business to create these Vyapar Kendras in different blocks of the country. They are proposed to be Public-Private-Panchayat Partnerships which will help to produce/

improve/refine goods from locally available resources and enable them to reach larger markets.

(c) Gramin Vyapar Kendras/RBH is not a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and has no direct funding either from the State or from Central Government. It is proposed that Panchayats will converge Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Government Schemes for RBH in rural areas, wherever Panchayats are in place. The financing of Rural Business Hubs is envisaged as a business proposition on the public-private-panchayat-partnership principle which would be supported by such 'top-up' funds as may be available for the purpose. Assistance is also envisaged from specialized institutions like NABARD, KVIC etc.

(d) An RBH Council has been set up at the Centre which is co-chaired by Minister, Panchayati Raj and Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, immediate past President of CII, to foster the Kendras. An RBH Executive Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to assist the RBH Council to chalk out an action plan in accordance with the directions given by the RBH Council. State RBH Councils with State Minister for Panchayati Raj/Secretary, Department of Panchayati Raj and State CII President as Co-chairpersons, have also been set up in many States to facilitate the local Panchayats in setting up RBHs.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. It is the proposal of the Government to set up RBHs in all Blocks of the country. However, no specific time frame has been fixed for extending RBH throughout the country.

Statement

List of MoUs Signed Under the RBH Initiative

Sl. No.	Date	Name of GP/BP/District/State	Name of the Company	Product
1	2	3	4	5
1.	13-8-05	Ramgarh Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Neemrana Group and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
2.	13-8-05	Betalghat Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Jai kali Gramodyog Phal Sangrakshan evam Prasodhan Ekai and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing

1	2	3	4	5
3.	13-8-05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Kashipur Agro Industries (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
4.	13-8-05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Sekho, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
5.	13-8-05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Delicia Foods(P) Ltd and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
6.	13-8-05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Suruchi Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
7.	13-8-05	Ramnagar Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Imaginations Agri Exports and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
8.	13-8-05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Hands K Enterprises (P) Ltd and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
9.	13-8-05	Bhimtal Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Nainital Fruit Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
10.	13-8-05	Kashipur Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Jindal Frozen Food Products (P) Ltd. and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
11.	13-8-05	Haldwani Block/Nainital/Uttaranchal	Bliss Food Products and ITC Ltd.	Fruit Processing
12.	9-10-05	Pinagwan/Punhana/Mewat Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio-diesel
13.	9-10-05	Hodal and Hasanpur Blocks/Faridabad/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio-diesel
14.	February 2006	Bilaspur, Chhachhrauli, Jagadhri And Sadhaura Blocks/Yamuna Nagar/Haryana	DI Oils India Pvt. Ltd.	Jatropha plantation and Bio-diesel
15.	23-01-06	Gauriganj Block/District Sultanpur/Uttar Pradesh	Self Employed women's Association (SEWA)	Handicrafts and Handloom products
16-37.	22 MoUs signed on 24-2-2006	Different Gram Panchayats in State of Karnataka	Malavalli Power Plant Ltd., Bangalore Electric Supply Company, Mangalore Electric Supply Company, Hubli Electric Supply Company, Gulbarga Electric Supply Company, Chamundeshwari Electric Supply Company.	Electricity generation/Distribution

1	2	3	4	5
38-42.	5 MoUs signed on 24.2.2006	Five Gram Panchayats in Hampi, State of Karnataka	National Institute of Fashion Technology	Art works/Designs of Garments
43.	29.7.2006	Moovakur Panchayat, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	Classic Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier
44.	29.7.2006	Kodimangalam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	Cholan Bio Mass	Bio Gasifier
45.	29.7.2006	Kodimangalam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	Shameena Food Industries	Quality atta and value added products
46.	29.7.2006	Vallalaharam Village, Mayiladuthurai Block, Nagapattinam District	K.M.R. Industries	Desiccated Coconut Powder and allied coconut products
47.	29.7.2006	Kappur Village, Kuttalam Block, Nagapattinam District	ACT Chamber Bricks Industries	Quality Chamber Bricks
48.	30.7.2006	Kanjanagaram Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	Siva Sakthi Seeds	Cultivation of paddy seeds.
49.	30.7.2006	Annavasal Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	N.A.C. Farm Products	Production of organic bananas and processed products
50.	30.7.2006	Semangalam Village, Sembanarkoil Block, Nagapattinam District	R.K.S. Dairy Farm	Quality milk processing packing it and other processed products
51.	20.8.2006	Thiruvengadu Village, Sirkali Block, Nagapattinam District	Sivasakthi Dairy Farm	Quality milk processing packing it and other processed products
52.	20.8.2006	Thiruvengadu Panchayat Village, Sirkali Block, Nagapattinam District	Sri Balaji Milk Dairy (Chilling Plant)	Milk chilling plant
53.	20.8.2006	Balaji Nagar, Sattanathapuram Village, Sirkali Taluk, Nagapattinam District	Sri Apasara Garments	Ready made Garments
54.	20.8.2006	Gandhi Nagar Pullivalam, Thiruvarur District	Sri Durga Vilas	Groundnuts Products

1	2	3	4	5
55.	20.8.2006	Chidambaram Main Road, Alkondanatham-Po. Kattumanarkoil Taluk, Cuddalore District	Sri Abirami Saw Mill.	Timber Saw Mill and manufacturing of furniture and fittings.

[English]

Setting up of Mini Hydro Power Projects

3488.SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA :

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY :

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the mini hydro power projects functioning in the country and the power being generated therefrom;

(b) whether the Union Government has chalked out any plan to finance mini hydro power projects;

(c) if so, whether IDBI and Rural Electrification Corporation are together working out a scheme to finance small power projects;

(d) whether some State Governments have submitted proposals for setting up mini hydro power projects for approval; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) :

(a) 566 SHP projects aggregating 1860 MW have been installed in the country, as on 31.10.2006, state-wise details of which are given in the Statement enclosed. The estimated power generation from these projects was 3652 million kWh during 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Various financial institutions such as the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Rural Electrification Corporation, Power Finance Corporation, IDBI, IDFC and banks are already financing renewable power projects, which generally are small compared to conventional power projects.

(d) and (e) Proposals from state governments for the grant of central financial assistance are received on a regular basis. At times, these proposals are found to be incomplete or not in line with the provisions of the schemes. Complete proposals are considered and approved subject to budget provisions.

Statement

**State-wise details of SHP Projects (Upto 25 MW)
Installed (as on 31.10.2006)**

Sl. No.	State	Projects Installed		Estimated power generated during 2005-06 (in million kWh)
		(in Nos.)	Capacity (MW)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57	178.81	357.62
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64	44.30	88.60
3.	Assam	3	2.11	4.22
4.	Bihar	7	50.40	100.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	4	11.00	22.00
6.	Goa	1	0.05	0.10
7.	Gujarat	2	7.00	14.00
8.	Haryana	5	62.70	125.40
9.	Himachal Pradesh	56	132.58	264.16
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	32	111.49	219.48
11.	Jharkhand	6	4.05	8.10
12.	Karnataka	60	351.13	659.26

1	2	3	4	5
13. Kerala		15	95.12	169.24
14. Madhya Pradesh		8	41.16	82.32
15. Maharashtra		27	207.08	414.16
16. Manipur		8	5.45	10.90
17. Meghalaya		3	30.71	61.42
18. Mizoram		16	14.76	29.52
19. Nagaland		9	20.67	41.34
20. Orissa		6	7.30	14.60
21. Punjab		29	122.55	245.10
22. Rajasthan		10	23.85	47.70
23. Sikkim		14	38.61	77.20
24. Tamil Nadu		12	77.70	155.40
25. Tripura		3	16.01	32.02
26. Uttar Pradesh		9	25.10	50.20
27. Uttaranchal		76	75.45	150.90
28. West Bengal		23	98.40	196.60
29. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		1	5.25	10.50
Total		566	1,860.79	3652.86

Vacancies in Banks

3489.SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies in the nationalized banks in the country as on date, bank-wise;

(b) whether there is any ban against filling of such vacancies; and

(c) if not, the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

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

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Harassment to Pensioners

3490.SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding harassment of pensioners in withdrawal of pension by the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Government/Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have received complaints from pensioners/pensioners association against banks relating to delay/non-payment of Dearness Relief/ Family pension, maintenance of minimum balance in the pension account, payment of pension to old/sick/incapacitated persons, poor amenities in the branch premises, branches not allowing to open joint accounts with the spouse, nomination etc.

Such complaints/are sent immediately to the banks concerned calling for details and advising them to redress the grievances. All pension paying banks have been advised by RBI to act directly on the copies of Government orders on Dearness Relief and other allowances supplied to them by Government through Post/Fax/e-mail or by accessing the website of concerned pension paying authorities without waiting for receipt of further instructions from them. The banks have been further advised to include topics on pension schemes/rules in the training programmes conducted by their establishments. Instructions have also been issued to banks to deal with operation of pension accounts by old/sick/incapacitated persons without the need of their visit to the branch.

Sewage Disposal Scheme

3491.SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the year 2002 under Sewage Disposal Scheme for Indore district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on this proposal so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Madhya Pradesh had forwarded a detailed project report (DPR) for Sewerage Project in Indore at an estimated cost of Rs. 540.92 crore in December, 2002 for technical approval and also for possible loan assistance from Asian Development Bank/ World Bank/Housing Urban Development Corporation/ Grant from NRCDC/State Plan Funds.

Government of Madhya Pradesh was asked to provide clarifications/additional information after technical scrutiny. Government of Madhya Pradesh posed this project for additional Central assistance under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). The proposal has since been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 307.17 crore under JNNURM during the year 2006-07 and an amount of Rs. 30.715 crore has been released as additional Central assistance.

[English]

Demat Account

3492.SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has changed the rules for demat account;

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

(c) whether there are problems as compared to the previous one; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken/proposed to be taken to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) In order to address the concerns arising out of the opening up of multiple demat accounts, SEBI has enhanced Know Your Client norms. It has made Permanent Account Number (PAN) mandatory for opening demat accounts on or after April 1, 2006. In respect of demat accounts opened before April 1, 2006, it is mandatory for the account holders to provide PAN to Depositories by December 31, 2006.

(c) and (d) In order to enable investors to be PAN compliant, SEBI has extended time upto 31st December, 2006 and issued clarificatory circulars to mitigate any hardship in the process of transition. Where PAN is not provided, the demat account would be 'suspended for debit' after December 31, 2006 till it is provided. CDBT has issued guidelines to facilitate issue of PAN to Indian citizens residing outside India and foreign citizens.

Manual Scavengers

3493.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has constituted a group to elaborate plans/schemes to abolish manual scavenging within a fixed time frame; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The National Human Rights Commission has been vigorously pursuing with the Central and State Governments and other stakeholders the need to end the practice of manual scavenging in the country.

Residential Complexes for Mentally Challenged Persons

3494.SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of need to establish residential complexes to house mentally challenged persons after death of their parents;

(b) if so, whether there is any scheme to allot land at concessional rates to NGOs to enable them to build such houses for mentally challenged persons; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Information and Communication Technology

3495. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to provide knowledge based information through information and communication technology for the benefit of the farmers of the State;

(b) if so, whether the information regarding natural calamities such as fire, flood and earthquake could be

made available at the district level through the aforesaid information system; and

(c) if so, the time by which the aforesaid proposal is likely to be approved by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Patents Filed by Department of Biotechnology

3496. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of patents filed by the Department of Biotechnology during the last five years, year-wise, country-wise and product-wise; and

(b) the strategies adopted by the Department of Biotechnology to protect its intellectual property rights in the Biotechnology sector?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) (i) The year-wise details of patents filed by the Department of Biotechnology during the last five years.

INDIA - Total no. 63

December 2001 to November 2002	December 2002 to November 2003	December 2003 to November 2004	December 2004 to November 2005	December 2005 to December 10, 2006
6	11	9	15	22

INDIA - Total no. 74

December 2001 to November 2002	December 2002 to November 2003	December 2003 to November 2004	December 2004 to November 2005	December 2005 to December 10, 2006
6	16	10	21	21

(ii) *The country-wise details of patents filed by the Department of Biotechnology during the last five years*

Sl. No.	Country	No. of patents filed
1.	Indonesia	3
2.	Korea	3
3.	Japan	7
4.	USA	22
5.	Singapore	1
6.	Philippines	3
7.	European Patent Office	11
8.	Vietnam	2
9.	Bangladesh	1
10.	Srilanka	2
11.	Thailand	2
12.	Russia	1
13.	Britain	1
14.	China	5
15.	South Africa	3
16.	Brazil	1
17.	Turkey	1
18.	Malaysia	1
19.	Aripo	1
20.	Australia	1
21.	Germany	1
22.	Canada	1

(iii) *The product-wise details of patents filed by the Department of Biotechnology during the last five years*

S. No.	Product-wise
1	2
1.	A Method of DNA Precipitation on to Gold Particles for Transformation of Plant Tissue.
2.	Bioreactors for nitrifying water in closed system hatcheries of penacid and non-penalid prawns
3.	Chimeric T Helper-B cell peptide vaccine for Japanese encephalitis Virus
4.	Indigenous Fermentor (Patent and Design Registration)
5.	A process for molecular diagnosis, the sample for of Enteric Fever and/or contaminated food samples
6.	A microbial control agent for mosquito vectors of human diseases
7.	A Process for preparation of Bruguja malayi 9mf Es-22) glyccoprotein
8.	A Process for the isolation of flanking sequence and a kit therefor
9.	A Process for preparation of Mutant dev R gene carrying M. tuberculosis strain involved in the virulence of M. tuberculosis capable of use in development of therapeutic modalities
10.	Preparation of Immune Goat Colostrum against Rotavirus. . . .
11.	A Process for the pre- of Gallic acid by co-culture
12.	A Novel Polyherbal reparation for the prevention of Atheroscloerosi and hyperlipidemia
13.	A salt tolerant L-myo-inositol 1 phosphate synthase and the process of obtaining the same

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| 14. The Process of a Biopesticide formulation against coffee berry border (CBB) | |
| 15. A Novel Immunobiosensor apparatus for rapid diagnosis of Food mouth disease (FMD) hi livestock | |
| 16. The Characterization of HupB Gene encoding Histone like Protein of Mycobacterial Tuberculosis | |
| 17. Invitro Characterization and Herapeutic use of Goat hepatocytes in acute liver failure in model system | |
| 18. A New Flexible Mechanically Stable Polymer Support for Solid Phase Peptide Syntheses | |
| 19. A Novel DNA Marker for Draught Tolerance in Plants | |
| 20. A Diagnostic Kit for Detecting Pulmonary and Extra Pulmonary Tuberculosis | |
| 21. An improved process for Oak Tasar/cocoon cooking using pine apple extract | |
| 22. Use of DAT 1, A Novel Synthetic Compound as a Microtubule | |
| 23. Dimer of Phenazine-1 – Carboxylic acid and to the process of preparation thereof | |
| 24. A Chemotherapeutic composition used in the treatment of cancer | |
| 25. PCR-based detection Method for Clamydia Trachomatis | |
| 26. A Process for preparation of extract from the fern chertanthes | |
| 27. Method of producing, spilarctia nuclear polyhedrosis virus (SONPV) Pesticides | |
| 28. Process for producing for reusable granular formation of Trichoderma | |
| 29. cDNA Encoding a Protein with antiviral and ribosome inactivating activity | |
| 30. A process for enhancing flavour in made tea using UV radiation | |

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| 31. A reactor for Root Organ Culture | |
| 32. Antimicrobial/Antibaotic activity of the extract of the plant callistemon rigidus R. Br. And a process for preparation of a standardized anti-infective leaf. . . . | |
| 33. Efficient Inorganic Phosphate Solubiliser | |
| 34. A Novel Process to commercial production of bio pesticides | |
| 35. A process for producing a alkati tolerant a – galactosidase from novel pseudomonas-sp. MI strain | |
| 36. A method (improved process) for production of podophyllotoxin in high producing cell lines of Indian podophyllum, podophyllum hexandrum royal | |
| 37. Vertical Solid State Reactor | |
| 38. A Method of developing Micro satellite Marker for Piper Nigrum | |
| 39. A Novel gene OSISAP 1 of rice and a method of introducing stress tolerances in plant systems using the gene OSISAP | |
| 40. PS-A-PEG and DMA-A-PEG Gel Dendr Mer Resins for Solid Phase Organic Synthesis. | |
| 41. A Microstaellite DNA marker to Identify Disease resistant Population of Penaeus Monodon (Giant Black Tiger Shrimp) | |
| 42. Anti HIV-1 Active bacterial Baculo Virus Recombinant Epap-1 | |
| 43. Cloning and Expression of Outer membrerne protin "C" of Salmonella typhity 2 and conjugation of the purified in soluble protein to Vi-polysaccharide for use as a vaccine for typhoid fever | |
| 44. Method of Direct Regeneration, Shikonin Induction in Callus and Agrobacterium rhizogenes–mediated Genetic Transformation of Arnebia hispidissima | |

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| 45. A New Class of Solvent-like Dendrimer Resins, VIN-GEL, for Combinational Solid Phase Organic Synthesis and VINO-GEL for Liquid Phase Organic Synthesis | |
| 46. Preservation of Human Hematopietite Stem/Progenitor Cells using Mannose Binding Lectins of Plant Origin | |
| 47. Designing of PCR based (Prototype Kits for Diagnosis) of Chlamydia Trachomatis and Neisseria Gonorrhoeae | |
| 48. Gene Expression pattern of viral promoter derived from Rice tungro bacilliform virus in plants | |
| 49. Development of a process for the production of an organic and combination formulation of bio-pesticide containing Trichoderma Harzianum and Pseudomonas Fluorescens | |
| 50. Resistance of Plants to Biotic and Abiotic Stresses by over-expression of Protochlorophylide Oxido Reductase C and its other isoforms | |
| 51. Dialysed aqueous extract of fenugreek seeds induces hypoglycemic activity in diabetes. | |
| 52. A Method for diagnosis of Tuberculosis by Smear Microscopy Culture and Polymerase Chain Reaction | |
| 53. Strip Test for the Qualitative Detection of Antibodies to Peste des petits Ruminants (PPR) Virus | |
| 54. Biocontrol of Luminous Bacteria in Shrimp Hatcheries using Bacteriophages | |
| 55. Oligonucleotide Probe for Detection and Enumeration of Vibrio Spp in Aquaculture Systems | |
| 56. Fusion Protein and Nucleotide as Brucella Vaccine | |
| 57. Mass Multiplication of Pseudomonas Fluorescens on Cow Dung | |
| 58. Antisteoporosis activity of Butea species | |
| 59. A process for the production of polyhydroxyalkanoate copolymer | |

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| 60. The capsaicin synthase enzyme and its gene responsible for pungency factor isolated and characterized from placental tissues of capsicum spp. | |
| 61. The process for the production of verbenol using a fusant strain | |
| 62. An improved process for the production of the Bicycle (3-1-1) Hept 3RN-2 one using a novel penicillium sp. Useful as preservative compounds | |
| 63. A device useful for the measurement of organic acids and their derivatives | |
| 64. Immunomodulatory pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination of three coumarinolignoids and a process for preparation thereof | |
| 65. A method for measuring gas permeability of any solid permeable material and an equipment therefore | |
| 66. A process for the extraction of Atelopeptide collagen from a collagenous source by a microbial treatment | |
| 67. A process for the preparation of a non-toxinogenic oral vaccine for Cholera | |
| 68. A process for the preparation of a ceramide from placental extract useful as an inducer of melanin in eukaryotic system | |
| 69. PCR based kit for detection of vegetative insecticidal protein (VIP) gene in genetically modified organisms and in natural isolates or Bacillus thuringiensis | |
| 70. A process for the preparation of improved polymeric support for purification of proteins | |
| 71. A process for the derivatisation of Macroporous beaded crosslinked copolymers | |
| 72. A standardized immuno modulatory fraction of Plant origin | |
| 73. Synergistic tissue culture media formulation for in vitro regeneration of Swertia chirata ham | |

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74. A process for isolation of a novel oligospirostanoside from *Asparagus racemosus*
75. A novel process for the production of ecofriendly feed enzyme phytase by solid state fermentation using filamentous fungus *Aspergillus ficuum* (TUBF) (1165) growing on jack fruit seed powder
76. Novel *Chlamydia trachomatis* specific antibodies, a process for isolation for same, a diagnostic kit for detecting *Chlamydia trachomatis*, a method for producing the kit and a method for detecting *Chlamydia trachomatis* using the kit.

(b) the strategies adopted by the Department of Biotechnology to protect its intellectual property rights in the Biotechnology sector?

The Department of Biotechnology encourages protection of Intellectual Property that results as an outcome of its support in projects on Research and Development and creation of infrastructure facilities. Also, the proposals supported for short-term training courses for (i) mid-career scientists in biotechnology and (ii) college teachers involved in undergraduate teaching in life sciences and biotechnology make it mandatory for the recipients of funds to include lecture on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as a part of the course content.

The Biotechnology Patent Facilitating Cell (BPFC) of this Department has established a Committee that reviews requests of Indian scientists (from publicly funded institutions such as universities and research institutions) to support patenting of their inventions. Wherever, the Committee finds the request fulfilling the patentability criteria, the BPFC provides administrative and financial support in filing the national and international patent applications. The BPFC also supports workshops, seminars, conferences and regular training courses aimed to create awareness and understanding about the importance of Intellectual Property among scientists and researchers within the country.

Norms for MPBF

3497. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has laid certain norms for fixing the Maximum Permissible Bank Finance (MPBF) for the corporate customers taking into accounts various criteria;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued to Public Sector Banks for assessment of working capital Finance of Corporate customers/existing borrowers;

(c) whether such guidelines are flouted by the Public sector Banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Maximum Permissible Bank Finance (MPBF) was prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 1975 as part of implementation of the recommendations of the Tandon Working Group set upto frame guidelines for follow up of banks credit. However, to maintain consistency with the policy of deregulation of matters relating to dispensation of credit by banks, RBI had withdrawn the prescription from April 15, 1997 and thereby the banks were advised to evolve an appropriate system for assessing the working capital credit needs of borrowers, within the prudential guidelines and prescribed exposure norms.

Since then the banks enjoy complete freedom in the matter of assessment of working capital finance. However, banks are required to lay down, through their Boards, transparent policy and guidelines for credit dispensation in respect of each broad category of economic activity.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Duty Evasion by LG Electronics

3498. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether LG Electronics has evaded payment of duty to the tune of crores of rupees as reported in The Times of India, dated October 24, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Union Government against LG electronics?

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

(b) Investigations in this case have revealed that M/s. LG Electronics imported inputs and capital goods and availed credit of Additional duty of Customs and Special Additional Duty (SAD) paid at the time of import. However, at the time of clearance of these imported inputs and capital goods as such from the factory premises to the domestic market, M/s. LG Electronics did not pay/reverse the SAD components of credit availed by them. M/s. LG Electronics has since accepted the duty liability and has also paid an amount of Rs. 5.32 crores on this count.

(c) On completion of the investigations, action as per the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder shall be taken against M/s. LG Electronics.

Rail Project Under PPP-AC

3499. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is opposed to the rail project steered by Public Private Partnership-Appraisal Committee (PPP-AC);

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

(c) whether Mumbai Metropolitan Region Authority has sought a viability gap funding of more than Rs. 650 crore for the first phase of Versova-Ghatkopar Metro line;

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

(e) the reasons for according this funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC) has been set up to appraise all Public Private Partnership Projects in central sector.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Mumbai Metropolitan Region Authority has sought a Viability Gap Funding of Rs. 650

crore for the first Phase of Versova-Ghatkopar Metro line. The proposal was considered by the Empowered Institution and then by the Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee recommended that the project be funded by the Ministry of Urban Development under its Viability Gap Funding scheme/JNNURM. The funding is aimed at improving the viability of the project.

[Translation]

Provision of Loan Assistance

3500. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of policy for providing loan/financial assistance to the State Government by the Union Governments;

(b) whether the said policy is being complied with;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total loan assistance provided to Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(e) whether loans are being provided to the external funded schemes through public accounts as per the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) Central assistance for State Plans is decided by the Planning Commission as per revised Gadgil Formula approved by the National Development Council in 1991. All Central assistance, other than programme related assistance is released in the loan grant ratio of 10:90 for Special Category States and 30:70 for non-Special Category States. From the year 2005-06 onwards however States are required to approach the market directly for loan for Plan purposes and the Centre has ceased to act as an intermediary in line with the recommendation made by the 12th Finance Commission.

(d) The total loan assistance provided to the State of Rajasthan for Plan purposes is given below:-

Year	Loan Amount (in crores)
2003-04	1623.68
2004-05	1453.92
2005-06	365.93

(e) and (f) No, Sir. External loans do not flow to the States through the public account but through the Consolidated Fund of India. This is in line with the decision of Gol while accepting the recommendations of Twelfth Finance Commission.

[English]

Land Acquisition by Foreign Nationals

3501. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many foreign nationals who come to Goa as tourists, get involved in land acquisition deals in violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Some instances of foreign nationals of non-Indian origin, both resident in and outside India, allegedly engaged in purchasing immovable properties in Goa have come to notice.

(b) Enquiries have been initiated and the matter is under investigation.

[Translation]

Union Mitra Scheme of UBI

3502. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Bank of India has initiated any scheme under the title "Union Mitra";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this scheme has been formulated to cater the needs of rural population;

(d) if so, the number of Centres proposed to be set up in rural areas for this purpose; and

(e) the States where this scheme has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Bank of India has initiated the Union Mitra Scheme on 14.11.2006 to cater to the needs of rural community. The Scheme, inter-alia, includes the following:-

(i) offer counselling services to those who are financially distressed.

(ii) offer information of financial products and services as also on the products of the Bank.

(iii) give guidance on opening a bank account.

(iv) offer information on managing savings and likely avenues of investment.

(v) give guidance about management of existing debt.

(c) Yes, Sir. The scheme has been formulated mainly to cater to the needs of the rural populations. Gradually, the scheme will cover urban population also.

(d) and (e) The bank has started financial education services i.e. 'Union Mitra' at 51 Centres across the country in the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana and Punjab.

[English]

Housing Scheme for Government Employees

3503. SHRI RANEN BARMAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has decided/proposes to construct residential houses in Delhi exclusively for Government employees in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the areas identified for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Nirmal Gram Puraskar

3504.SHRI SARVEY SATHYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government changed the criteria for awarding Nirmal Gram Puraskar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The revised criteria of Nirmal Gram Puraskar award money is as under:-

(i) For Gram Panchayat level :

Population less than 1000 Rs. 0.50 lakh

Population between 1000
but less than 2000 Rs. 1.00 lakh

Population between 2000
but less than 5000 Rs. 2.00 lakh

Population between 5000
but less than 10,000 Rs. 4.00 lakh

Population 10,000 and above Rs. 5.00 lakh

(ii) For Block Panchayat level:

Population upto 50,000 Rs. 10.00 lakh

Population 50,001 and above Rs. 20.00 lakh

(iii) For District level:

Population upto 1 million Rs. 30.00 lakh

Population more than 1 million Rs. 50.00 lakh

(iv) For Individuals:

Gram Panchayat level Rs. 0.10 lakh

Block level Rs. 0.20 lakh

District level Rs. 0.30 lakh

(v) For Organization:

Gram Panchayat level Rs. 0.20 lakh

Block level Rs. 0.35 lakh

District level Rs. 0.50 lakh

The criteria has been changed only for Gram Panchayat. For others there is no change.

Meeting of DRDAs

3505.DR. K. DHANARAJU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) of different States met during 2006;

(b) if so, the States who participated therein and the details of the discussions held alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) whether all the DRDA from each district participated therein;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Conference of Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) was held on 16-17 October, 2006.

(b) All the States except Sikkim participated in the meeting.

In the Conference the discussions were held on the following programmes:-

- (a) NREGA, NFFWP and SGRY
- (b) SGSY and DRDA Administration
- (c) National Rural Housing Policy and permanent IAY waitlist
- (d) Monitoring and online reporting.
- (e) Area Development Programme
- (f) Drinking Water and the Total Sanitation Campaign

Presentations were made by the Project Directors and CEOs on the success stories of their districts which were also discussed in the Conference.

In the National Conference, Project Directors/Chief Executive Officers of DRDAs had an interaction, sharing of experiences and information on various programmes of the Ministry. The recommendations/suggestions were put forward by the Project Directors/CEOs of DRDAs on the following topics:-

- (a) Drinking Water Supply and Total Sanitation,
- (b) Marketing Strategy for products of Self Help Groups,
- (c) Affordable housing for poorest family,
- (d) Integrating National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) work into watershed development plans,
- (e) Preparation of a PURA perspective plan, and
- (f) Improving the impact of Rural Development programmes on women.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) It is not possible for all the States to spare their all Project Directors for the meeting due to administrative reasons which has been accepted by the Union Government. There was adequate participation and representation from most of the States in the Conference.

Complaints against Airlines

3506.SKRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of complaints received against the private airlines during the last three years;
- (b) the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and Director General (Investigation and Registration) have also received complaints against the private airlines; and
- (d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) The Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed that they have received large number of complaints from time to time from passengers regarding denial of services or facilities which they expect the airlines to provide. These include delays/cancellation of flights, providing free wheelchair facility, in-flight amenities, meals/snacks for passengers of delayed flights etc.

(b) The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has directed the Airlines that comprehensive information on the facilities provided to the passengers free of cost and facilities which are available at a price be included in their website in a conspicuous manner. The need for prompt response to complaints has been regularly emphasized by the Government and DGCA in meetings with domestic airline operators.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) The details of complaints against private airlines received by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission and Director General (Investigation and Registration) are given in the Statement-I and II respectively. The MRTPC is a quasi-judicial body. The enquiries are sub-judice before the Commission. Since the cases referred to above are pending before the Commission at various stages of enquiry, finding of irregularities or action ordered therein, if any, can be known only on the conclusion of the proceedings.

Statement-I**Cases received during the last three years by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission**

Sl. No.	UTPE/RTPE No.	Title of Enquiry with Respondent	Details of the case
1	2	3	4
1.	*RTPE 23/2004	Cox and Kings (I) Pvt Ltd. Mumbai Vs. Delta Airlines INC, Mumbai	Cox and Kings (I) Pvt. Ltd. filed an application under section 10(a)(i) of the MRTP Act against Delta Airlines. It was alleged that the airlines did not refund the tax amount paid by the complainant under section 143 of the Income Tax Act. The matter has been settled between the parties and the case is dismissed as withdrawn on 31.5.2006.
2.	RTPE 26/2004	Khagesh Agarwal, Faridabad Vs. Jet Airways (I) Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	Shri Khagesh Agarwal filed an application under section 10(a)(i) of the MRTP Act in respect of pricing of their tickets. The matter was listed before the Commission on 25.4.2006 and the same was dismissed for want of prosecution, i.e. the complainant did not pursue the case.
3.	RTPE 33/2005	Stick Travels Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi Vs. M/s. Virgin Atlantic Airways Limited, New Delhi	Stick Travels Pvt. Ltd. filed an application; under section 10(a) (i) and 36A of the MRTP Act. It was alleged that the respondent is terminating the agreement of the complainant without any reason. The matter is listed on 15.1.2007 for consideration.
4.	RTPE 15/2006	Consumer Education and Research Society, Ahmedabad Vs. Jet Airways India Limited, Mumbai 2. Air Sahara, Lucknow 3. Indian Airlines, New Delhi	A complaint filed by Consumer Education and Research Society, (CERS), Ahmedabad under section 27 of the MRTP Act, 1969 with a request to enquire into the merger of Jet Airways and Air Sahara. The matter was listed before the Commission 30.11.2006 and disposed off stating that the proposed merger of the two airlines was no where in sight.

1	2	3	4
5.	30(34)UTPE**/06	D.G. (I and R)*** Vs. Sahara Airlines Limited, New Delhi	Ministry of Company Affairs forwarded a representation made by Shri Uday Singh, MP, Lok Sabha to the Prime Minister, requesting for examination of the buy out of Sahara Airlines by Jet Airways to the D.G. (I and R) with the direction to investigate into the matter and file a Preliminary Investigation Report. The D.G. (I and R) filed a Preliminary Investigation Report which was considered by the Commission on 30.11.2006 and disposed off stating that the proposed merger of the two airlines was no where in sight.
6.	UTPE 36/2006	Manish Chaudhary, New Delhi Vs. Aeroflot, New Delhi	Shri Manish Chaudhary filed an application under section 36A and 12B of the MRTP Act against Aeroflot. It was alleged that the applicant lost his air ticket at Vienna and the respondent company did not issue the duplicate ticket and he suffered a loss. The complainant was not satisfied with the service rendered by the respondent. The matter is listed for consideration on 9.1.2007.
7.	UTPE 51/2006	Hitish Kumar, Delhi (informant) D.G. (I and R) Vs. Spicejet, Gurgaon	Shri Hitish Kumar filed a complaint against Spicejet which was sent to the D.G. (I and R) with the direction to investigate the matter and file the Investigation Report. The D.G. (I and R) filed a Preliminary Investigation Report stating that the respondent was indulging in unfair trade practice under section 36A of the MRTP Act. The report was considered and the Commission issued a notice of enquiry. The matter is listed for 16.1.2007 for framing of issues.
8.	UTPE 87/2006	D.G. (I and R) Vs. Various Airlines 1. Indian Airlines, New Delhi 2. Go-airlines India (P) Limited, Mumbai	Based on a news-item in Economic Times, the Commission ordered a preliminary investigation by the D.G. (I and R) in the matter of various airlines to examine terms and conditions of forfeiture of money on cancellation paid by the passengers for purchase of the tickets. Notice of enquiry was sent to all airlines and the next date of hearing is scheduled for 14/2/2007.

1	2	3	4
		3. M/s. Sahara India Airlines, New Delhi 4. Deccan Aviation (P) Limited, Bangalore 5. Spicejet Limited, New Delhi 6. M/s. Airlines Elite Services Limited, (Alliance Air), New Delhi	
9.	UTPE 90/2006	Sushil Kumar Gupta, New Delhi Vs. Spicejet, Gurgaon	A complaint filed by Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta alleging that M/s. Spicejet had failed to refund the amount of air tickets on cancellation, which he had booked for Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi. The matter was referred to the D.G. (I and R) for investigation. The D.G. (I and R) filed a Preliminary Investigation Report. On the basis of the report the Commission has instituted an enquiry into the unfair trade practices. The matter is listed for 15.1.1007 for framing of issues.

*Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry.

**Unfair Trade Practices Enquiry.

***Director General (Investigation and Registration).

Statement-II

The Cases Received during the last three years by the Director General (Investigation and Registration) D.G. (I and R)

- (i) A complaint was received from M/s. G. Surgiwear Ltd. Vide letter dated 01st August, 2005 regarding a passenger ticket from Air France purchased by the complainant with intention to travel from Paris to Saopaulo and to Paris on 12th June, 2005. The complaint was taken up with the company. The complainant did not pursue his complaint when the reply of the airlines was brought to the notice of the complainant. The matter was closed.
- (ii) One Shri Hitesh Kumar resident of Timarpur, Delhi addressed a complaint dated 31st May, 2006 to the Secretary, MRTTP Commission that M/s. Spicejet Ltd. offered seats @ Rs. 99/- per ticket through Internet but the company did not adopt fair method of booking

of tickets and, therefore, the complainant could not book the return ticket to Goa for his family. On the basis of a Preliminary Investigation Report submitted by DGI and R, the Hon'ble Commission has issued Notice of Enquiry vide order dated 13th November, 2006.

- (iii) A complaint was received from one Shri Sushil Gupta, resident of Defence Colony, New Delhi vide letter dated 15.5.2006 addressed to the Secretary, MRTTP Commission alleging that M/s. Spicejet Ltd. had failed to refund the amount of the air-tickets on cancellation which he had booked for Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi. On the basis of Preliminary Investigation Report submitted by DGI and R, the Commission has instituted an enquiry into the unfair trade practice flowing from its rules relating to forfeiture of the amount paid for the purchase of tickets vide order 13th November, 2006.

- (iv) A complaint dated 25th November, 2006 has been received from one Shri Devaraj Menon against Go Airlines alleging non-refund of fare on cancellation of tickets and not giving benefit of lower fare to those who had booked the tickets earlier. The complaint is under investigation.
- (v) A Preliminary Investigation Report (PIR) has been submitted before the MRTTP Commission by DGI and R suggesting an enquiry into the unfair trade practice of non-refund of the amount of tickets on cancellation by the following airlines – M/s. Go Airlines Pvt. Ltd., M/s. Spicejet Ltd. besides Indian Airlines Ltd. and Alliance Airlines. PIR is under consideration of the Hon'ble Commission.
- (vi) A complaint was received from one Shri Hemant Poddar of Calcutta vide his letter dated 27th November, 2006 alleging that M/s. Indigo Airlines has failed to refund the fare paid for purchase of tickets on cancellation, The complainant had cancelled the tickets due to preponement of the flights. The complaint is under investigation.
- (vii) A complaint was received from one Shri Shubra Sapru resident of Mumbai vide his letter dated 28th November, 2006 alleging that Indigo Airlines has refused to refund the booking amount of six tickets amounting to Rs. 27,594/- on cancellation. The complaint is under investigation.
- (viii) A complaint was received from one Shri Bhuban Dutta resident of Guwahati vide his letter dated 28th November, 2006 addressed to the DGI and R alleging that M/s. Spicejet Ltd. had failed to refund the booking amount of the tickets on cancellation. The complaint is under investigation.
- (ix) A complaint dated 21st January, 2006 was received from Shri Uday Singh regarding reported buy out of Sahara Airlines by Jet Airways. A Preliminary Investigation Report was submitted by DGI and R for consideration of the Hon'ble Commission. The case has since been disposed off by the Hon'ble Commission.

Investigations against Private Airlines

3507.SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have launched investigations against private domestic airlines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith nature of complaints against such airlines; and
- (c) the outcome of the investigation and action proposed to be taken against these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has booked cases at Mumbai and Delhi against private airlines viz. Jet Airways and Air Sahara. These cases have been booked for non payment of Customs duty on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) for flights getting converted into domestic run after completion of international run.

- (c) With regard to cases booked against Jet Airways and Air Sahara at Mumbai, the parties have paid the differential Customs duty amounting to Rs. 67 lakhs and Rs. 21 lakhs respectively. Cases booked against the said airlines at Delhi are under investigation. After completion of investigation, Show Cause Notice will be issued for recovery of differential Customs duty and imposition of penalty.

Advances to Corporate Borrowers

3508.SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rupees one thousand crore advances to corporate borrowers have been declared doubtful by the Punjab National Bank, Mumbai-Corporate Branch;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the bank has initiated any action against them;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. As on date, the Large Corporate Branch, Mumbai of Punjab National Bank has only two non-performing loans aggregating to Rs. 52.32 crore, which mainly include the account of M/s. Petronet MHB Ltd. (Public Sector Undertaking) with outstanding of Rs. 49.78 crore.

(c) to (e) The account of M/s. Patronet MHB Ltd. was financed under the consortium arrangement with nine other Banks and has been restructured under CDR mechanism.

Meeting of State Housing and Urban Development Ministers

3509. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has recently convened a meeting with the State Housing and Urban Development Ministers;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to give priority on housing for the economically weaker sections and low income groups; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) A National Conference of the Housing Ministers of States/UTs on 'Housing and Human Settlements' was convened in Hyderabad on 17th and 18th November, 2006; where Housing Ministers and Secretaries/Commissioners of the States/UTs participated and exchanged their views on issues related to urban housing. In the conference, need for inclusive cities and sustainable development of housing and human settlements in the country, ensuring a safe environment and enhancing of quality of life was reaffirmed.

(c) and (d) The Conference identified the need for reservation of land and dwelling units in private sector and

public sector housing projects for Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups.

Setting up of Plants in IT Field

3510. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Government's equity has been worked out in the proposed hi-tech manufacturing project relating to semi-conductor fabrication and micro and nano technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) and (b) The formulation of a policy in respect of the manufacture of semiconductor and other high technology Information Technology products is under consideration of the Government.

Homeless Women

3511. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of homeless women in Delhi;

(b) the number of shelters available for them;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make more shelters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has intimated that as per 2001 Census the number of homeless women in Delhi is 3719.

(b) to (d) GNCTD has reported that 6 shelter homes are available in Delhi and one more has been proposed.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that the draft Master Plan for Delhi - 2021 envisages various provisions to cater to the shelter needs of the homeless including Night Shelter @ 1000 sqm per 1 lakh population.

Urban Poor

3512. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of urban poor in each State;
- (b) the number of urban poor in mega cities, city-wise;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted regarding the rural to city migration rate of the poor;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of women's self help groups functioning in each State; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for strengthening the women's self help groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on 'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation at an interval of approximately five years. The latest data from such survey is available from 55th Round of NSS conducted in 1999-2000. The number and percentage of people living below the poverty line in urban areas during the year 1999-2000 was 670.07 lakhs and 23.62% respectively. Data on the number of people living below poverty line in small and big cities and metropolitan cities of the country are not available. However, State-wise the number and percentage of people living below poverty line during the year 1999-2000 in the urban areas is given in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has not conducted any such study regarding the rural to city migration rate of the poor in the country.

(e) and (f) Under the Scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, groups of women having at least 10 members, are formed for setting up of group-

enterprises. These groups are named as Development of Women and Children in Urban Areas (DWCUA) Groups. Assistance is provided to these groups in the form of enhanced subsidy i.e. 50% of the project cost or Rs. 125000/- whichever is less, for setting up of group enterprises. When these groups form themselves as Thrift and Credit Society in addition to their group enterprise activity, assistance in the form of revolving fund upto Rs. 25000/- for each group subject to maximum of Rs. 1000/- per member is also provided. The State-wise number of DWCUA Groups formed under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana as well as the Thrift and Credit Societies set up, is at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Number and Percentage of Population below Poverty Line by States in Urban Areas - 1999-2000.

Sl. No.	States/U.T.'s	Urban	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	60.88	26.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.18	7.47
3.	Assam	2.38	7.47
4.	Bihar	49.13	32.91
5.	Goa	0.59	7.52
6.	Gujarat	28.09	15.59
7.	Haryana	5.39	9.99
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.29	4.63
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.49	1.98
10.	Karnataka	44.49	25.25
11.	Kerala	20.07	20.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	81.22	38.44
13.	Maharashtra	102.87	26.81
14.	Manipur	0.66	7.47

1	2	3	4
15. Meghalaya		0.34	7.47
16. Mizoram		0.45	7.47
17. Nagaland		0.28	7.47
18. Orissa		25.40	42.83
19. Punjab		4.29	5.75
20. Rajasthan		26.78	19.85
21. Sikkim		0.04	7.47
22. Tamil Nadu		49.97	22.11
23. Tripura		0.49	7.47
24. Uttar Pradesh		117.88	30.89
25. West Bengal		33.38	14.86
26. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		0.24	22.11
27. Chandigarh		0.45	5.75
28. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		0.03	13.52
29. Daman and Diu		0.05	7.52
30. Delhi		11.42	9.42
31. Lakshadweep		0.08	20.27
32. Pondicherry		1.77	22.11
All India		670.07	23.62

Statement-II

State-wise number of DWCUA Groups Formed and Thrift and Credit Societies set up under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of DWCUA Groups formed	Number of Thrift and Credit Societies set up under SJSRY formed
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16131	73872

1	2	3	4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	6
3.	Assam	120	200
4.	Bihar	2120	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	448	5524
6.	Goa	4	1
7.	Gujarat	7203	1968
8.	Haryana	396	810
9.	Himachal Pradesh	54	29
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	135	49
11.	Jharkhand	0	0
12.	Karnataka	1661	12752
13.	Kerala	1796	8632
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3529	9949
15.	Maharashtra	5454	22014
16.	Manipur	96	88
17.	Meghalaya	11	1
18.	Mizoram	337	30
19.	Nagaland	179	370
20.	Orissa	1789	2102
21.	Punjab	48	106
22.	Rajasthan	304	432
23.	Sikkim	12	20
24.	Tamil Nadu	6342	15865
25.	Tripura	109	156
26.	Uttaranchal	2	23
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3363	8437
28.	West Bengal	3219	11995
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10	4

1	2	3	4
30. Chandigarh		7	34
31. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		5	1
32. Daman and Diu		0	0
33. Delhi		47	56
34. Pondicherry		362	1070
Total		52399	176596

[Translation]

Charging of Higher Rate of Interest

3513. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY :
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether World Bank Report for the year, 2006 has revealed that farmers are being charged higher rates of interest in comparison with businessmen in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

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

[English]

Central Excise Duty Evasion

3514. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of central excise duty evasion has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take strict action against excise duty evaders in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of the major excise duty evaders as on November, 2006; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to recover such duties from the evaders so far?

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

(b) The details of cases of central excise duty evasion for last three financial years and the current financial year (upto November, 2006) is as follows :-

Year	No. of Cases	Amount involved (Rs. In Crore)
2003-04	9091	9489
2004-05	7927	4273
2005-06	6689	4606
2006-07	3407	8573

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Cases are registered whenever central excise duty evasion is detected. On completion of the investigation, show cause-cum-demand notices are issued proposing penalty equal to the amount of duty evaded and also personal penalty on the persons concerned commensurate with the gravity of offence. Prosecution is launched against the duty evaders in deserving cases.

(e) The names of major excise duty evaders who have evaded more than Rs. 25 Crores as on November, 2006 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(f) Action has been taken as per the Central Excise Act, 1944 and the rules made thereunder to recover such duties from the evaders.

<i>Statement</i>				1	2	3	4
Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Company	Amount (in crores)				
1	2	3	4				
1.	2003-04	GMR Power Corporation	138.32	24.	2004-05	Electrosteel Casting Pvt. Ltd.	34.41
2.	2003-04	Indian Aluminium Co. Ltd. (2SCNs)	128.27	25.	2004-05	CPCL	33.98
3.	2003-04	Numaligarh Refineries Ltd.	92.17	26.	2004-05	Ibrahim Garments	27.17
4.	2003-04	PSL Ltd.	72.98	27.	2005-06	CPCL	88.44
5.	2003-04	MRPL	52.87	28.	2005-06	CPCL	45.18
6.	2003-04	Baroda Rayon Corporation Ltd. Surat	50	29.	2005-06	Teracom	43.85
7.	2003-04	India Coal Agency	43.68	30.	2005-06	HPCL Shakur Basti (PSU)	36.99
8.	2003-04	DSP	42.51	31.	2005-06	Teracom	36.09
9.	2003-04	R.K. Cigarette Pvt. Ltd., Varanasi	40.67	32.	2005-06	Ruchi Infrastructure Ltd.	28.11
10.	2003-04	Hindustan Motors Ltd.	34.35	33.	2005-06	HPCL	29.63
11.	2003-04	Chambal Fertilizers Ltd., Kota	33.59	34.	2005-06	Associated Power Structure	27.22
12.	2003-04	Chambal Fertilizers Ltd., Kota	33.57	35.	2005-06	Karishma Enterprises	26.49
13.	2003-04	Amer Jyoti Packers	33.2	36.	2005-06	DSP	26.39
14.	2003-04	Balaji Trading Company	32.28	37.	2005-06	PSL LTD.	25.18
15.	2003-04	LGEIPL, Pondicherry	30	38.	2005-06	Miraj Products vt. Td.	25
16.	2004-05	Reliance Ind. Ltd., Jamnagar	172.86	39.	2006-07	JSW Steels Limited	121.99
17.	2003-04	Reliance Ind. Ltd., Jamnagar	82.28	40.	2006-07	Gillette India Ltd., Baddi	86.43
18.	2004-05	CPCL	80.44	41.	2006-07	GPI Limited	67.55
19.	2004-05	BPCL Shakur Basti (PSU)	78.11	42.	2006-07	Escorts Ltd., Faridabad	60.18
20.	2004-05	Reliance Ind. Ltd., Jamnagar	53.67	43.	2006-07	Sterlite Industries Ltd.	47.87
21.	2004-05	IOCL, Jaipur	37.53	44.	2006-07	Computer Graphics Ltd.	40.74
22.	2004-05	IOCL, Panipat	36.05	45.	2006-07	Titan Industries	27.58
23.	2004-05	Murari Lal Harishchandra Jaiswal Pvt. Ltd. De	34.5	46.	2006-07	Rony Silk	27.38
				47.	2006-07	Jindal Drugs Ltd., Jammu	27
				48.	2006-07	International, Tractors Ltd.	26.21
				49.	2006-07	Bhushan Ltd.	26.12
				50.	2006-07	Sharp Menthol India Ltd. And thers	25

Deposits and Advances

3515. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the average amount of loan and account handled by an employee of rural branches of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks; and

(b) the number of families covered by deposits and advances respectively by the rural branches of RRBs as a whole and each Public Sector Bank in the rural area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the population group-wise data on number of accounts and amount (including data per employee) relating to deposits and credit outstanding as on March 31, 2005 of Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks is given in the Statement enclosed. RBI has reported that information on families covered by deposits and advances is not available.

Statement*Population-Group-wise Deposits and Credit per Employee of PSBs and RRBs (As on March 31)***PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS**

MARCH, 2005

(Number of Accounts in Thousands, Amount in Rupees in Lakh)

Population Group	Deposits		Total Credit		No. of Total employees	Average no. of deposit accounts per employee	Average deposit amount per employee (in Rs. lakh)	Average no. of credit accounts per employee	Average credit amount per employee (in Rs. lakh)
	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding					
Rural	93370	16089162	17320	8243844	127930	730	125.77	135	64.44
Semi-urban	102366	24520344	13911	10973081	165114	620	148.51	84	66.46
Urban/metro	160953	88988268	12693	62517445	442310	364	201.19	29	141.34
Total	356689	129597774	43924	81734370	735354	485	176.24	60	111.15

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS

MARCH, 2005

(Number of Accounts in Thousands, Amount in Rupees in Lakh)

Population Group	Deposits		Total Credit		No. of Total employees	Average no. of deposit accounts per employee	Average deposit amount per employee (in Rs. lakh)	Average no. of credit accounts per employee	Average credit amount per employee (in Rs. lakh)
	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount outstanding					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rural	43540	4095713	10913	2301735	45062	966	90.89	242	51.08

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Semi-urban	11625	1515459	2764	752916	14323	812	105.81	193	52.57
Urban/metro	2523	533518	491	214232	6214	406	85.86	79	34.48
Total	57688	6144690	14168	3268883	65599	879	93.67	216	49.83

Source: Basic Statistical Returns of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Thermal Power Plant
at Jhalawar**

3516.SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any team of Central Electricity Authority has visited Jhalawar town of Rajasthan to explore the possibilities of setting up of a thermal power plant there;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. On the request of Government of Rajasthan a team of Site Selection Committee of Central Electricity Authority (CEA) had visited two alternate sites, in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan namely Nimodha Village in Jhalrapatan and in Borekheri-Gujaran Village in Aklara tehsil on 14.11.2006 for exploring the setting up of 1000 MW coal based thermal power project.

(b) and (c) As per the preliminary findings of the team, the site at Nimoda village appears to be techno-economically feasible for setting up of a power plant of 1000 MW capacity subject to environmental clearance and firm tie-up of water for the project. For the Borekheri site further investigations regarding land, water and rail connectivity etc. are to be carried out. The preliminary findings of the team have been communicated to Government of Rajasthan. Government of Rajasthan vide letter dated 29.11.2006 have informed CEA that they are taking necessary action to tie-up environmental clearance and other inputs.

[English]

Central Assistance to Karnataka

3517.SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to State :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government to release Central assistance for the State projects for upgradation/widening of roads in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Government of Karnataka have submitted 6 Project proposals under Jawaharlati Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on upgradation/widening of roads. Out of these, 3 projects have been approved by Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC), while 2 projects are under appraisal and remaining 1 project has been returned to the State Government for modification of Detailed Project Report on the advice of Technical Appraisal Agency. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), one project for upgradation/construction of road for Davangere town has been approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) on 2.11.2006 for Rs. 3128.40 lakhs.

Statement**Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)****Status of DPRs Received from Karnataka under Roads/Flyover Sector**

Sl. No.	State	City	Sector	Project Name	Estimated cost (Rs. lakh)	Date of Receipt of DPR at Ministry	Status
1.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Grade separator at Malieswaram circle	1448.00	3.10.06	Approved
2.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Minerva circle grade separator	2508.00	3.10.06	DPR Returned for Modification
3.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Upgradation side walks and asphaltting work of roads surrounding M.G. Road area	4850.00	3.10.06	Under appraisal
4.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Upgradation side walks and asphaltting work of roads surrounding Koramangala area	4916.80	3.10.06	Under appraisal
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Construction of underpass at Tagore circle	2085.30	11.10.06	Approved
6.	Karnataka	Bangalore	Roads/Flyovers/RoB	Construction of underpass at R.V. Teachers College circle	1587.00	11.10.06	Approved
Total					17375.10		

Loan to Ethiopia

3518. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend soft loan to Ethiopia;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to give similar loans to any other country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for GOI supported Exim Bank of India line of credit of US\$ 640 million to the Government of Ethiopia for revamping of their sugar industry, which is under consideration. However, the terms and conditions thereof will be finalised in due course.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details are in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*Details of proposals of GOI supported Exim Bank of India lines of credit (LOG) to various countries*

Sl. No.	Recipient country	Amount of LOC (in millions of US Dollars)	Purpose
1.	Srilanka	100	Purchase of Defence equipment/supplies.
2.	Nepal	35	For various road, electrification and hydro-power projects.
3.	Mauritius	60	For import of capital goods, purchase of an Advance Light Helicopter, construction of road, purchase of pharmaceutical products and ICT Education.
4.	Sudan	48	For agricultural inputs, technical and laboratory equipment, scientific equipment, solar electrification and meeting requirement of Sudan railways.
5.	Gabon	14.45	For housing project.
6.	Myanmar	80	Supply of heavy duty water pumps and power project.
7.	Lao PDR	17.34	For agriculture and irrigation schemes.
8.	Cambodia	35.20	For water resources development project, water pumps and electric transmission line project.
9.	Vietnam	45	For thermal plant project.

Conference on Pro-Poor Urban Governance

3519.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference was organised by the Government in collaboration with UN Habitat to deliberate upon the issues of pro-poor urban governance and planning, slum upgradation and financing sustainable urbanisation in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the issues discussed and the decisions taken thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the decision?

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

SELJA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is organizing the first ever Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Human Settlements in New Delhi, in collaboration with UN Habitat from 13th to 16th December, 2006 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. It aims at addressing the challenges of Urbanization, Housing and Habitat Management, Millenium Development Goals, Urban Poverty and Slum Development and to develop strategies and policies for integrated development in which land and housing are key components. The goal of this Conference is to share and exchange knowledge on land and housing and national and city strategies for poverty alleviation.

Voluntary Retirement Sought by Officials in SBI

3520.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of officers of State Bank of India (SBI) have sought voluntary retirement;

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

(c) the steps taken by the government for providing good working conditions in SBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) introduced an exit option scheme for officers with effect from 29th April 2005 and withdrawn the same with effect from 1st November 2006. Out of a total strength of 58,660 officers in SBI, the bank relieved 4068 officers.

As reported by SBI the major reasons for seeking voluntary retirement are, losing chance(s) for promotion to the next grade/scale, health grounds, personal reasons and unsuitable place of posting.

(c) The service conditions of SBI employees are comparable with those of the nationalized banks. The working conditions in SBI have further improved on account of computerization and automation.

[Translation]

**Interest Subsidy on Loan for
Rural Electrification**

3521.SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target has been fixed for rural electrification under the Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) if so, the achievements made so far in this regard;

(c) whether any decision has been taken to provide interest subsidy on the loans meant for rural electrification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has kept a target

of 50,000 villages to be electrified during 10th Plan under RGGVY since its launch in April 2005. Year-wise break-up of the target fixed is given as under:-

Year	No. of villages to be electrified
2005-06	10,000
2006-07	40,000
Total	50,000

(b) The implementing states/agencies as on 08.12.2006 have reported electification of 23014 un-electrified villages under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana since its launch in April 2005.

(c) and (d) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) provides a soft loan at 5% rate of interest towards the loan component, which is ten per cent of the total project cost.

**Amendment in Representation of
People Act**

3522.SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

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

(a) whether the Election Commission has advised for making amendments in the Representation of People Act to control the excessive expenditure incurred by the candidates during elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The Government has not received any advice from Election Commission for making amendments in the Representation of the People Act to control the excessive expenditure incurred by the candidates during elections.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Research for Low Cost Power Generation

3523. SHRI D.P. SAROJ : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any research and development is being done for reducing the cost of power generation in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The organizations in the Power Sector viz. Central Power Research Institute (CPRI), NTPC Ltd., Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) and some of the laboratories of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) are carrying out Research and Development Projects to reduce the cost of power generation at their own research laboratories and facilities available with other organizations. Some of the specific areas where Research and Development is currently being carried out are in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Research and Development (R and D) for low cost power generation is currently being carried out in the following areas

- Sedimentation management in basins, rivers and reservoirs, Management of Trash, Floating Debris and Logs in reservoirs/intakes, application of Global Positioning System (GPS) in basin sediment management, reservoir sediment measurement, river inflow/discharge measurement, flood forecasting etc.
- Research project titled "Development of silt erosion resistant material for turbines of hydro generators", as an improved alternative to Chromium Nickel (13Cr 4 Ni) Stainless Steel.
- Provision of scientific services to various power stations in lowering the power generation cost through (i) increasing the reliability and avail-

ability; (ii) improving efficiency; and (iii) Fuel optimization.

- Health assessment studies to help the stations in taking decision on Run/Repair/Replace of specific components thus helping in lowering the maintenance cost as well as improving the life/availability of the plant.
- Corrosion control measures to help the stations in improving the availability and efficiency of the plant components.
- Real time operator advisory/supervisory module based on artificial intelligence and mathematical modeling, to improve the efficiency of boilers and turbines.
- Improvement in water chemistry of condensers for minimizing the deposits to improve the vacuum.
- Modeling and simulation studies for improving the efficiency of cooling towers.
- Development of Flue Gas heat recovery and waste heat recovery from other systems.
- Improvement of the combustion efficiency by maintaining the fuel particle size distribution in close proximity.
- Reduction in Auxiliary Power Consumption through improved performance of Auxiliary Fans and Ducts.
- Development of automated inspection machines such as Robotics is being taken up as an R and D initiative.
- Development of Computerized Flow Design (CFD) modeling for coal-fired Boilers to increase the reliability.
- Development of more efficient technologies like Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC).

- Energy audit and mapping.
- Materials development and simulation techniques.
- Coal research (blending and beneficiation).
- Turbine Blade and underwater parts coating.

[English]

**NABARD Assistance for Construction
of PHCs**

3524.SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether NABARD has agreed to finance assistance Karnataka for construction of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount proposed to be given by NABARD to Karnataka for this purpose; and
- (d) the number of PHCs likely to be constructed in Karnataka with NABARD assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. NABARD has sanctioned loans to Government of Karnataka under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for construction of Primary Health Centres (PHCs) as detailed below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	Year	No. of PHCs	Amount of Loan
RIDF-VIII	2002-03	94	19.78
RIDF-XI	2005-06	97	28.99
Total		191	48.77

Further, a proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for construction of 12 PHCs with financial assistance of Rs. 4.02 crore which is being processed as per extant procedure.

[Translation]

Pench Project

3525.SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Pench Project is getting assistance from external funding agency/Indo-German bilateral development co-operation; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Pench Project is not getting any assistance from external funding agency/Indo-German bilateral development co-operation programme.

[Translation]

Indo-Cuba Agreement on Renewable Energy

3526.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India and Cuba had entered into a bilateral agreement on Renewable Energy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A protocol for cooperating in various areas of renewable energy including biomass, small hydro, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic was signed on 18 February 2004 in Havana between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Cuba. In furtherance of this protocol, discussions have been held with Cuban authorities.

Supply of Water in Dwarka

3527.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH :
SHRI KISHANBHA1 V. PATEL :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has planned the construction of command tanks to fulfil the supply of water in the sub-city Dwarka;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress of construction and utilisation of command tanks as on date;

(c) the expenditure incurred on construction of these tanks;

(d) the extent to which it has so far been benefited the people of sub-city; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make these tanks usable at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that six Command Tanks were planned for water supply in Dwarka. Command Tanks No. 1 to 4 have been completed. Construction of Command Tank No. 5 has started and Command Tank No. 6 is at the planning stage.

(c) The DDA has indicated that the expenditure incurred on Command Tanks No. 1 to 4 is Rs. 39.10 crore. For Command Tank No. 5 the expenditure incurred is Rs. 2.23 crore till date.

(d) The DDA has further informed that due to the limited water supply available, only 2 Command Tanks are being utilized. However, the network of all the 4 Command Tanks are being utilized to supply the water to entire Dwarka sub-city.

(e) The matter regarding augmentation of water supply in Dwarka relates to the availability of increased raw water supply to Delhi Jal Board for Nangloi Water Treatment Plant. DJB has reported that it has taken up the matter with Government of Haryana as well as with Central Water Commission.

Land Acquisition Procedure.

3528. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to simplify the land acquisition procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification Programme

3529. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has been assigned any role to accelerate the Rural Electrification Programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of villages electrified by NTPC so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Execution of rural electrification works under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) in 29 districts of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal has been assigned to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). As per the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) received from respective State Governments, this assignment of NTPC covers electrification of 13639 un-electrified villages, re-electrification of 2277 de-electrified villages and intensive electrification of 19977 electrified villages in 27 districts so far. State-wise/District-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) NTPC so far has reported electrification of 83 villages in the Kharagpur block of West Medinipur district in West Bengal.

Statement*Details of DPRs for the Districts Allocated to NTPC for implementation of RGGVY*

Sl. No.	Name of State and District(s)	Villages covered for household electrification under the project			
		No. of un-electrified villages	No. of de-electrified villages	No. of electrified villages	Total No. of villages covered for household electrification
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhattisgarh					
1.	Champa Janjgir			889	889
2.	Korba	17	32	573	622
3.	Bilaspur	0	0	1565	1565
4.	Jashpurnagar	23		672	695
5.	Raigarh	36	0	1397	1433
Total (Chhattisgarh)		76	32	5096	5204
Jharkhand					
1.	Deoghar	1295	119	760	2174
2.	Jamtara	685	0	278	963
3.	Godda	1168	65	391	1624
4.	Dumka	2253	49	365	2667
5.	Ranchi	1109	177	704	1990
6.	Pakaur	902	82	144	1128
7.	Lohardaga	138	144	69	351
8.	Sahebganj	943	181	183	1307
Total (Jharkhand)		8493	817	2894	12204
Madhya Pradesh					
1.	Guna	0	0	1241	1241
2.	Ashoknagar	0	72	746	818
3.	Shivpuri	11	0	1305	1316
4.	Gwalior	0	0	583	583
Total (Madhya Pradesh)		11	72	3875	3958

1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa					
1.	Angul	280	314	1034	1628
2.	Nayagarh	335	268	873	1476
3.	Dhenkanal	87	163	828	1078
4.	Jharsuguda	16	27	305	348
5.	Koraput	1256	17	579	1852
6.	Sambalpur	382	76	766	1224
7.	Devogarh	319	29	344	692
8.	Kalahandi	1147	46	920	2113
9.	Bolangir	369	95	1300	1764
10.	Keonjhar	643	321	1163	2127
Total (Orissa)		4834	1356	8112	14302
West Bengal					
1.	West Midnapur (only Kharagpur block)	225			225
2.	West Medinipur (Kharagpur Block only)				
Supplementary DPR					
Total (West Bengal)		225			225
Grand Total		13639	2277	19977	35893

*[English]***Foreign Companies in India**

3530. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign companies operating in India at present, State-wise

(b) the number of foreign companies registered during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government receives revenue by way of fees etc. for filing of various documents;

(d) if so, the details of amount received from these companies during each of the last three years; and

(e) the concessions/facilities provided by the Government to such companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) At present, 2069 foreign companies incorporated outside India have established their place of

business in India u/s 592 (1) of the Companies Act 1956. The State-wise break up is as under:-

State	No. of foreign companies operating in India
Andhra Pradesh	26
Bihar	01
Delhi	1280
Gujarat	15
Haryana	57
Jammu and Kashmir	01
Karnataka	159
Kerala	07
Madhya Pradesh	03
Maharashtra	361
Orissa	05
Pondicherry	01
Rajasthan	02
Tamil Nadu	75
Uttar Pradesh	14
West Bengal	62
Total	2069

(b) The number of foreign companies registered during the last three years are as under:-

Sl. No	Financial Year	No. of foreign companies
01.	2003-04	152
02.	2004-05	167
03.	2005-06	211

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The amount of fee received from these companies during the last three years is as under:-

Sl. No.	Financial Year	Amount of fee etc. received from these companies for filing various documents (in Rupees)
01.	2003-04	2,63,17,225
02.	2004-05	3,41,54,075
03.	2005-06	3,56,45,689

(e) Companies as are incorporated outside India and have established places of business in India are regulated as per provisions of Part-XI (read with other relevant provisions) of the Companies Act, 1956. The compliance with statutory framework is not based on any concessions/facilities to such companies.

De-electrification of Villages

3531. SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of villages de-electrified during the last five years alongwith the reasons thereof;

(b) whether these de-electrified villages have been again electrified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC) so far has received 575 draft Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) from 27 states (except Goa and Delhi) under Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) covering, amongst other items, re-electrification of 27504 de-electrified villages in sixteen of these 27 States. State-wise details of de-electrified villages covered for re-electrification under RGGVY in the draft DPRs are given in Statement-I.

It is gathered that natural calamities including floods, cyclones etc. and theft of line materials are the main reasons attributable for de-electrification of the electrified villages.

(b) to (d) Rural electrification being a concurrent subject, execution of RE works is the responsibility of State Government/State Power Utility. The States of Bihar, West Bengal, UP, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal and Karnataka have already commenced actual electrification of un-electrified/de-electrified villages under RGGVY whereas other States have initiated actions for preliminary activities including survey/route alignment, erection of infrastructure etc.

The implementing States so far reported electrification of 23014 un-electrified villages (including de-electrified villages) as on 8th December 2006. State-wise details of villages reportedly electrified under RGGVY are given in Statement-II.

All the villages in the country including un-electrified and de-electrified villages are to be electrified under RGGVY by 2009.

Statement-I

State-wise Number of De-electrified Villages covered in Draft DPRs received under RGGVY Scheme

Sl. No.	Name of State	Total No. of projects received	Total No. of Districts involved	No. of villages un-electrified villages	No. of villages de-electrified villages	Total No. of un-electrified villages
1	2	3	4	5	6	5+6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26	22	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	16	1802	331	2133
3.	Assam	21	21	3072	3831	6903
4.	Bihar	43	38	14067	10486	24553
5.	Chhattisgarh	15	15	951	179	1130
6.	Gujarat	25	25	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	18	18	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	97	0	97
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	12	198	8	206
10.	Jharkhand	22	22	16965	2774	19739
11.	Karnataka	26	26	132	0	132
12.	Kerala	14	14	0	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	48	48	604	454	1058
14.	Maharashtra	34	34	6	0	6
15.	Manipur	4	4	159	336	495
16.	Meghalaya	3	3	90	103	193
17.	Mizoram	8	8	42	95	137

1	2	3	4	5	6	5+6
18. Nagaland		5	5	20	12	32
19. Orissa		23	22	10809	3440	14249
20. Punjab		17	17	0	0	0
21. Rajasthan		41	32	761	3681	4442
22. Sikkim		4	4	25	0	25
23. Tamil Nadu		29	29	0	0	0
24. Tripura		3	3	127	0	127
25. Uttar Pradesh		67	65	31657	1077	32734
26. Uttaranchal		13	13	787	682	1469
27. West Bengal		26	18	4268	15	4283
Grand Total		575	546	86639	27504	114143

Statement-II**State-wise and Year-wise Villages electrified under RGGVY**

Sl. No.	State	Village Electrified during 2005-06	Village Electrified during 2006-07 (Upto 8-12-2006)	Total
1.	Bihar	1600	1961	3561
2.	Karnataka	47		47
3.	Rajasthan	230	274	504
4.	Uttar Pradesh	7503	9588	17091
5.	Uttaranchal	87	481	568
6.	West Bengal	352	891	1243
	Total	9819	13195	23014

Exposing Gang of Exporters

3532. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK :

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has detected a gang of exporters who used to defraud of revenue by over-valuing their export invoices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against the persons found guilty;

(d) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Excise Department and the Customs Department have found that a large number of exporters have used the domestic banking system to bring in foreign exchange illegally by creating fake identities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Several cases of over valuation of export goods have been booked during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto Oct. 06). The details are as below:-

Year	No. of cases	Value (Rs. in crores)
2005-06	9	54.19
2006-07 (upto Oct. 06)	12	43.91

(c) to (e) Cases have been booked where exporters have used the domestic banking channels as well as Hawala routes to bring in foreign remittances. The details of such cases booked during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto October, 06) are given below:—

Year	No. of cases	Action taken
2005-2006	5	11 Persons arrested. 4 persons detained under COFEPOSA.
2006-2007 (upto Oct. 06)	2	1 Person arrested.

Customs field formations including DRI are alert and vigilant to thwart such attempts.

Schemes for Sewage Disposal

3533.SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the limit of 20 thousand population based on the Census of 1991 to 50 thousand population in Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement Accelerated Urban Sewage Disposal Programme at par with Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to simplify the procedure of providing loans from Life Insurance Corporation, Housing and Urban Development Corporation and other financial institutes for implementing accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme/Accelerated Urban Sewage Disposal Programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme

(AUWSP) has been subsumed in recently launched scheme, namely Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) which envisages development of infrastructure facilities including water supply, sewerage, storm water drainage etc. in cities/towns which are not covered under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(c) and (d) No, Sir. No such scheme of Accelerated Urban Sewerage Programme has been launched.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Funds for Water and Sanitation

3534.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per the UNDP Report 2006 the allocation of funds for water and sanitation in India are inadequate;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the spending on water and sanitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The UNDP Report 2006 states: "It is difficult to capture real public spending on water and sanitation partly because of the fragmentation of financing across ministries, partly because of decentralization and partly because donor financing is often off budget".

The total plan outlay for water supply and sanitation sector in India from 1st Five Year Plan to 10th Five Year Plan has been ranging from 1.07% to 4.46% of the total public sector outlay. During the same plan period, the plan outlay for urban water supply and sanitation ranged from 0.65% to 2.16%. Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) "Urban Water Supply and Sanitation" is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Government/

Urban Local Bodies to plan, design and execute water supply and sanitation schemes through State Public Health Engineering Departments/Urban Local Bodies with the State Plan funds. However, their efforts are supplemented by Government of India through various developmental schemes.

This Ministry has launched two programmes in December, 2005 with a budget allocation of Rs. 50,000

crore to be spent in 7 years for integrated development of urban areas namely, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT). Under these programmes, additional Central assistance would be provided as grant to the State Government for taking up infrastructure projects including water and sanitation.

Statement

Plan-wise Investment – Water Supply and Sanitation Sector

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	Plan Period	Total Public Sector Plan outlay	Total plan outlay for water supply and Sanitation sector		Plan Outlay for Urban Water Supply and Sanitation		Plan outlay for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	
			Amount	% of Public Sector outlay	Amount	% of Public Sector outlay	Amount	% of Public Sector outlay
			Col. 4	Col. 4	Col. 4	Col. 4	Col. 8	Col. 8
			– X 100	– X 100	– X 100	– X 100	– X 100	– X 100
			Col. 3	Col. 3	Col. 3	Col. 3	Col. 3	Col. 3
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	I Plan (1951-56)	3360.00	49.00	1.46	43.00	1.28	8.00	0.18
2.	II Plan (1956-61)	3750.00	72.00	1.07	44.00	0.65	28.00	0.41
3.	III Plan (1961-66)	8573.00	105.70	1.23	89.37	1.04	16.33	0.19
4.	3 Annual Plans (1966-69)	8684.97	108.42	1.60	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
5.	IV Plan (1969-74)	15902.00	437.00	2.75	282.00	1.77	155.00	0.97
6.	V Plan (1974-79)	39303.49	1030.68	2.62	549.44	1.40	481.24	1.22
7.	Annual Plan (1979-80)	12549.83	430.22	3.43	197.93	1.53	232.29	1.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8.	VI Plan (1980-85)	97500.00	4047.00	4.15	1766.68	1.81	2280.32	2.34
9.	VII Plan (1985-90)	180000.00	6522.47	3.62	2965.75	1.65	3556.72	1.98
10.	2 Annual Plans (1990-92)	137033.15	4427.29	3.23	1721.37	1.26	2705.92	1.97
11.	VIII Plan (1992-97)	434100.00	16711.03	3.85	5982.28	1.38	10728.79	2.47
12.	IX Plan (1997-2002)	853200.00	39538.00	4.46	18624	2.16	20914.00	2.43
13.	X Plan (2002-2007)	1525639.00	44206.55	2.89	19758.55	1.30	24448.00	1.60

**Renovation/Restoration of Damaged
Buildings in Mumbai**

3535.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the funds so far allocated and released by the Government under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) for renovation and restoration of damaged buildings and infrastructure in Mumbai following last year flood devastation;

(b) the details of the damages caused thereby to the buildings, roads and other related infrastructure in Mumbai, and the plans and projects to be implemented under the JNNURM; and

(c) the estimated loss caused by the floods and the cost of renovation and restoration projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No funds have been allocated or released specifically under JNNURM for renovation and restoration of damaged buildings in Mumbai following last year flood devastation. However, four projects in the infrastructure sector received from Government of Maharashtra in respect of Greater Mumbai have been approved under JNNURM. An amount

of Rs. 1505.00 lakh have so far been released in respect of Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II Priority Works only towards first instalment of the approved cost.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected from the State Government of Maharashtra and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grant-in-Aid to NCR Participating States

3536.SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provides grant-in-aid to National Capital Region (NCR) participating States;

(b) if so, the details of grants provided to various States during each of the last three years;

(c) whether NCR cells are submitting quarterly progress report within the stipulated time;

(d) if not, the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set similar region in other metro/big cities of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB)

has informed that no grant-in-aid is being provided to the constituent States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Government of NCT of Delhi on account of their participation in the National Capital Region.

(c) The NCRPB has further indicated that quarterly progress reports are received from the NCR Planning and Monitoring Cells, though sometime not within the stipulated time.

(d) With a view to ensure timely submission of the progress reports by the NCR Planning and Monitoring Cells, the NCR Planning Board has decided to introduce a comprehensive management information system.

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

[Translation]

Pending Proposal under SGSY

3537. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals of the Government of Madhya Pradesh pending for approval with the Union Government under SGSY;

(b) the reasons for their pendency and the time by which they are likely to be approved;

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to increase the amount of allocation keeping in view the increased number of families living below poverty line in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has received any proposals regarding formation of group of five persons in place of ten persons under SGSY; and

(f) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI

SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) and (b) As on date, 63 proposals for Special Projects were received by the Ministry of Rural Development from the Government of Madhya Pradesh under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). Out of 63 proposals, 22 proposals were approved and 25 proposals were returned to State Government as they were not found in accordance with the SGSY Guidelines. The remaining 16 proposals are under different stages of processing. On receipt of proposals from the State Government, it is appraised in the Ministry and is placed before two Inter-Ministerial Committees for approval. These Committees are Project Screening Committee (PSC) and Project Approval Committee (PAC). If the Committees make certain observations to improve and make effective the proposal, the same are sent to State Government for compliance. As such, appraisal, rectification and approval of the projects is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) Under SGSY, funds are allocated to the States/Union Territories on the incidence of poverty ratio fixed by the Planning Commission. 15% of the allocation under the SGSY is set apart for taking up Special Projects. Special Projects under SGSY are sanctioned when States submit proposals and they are found viable in the Ministry. Hence the Special projects are demand driven.

(e) and (f) As per SGSY Guidelines, a Self-Help Group (SHG) may generally consist of 10 to 20 persons. However, in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered and sparse population and in case of minor irrigation and disabled persons, this number may be from 5 to 20.

[English]

Maintenance of Public Offices

3538. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several public offices are being neglected by civic authorities for a quite long time as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 01, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has found any irregularities in maintenance of these building complexes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (d) Lok Nayak Bhavan is a building built and owned by the civic body NDMC. A number of Government offices have engaged space in this building. The NDMC has leased out space for commercial purposes on the ground floor. Maintenance of the building rests with the owner of the building. The CPWD helps the Government offices to use the office space by organizing partitions and lay outs without disturbing the structural integrity of the building. No irregularities have come to light in the maintenance of the building.

CPWD maintains buildings constructed by it and with office space allotted to various Ministries, Departments and their related offices. The Departments are to provide their respective housekeeping operations while CPWD attends to civil and electrical repairs, replacements, restoration etc.

Misleading Advertisements by Builders

3539.SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that builders working in real estate are collecting money on large scale by attracting buyers through glamorous advertisements and later duping them;

(b) if so, the action being taken by the Government to stop this practice in housing sector;

(c) whether the Government is considering any comprehensive policy regarding saving buyers from being duped by builder, companies and to provide cheap and comfortable houses to them; and

(d) if so, the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

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

Mass Rapid Transit System

3540.SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to improve Urban Transport for improving mobility in Urban areas;

(b) whether any policy in this regard is under the consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Mass Rapid Transit System is proposed to be implemented in some cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) A National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) has been formulated by the Government which inter-alia seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel and use of cleaner technologies. It offers Central Government's financial support for investments in public transport infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as in the construction of parking facilities, including demonstrative pilot projects. It encourages capacity building at institutional and individual level, innovative financing mechanisms, institutional coordination, association of the private sector and need for public awareness and cooperation.

(d) and (e) Urban Transport is a State subject and proposals for Mass Rapid Transit Systems (MRTS) in cities are to be framed by Urban Local Bodies/State Governments. MRTS being implemented in some of the cities with Central financial assistance are:-

1. Metro Projects: Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai and Kolkata.
2. Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) Projects: Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Indore and Pune.

Earthquake and Tsunami

3541. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether mining of materials on the earth has been increasing rapidly;

(b) if so, whether it causes earthquake and Tsunami frequently these days; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a growing trend in the mineral production in the country through mining activity.

(b) No, Sir. No scientific evidence has been established to show that the mining activity by itself could generate significant earthquake activity or Tsunamis that are triggered by earthquakes.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Tejendra Khanna Committee

3542. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the main recommendations made by the Tejendra Khanna Committee;

(b) the recommendations that have been accepted by the Government; and

(c) the reasons for not accepting the remaining recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) The main recommendations of the Tejendra Khanna

Committee deal with unauthorised constructions, misuse of premises, guidelines for Lal Dora and Extended Lal Dora area, setting up of enforcement machinery, role of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), setting up of institutional arrangements etc.

Based on the recommendations contained in the Report, and after following the prescribed statutory procedure, amendments have been carried out in the Master Plan for Delhi 2001 with regard to provisions relating to mixed use and development control norms for residential plotted development vide Notifications dt. 7.9.06 and 22.9.06 respectively.

The Government has also set up three Committees to look into the issues relating to farm houses, Lal Dora areas and additions in DDA Plots/group housing. The term of these committees is till 31st December, 2006.

Inter-departmental consultations have been undertaken in respect of the other recommendations.

[English]

Investment in Stock Market

3543. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether divergence of opinion exist among the Union Government, Security and Exchange Board of India and Reserve Bank of India in respect of investment by Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional Investors as reported in Times of India, dated October 9, 2006;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether various stock exchanges have been demutualised; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith details of exchanges demutualised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) These agencies have different responsibilities and hence different

perspectives. Hence, they may have different opinion on certain issues. However, such differences are reconciled in the consultation process leading to policy decision.

(d) and (e) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has notified that two exchanges were already corporatised and demutualised. It has also notified the orders approving the corporatisation and demutualization schemes of 19 other stock exchanges. These notifications are available on its website (www.sebi.gov.in).

World Bank Report Poll Expenses

3544. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK :
SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL :

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

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the World Bank report to the effect that the limits on poll expenses fixed for legislative and Parliamentary elections have proved futile;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether electoral reforms have been mooted to ensure free and fair election and to control expenditure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) The World Bank has clarified that there is no World Bank Report on the subject of election expenditures on India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties.

Commercial Space by HUDCO

3545. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the built up commercial space developed by Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) in Delhi have not been utilised/auctioned for several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has reported that 37% of space in August Kranti Bhavan at Bhikaji Cama Place is still in the possession of HUDCO as no response was received to the open bid invited in April, 2006 for disposal of the same. Action has been initiated for re-auctioning/re-tendering of the said area. In addition, 9 Guest Houses and Hotel Sites at Andrews Ganj are still in the possession of HUDCO due to litigation.

Destruction of Buildings in Tsunami

3546. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the approximate number of buildings destroyed in the country in Tsunami of December 26, 2004 with CRZ violations, State/UT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Development of Cities

3547. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any plan to develop Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad on the lines of Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No, Sir. However, Government of India has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 in select 63 cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kolkata, Hyderabad to provide reforms linked central assistance for development of infrastructure like Water supply, Sewerage, Transport, Roads and Strom Water Drainage etc. to make Indian Cities more livable and people friendly. Central assistance of Rs. 50,000 crore has been earmarked for JNNURM for the Mission period of seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allotment of Land for Community Halls

3548.DR. RAJESH MISHRA :
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Banquet Halls are being operated on several places in Delhi on the land allotted by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for constructing Community Halls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Development Authority has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

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

(e) the action taken by the DDA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (e) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that it has allotted land for the purpose of Community Halls which can be used for social and cultural activities. However, if any Community Hall is found being used for commercial activities like Banquet Hall etc. action for determination of its lease is taken after an enquiry.

DDA has further reported that after enquiry it has recently determined the lease of two Community Halls for being misused for commercial activity.

[English]

Banking Facilities

3549.SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide banking facilities, including A.T.M. facility at the post offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) With the objective of ensuring greater financial inclusion and increasing the outreach of the banking sector, guidelines have been issued by RBI to enable banks to use the services of Post Offices as 'Business Facilitators and Correspondents' for providing facilitation services. Such services may include (i) identification of borrowers and fitment of activities, (ii) collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data, (iii) creating awareness about savings and other products and education/advice on managing money and debt counseling, (iv) processing and submission of applications to banks, (v) promotion and nurturing Self Help Groups/Joint Liability Groups, (vi) post sanction monitoring, (vii) monitoring and handholding of Self Help Groups/Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups/others, and (viii) follow-up for recovery.

[Translation]

IT Form

3550.SHRI RAKESH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to make changes in Income Tax Form-2F;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the difficulties in continuing with Naya Saral; and

(d) the special advantage, if any, with Form 2F?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) There is no proposal to make any change in Form No. 2F.

(b) It is not a difficult exercise to fill Form No. 2F.

(c) The reason for not continuing with the Naya Saral (Form No.2E) are:-

(i) Since it was a one-page return form, it did not provide sufficient space to fill out the relevant details; and

(ii) It did not provide the opportunity to the taxpayers to disclose the inflow and out flow of money. In absence of such details in the return form, a taxpayer would have to be called upon to explain the transactions with are reported in Annual Information Returns (AIRs).

(d) Form No. 2F provides sufficient space to fill out the relevant details. Further, this form can be easily filled even by a person who does not have adequate knowledge of tax law as all the entries in this form have been duly explained and are cross referenced. Cash flow Statement provided in this form provides an opportunity to the taxpayers to disclose the inflow and out flow of money from which transactions reported in Annual Information Returns (AIRs) can be verified without calling upon the taxpayers to explain the same.

Release of Pending Amount under NFFWP

3551.SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has yet to pay some amount to a number of States under the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released by the Union Government;

(d) whether the Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to release the remaining amount under the NFFWP for making payment to labourers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEK HAR SAHU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Ministry had released funds to all the NFFWP States/Districts as per their allocation and entitlement under the programme.

(d) and (e) In view of the above, questions do not arise.

[English]

JNNURM

3552.DR. K.S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) details of representatives firms appointed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM);

(b) details of private consultants on the roll of Ministry;

(c) the details of project report prepared and assisted by them; and

(d) the details of fees paid to them as yet; category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Price Waterhouse Coopers Private Limited, India in association with Lea Associates South Asia Private Ltd., India and Times Research Foundation, India have been appointed by Asian Development Bank (ADB) to provide technical assistance to Ministry of Urban Development for implementation of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM).

(b) No private consultant is on the roll of the Ministry for JNNURM.

(c) Nil.

(d) No fee is to be paid by the Ministry to firms appointed by ADB.

[Translation]

Water Supply from Sonia Vihar Water Plant

3553. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether water supply to South Delhi and East Delhi from Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant has commenced;

(b) if so, the details the colonies of South and East Delhi where water is being supplied from this plant;

(c) whether it is proposed to supply water to Mayur Vihar Phase-III colony of Delhi Development Authority from the said water treatment plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the supply of water to Mayur Vihar Phase-III is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) (a) and (b) : The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that the water supply from Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant to South Delhi and East Delhi has commenced in the following colonies:—

South Delhi:

Okhla, Maharani Bagh, Friends Colony, Taimoor Nagar, Ashram, Jangpura, Bhogal, Siddharth Extension, Siddharth Enclave, Klokari village and adjoining areas, Srinwasपुरी, Sarita Vihar, Greater Kailash-I/II, Alaknanda group of colonies, East of Kailash, Garhi, Kailash Hills, Defence Colony, CGO Complex, Pragati Vihar Hostel, NDSE-III, Kotta Mubarakpur, Lajpat Nagar, Nehru Nagar, Sunlight Colony, Kalkaji, C.R. Park, Govindपुरी, Giri Nagar, Masjid Moth, Chirag Delhi, Savitri Nagar, Sheikh Sarai, Dakshin Puri, Madangir, Lado Sarai, Sadiq Nagar, Mehrauli, Saket, Malviya Nagar, Shivalik, Geetanjali, Navjeevan Vihar, Sarvodaya Enclave, Adchini, Vijay Mandai Enclave,

Panchsheel Park, Panchsheel Enclave, Soami Nagar, MMTC and STC Colony, Gulmohar Park, Udai Park, Neeti Bagh, Anand Lok, Andrews Ganj, May Fair Garden, Asiad Village, Shahpur Jat Village, Munirka, Munirka Vihar, Green Park, Safdarjang Development Area, Neb Sarai, Ber Sarai, Katwaria Sarai, Mehrauli, Vasant Runj, Kishangarh and Masoodpur Village.

East Delhi:

Bharm Puri X Block, Brahtn Puri, E, F, G and H, Gautatn Puri, Shastri Park.

(c) and (d) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that Mayur Vihar Phase-III could be supplied water from the Sonia Vihar Water Treatment Plant, by the end of March, 2007, after the water supply network is made functional by the DDA.

Plea Bargaining

3554. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the concept of 'Plea Bargaining' i.e. for speedy disposal of cases and relief to accused;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (c) Necessary provision relating to "Plea Bargaining" has already been introduced in the Criminal Justice System vide addition of a new Chapter XXI A in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, in this regard.

Foreign Donations in Speculative Markets

3555. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether amount received as foreign contribution can be invested in the speculative market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The foreign contribution received is to be utilized for definite stated objectives for which it is received.

IT Exemption of Cultural Foundation

3556.SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Vedanta Cultural Foundation, Mumbai was granted tax exemption under section 35(i)(iii) of the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Foundation had applied for renewal of this tax exemption;

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

(e) the reasons for delay in renewal of tax exemption and the time by which this exemption is likely to be granted to the Foundation?

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

(b) Approval under section 35(1)(iii) of the I.T. Act, 1961 to Vedanta Cultural Foundation, Mumbai was granted for the period from 01.08.2003 to 31.03.2006 vide notification dated 14.11.2003.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The foundation applied for renewal of approval on 15.05.2006 in the office of DIT (Exemption), Mumbai.

(e) There is no unreasonable delay in processing of the application as it was filed only on 15.05.2006. The applicant was required to furnish the application in the prescribed Form 3CF which was submitted on 15.06.2006. Thereafter, certain queries were raised and the reply of the applicant is under examination by the DIT (Exemption), Mumbai. After the report is received from the field authorities, the case shall be put up for consideration of the prescribed authority, i.e. the Central Government.

[Translation]

Quality of BPO Industry

3557.SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposes to conduct national level examination for jobs in the business process outsourcing (BPO) or call centres;

(b) if so, whether any institution/university is being authorised to conduct national level examination for B.P.O.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Construction of Shopping Mall

3558.SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether shopping malls are operating without mandatory completion certificate issued by MCD/DDA in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against all such malls;

(c) whether proper fire safety and other safety measures have not been taken by these malls;

(d) if so, the action taken by the authorities concerned in the matter; and

(e) the number of persons killed in these malls during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that it has not accorded sanction for construction of

Shopping Malls, although sanction for construction of 3 commercial complexes was granted in 2005-06. MCD has further informed that it is mandatory on the part of the owner to obtain Occupancy/Completion Certificate before occupying the building. Occupation of the building without Occupancy/Completion Certificate is liable for action as per provisions of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act (DMC Act).

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that no shopping mall is known to have started operation without Occupancy/Completion Certificate.

(c) and (d) MCD has reported that Occupancy/Completion Certificate are granted only after obtaining the mandatory clearance certificate from Delhi Fire Service, wherever applicable.

(e) Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that during the last two years no fatal casualty has been reported in malls due to fire.

[Translation]

Unemployment

3559. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :
SHRI. RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has formulated any scheme to reduce unemployment to tackle the problem of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the target fixed under the said scheme; and

(d) the number of unemployed youths likely to get employment through the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (d) In order to ameliorate the living conditions of the urban poor and to focus on the employment generation among the urban poor in the

country, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is already implementing an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation Scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997. The Scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have not studied beyond 9th standard and, secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

During the Tenth Plan period, under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, targets of assisting 4 lakh urban poor, including unemployed urban youth, in setting up micro/group enterprises and imparting skill training to 5 lakh urban poor have been fixed.

[English]

Allotment of Land/Space to Residents Welfare Associations

3560. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has any policy to allot space/land for office of the Residents Welfare Associations of DDA developed colonies/group housing societies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received by DDA under this policy during the last three years;

(d) the details of DDA developed colonies/group housing societies which have been allotted space/land for this purpose;

(e) the number of cases pending with DDA as on date; and

(f) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that, as per policy, the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) registered with it under the provisions of the Delhi Development Authority (Management and Disposal of Housing Estates) Regulations, 1968 are allotted plots/built up space, subject to availability.

(c) During the last 3 years, DDA has received proposals from 5 RWAs.

(d) The details of 12 RWAs which have been allotted space/land by DDA are given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) DDA has further informed, that in 5 cases, land/build up space could not be allotted due to various reasons such as non-eligibility, non-availability of plots/built up space etc. No time frame can be fixed in this regard.

Statement

List of Resident Welfare Associations allotted land/ space for office/community hall by DDA

1. Resident Welfare Association, Hauz Khas, SFS Flats
2. Resident Welfare Association, Munirka, Ph. II
3. Resident Welfare Association, Munirka SPS Flats
4. Resident Welfare Association, C-3, MIG Flats, Keshav Puram
5. Resident Welfare Association, MIG Flats, Chitrakut, East of Loni Road
6. Resident Welfare Association, H-Block, Saket
7. Resident Welfare Association, G-8 Area, Rajouri Garden
8. Resident Welfare Association, Kailash Kunj, Greater Kailash
9. Resident Welfare Association, K.C. Block (MIG), Ashok Vihar, Ph. I

10. Resident Welfare Association, K.D. Block (MIG), Ashok Vihar, Ph. II

11. Resident Welfare Association, GH-13, SFS, Paschim Vihar

12. Resident Welfare Association, Asian Games Village Complex

Water Charges

3561.SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has charged different rates for the water supplied through water tankers in the same areas;

(b) if so, the reason for such discrimination in the same area while the Delhi Jal Board is charging uniform water rates throughout Delhi;

(c) whether the DDA has any plan to hand over water supply in Dwarka to Delhi Jal Board; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that upto April, 2006 five housing societies in Sector-12, Dwarka were charged Rs. 125/- per tanker as a special case because these societies were not getting piped water supply due to shortage of water. However, at present there is a uniform rate of water supply through tankers @Rs. 300/- per tanker for all the housing societies in Dwarka.

(c) and (d) DDA has informed that it is pursuing the matter of handing over of water supply in Dwarka to Delhi Jal Board (DJB). DJB has taken up the matter with Government of Haryana as well as the Central Water Commission in connection with the directions from Hon'ble Supreme Court issued on 10.5.2000 in CWP No. 537/1992. In view of the above, a time frame cannot be indicated at this stage.

Sovereign Guarantee on LIC Policies

3562. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority has recommended to the Government to withdraw the sovereign guarantee to the insurance policies of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC);

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to continue with the sovereign guarantee for covers issued by LIC; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Installation of Gates

3563. DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to install grill-gates in the flats of North Avenue, South Avenue, residential premises of MPs to strengthen the security arrangements there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[English]

Central Assistance for Computerisation of Land Records

3564. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has given a project report of CMLR requesting Rs. 65.32 crore of central assistance for computerisation and updating of land records for strengthening of Revenue administration; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAH SAHU) : (a) The State Government of Kerala has submitted a project proposal costing Rs. 431.32 crore under the proposed scheme of Comprehensive Modernization of Land Records (CMLR) covering computerisation of Revenue and Registration Departments, resurvey of the State with modern survey equipments and digitisation of survey records.

(b) No decision has been taken about the scheme of CMLR.

Regularization of Services of Part-Time Workers

3565. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken regarding regularization of the services of part time sweepers/employees working in the different public sector banks to full time sweepers/employees;

(b) if so, whether all the public sector banks have implemented the decision; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) A meeting with the representatives of All India Confederation of SC/ST Organizations, National Federation of State Bank of India SC/ST Employees, All India Bank Employees' Federation and All India Grameena Bank SCs/STs Employees' Welfare Association, held under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Infra/SCT) on 12th April, 2006 in Banking Division, New Delhi to discuss issues relating to reservations for SCs/STs/OBCs in public sector banks.

It was inter-alia pointed out by the representatives of Confederation/Federation that SC/ST employees were engaged by Banks on part-time meagre wages amounting to Rs. 2000-3000 p.m., whereas regular employees of the Banks are getting handsome salary. Some of the part-time employees had been engaged 10-12 years ago and till date they are continuing as part-time, having bleak future. It was suggested that instructions may be issued to the Banks to regularize the services of SC/ST part-time employees and to make appointments only on regular basis in the future. The representatives of the Confederation/Federation were informed that the above suggestion would be forwarded to the Banks for consideration and appropriate action. The minutes of the meeting have been circulated to all the Public Sector Banks/FIs.

Implementation Report has not been asked for specifically from any bank.

Private Sector for Urban Renewal Project

3566.SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector for Urban Renewal Project;
- (b) whether the Government has received any positive response from the private sector; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) Yes, Sir. Encouraging Public Private Partnership (PPP) is an optional reform under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM),

(b) and (c) Under JNNURM projects are implemented by Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/Parastatals of the identified cities and not by the Central Government. Therefore, it is for the Cities/Parastatals to promote PPP in urban sector projects. So far Rajkot Municipal Corporation has proposed to implement one project on Solid Waste Management on PPP mode under JNNURM. The project has been approved.

[Translation]

Rohini Housing Project-1981

3567.SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Rohini Housing Project-1981 of Delhi has been completed;
- (b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed;
- (c) the number of applicants who had applied for the allotment under said project;
- (d) whether all applicants have been allotted the houses;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government has received any complaints of any scam in this project;
- (g) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (h) the actions taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (e) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has informed that out of the total of 82,384 registrants under Rohini Residential Scheme, 1981, the allotment of plots has been made to 54,707 registrants. 1820 registrants have got their registration/allotment cancelled/surrendered. The present backlog under the Scheme is 25,857. All the registrants of the scheme could not be allotted plots due to paucity of land and non-availability of infrastructure facilities. As disposal of plots is dependent on acquisition of land, no time frame can be given.

(f) DDA has further informed that no specific complaint of any scam in this Scheme has been received.

(g) and (h) Does not arise in view of reply to part (f) above.

**Non-Utilisation of Funds meant for
Rural Development**

3568. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that the funds released to the State Governments for rural development are not spent under the plan head;

(b) if so, the number of state Governments with which these funds have been lying unspent due to non utilisation of these funds under the plan head;

(c) the names of the State Governments which have not furnished utilization certificates in respect of funds under the plan head and the details of such funds; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the funds released for rural development are utilized as per the plan head?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development are implemented through the State Governments/District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs)/Zilla Parishads (ZPs). The State Governments are required to utilise the funds to the maximum extent, as per the programme guidelines. However, due to practical difficulties like natural calamities, floods, drought and elections of the public representatives, the available resources are not sometimes fully utilized. Utilization Certificates and Audit Reports in respect of funds released are required to be furnished to receive further instalment of funds.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the Programmes including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, National Level Monitors, District Level Monitoring and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/

District Level. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) People's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels. These measures are to help in maximum utilization to funds under the rural development schemes.

[English]

Fun 'N' Food Village

3569. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Government to investigate into commercial set up of Fun 'N' Food village in Delhi on the agricultural land without any sanctioned building plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that Supreme Court has not sought any probe in the matter. MCD has further reported that the premises of Fun 'N' Food village comprises of about 7 acres of land out of which 4 acres are within the 'Lal Dora' area and 3 acres are in agricultural land of village Kapashera. In so far as the construction in the portion of agricultural land is concerned, MCD has already issued a 'Show Cause Notice' under the provisions of the DMC Act.

It has also been reported by MCD that the Fun 'N' Food village was sealed as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 7.4.2006 as it is located on 80 ft. wide road. The property was later de-sealed after an affidavit was furnished by the owners as per the directions of the Monitoring Committee, appointed by the Supreme Court.

Agencies on Narcotics Control

3570. SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has more than one agencies on Narcotics control;

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

(c) the manner in which these agencies are dealing with International Narco-terrorism;

(d) whether any difficulties are being faced by them;

(e) if so, whether the government proposes to amalgamate them into a single agency; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The Government has followed a multi-agency approach to narcotics control. The Statement of Objects and Reason of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (NDPS Act) lists several deficiencies of the earlier legislations because of which the NDPS Act was enacted. One of the deficiencies listed is that many central enforcement agencies were not invested under the earlier laws with the power of enforcement. Section 41(2) and 42 of the NDPS Act authorise the central government and state governments to empower officers of any of the departments of their respective governments with the powers of search, seizure and arrest. Officers of the Customs, Central Excise, Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, Central Bureau of Investigation, Narcotics Control Bureau and Central Bureau of Narcotics have been empowered by the Central Government keeping in view the Statement of Objects and Reason of the NDPS Act, 1985.

(c) All the agencies empowered under the NDPS Act, 1985 seize drugs and arrest offenders. Information pertaining to seizure and arrests by agencies under the central and all state governments are reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) which compiles the information. NCB also shares intelligence with its counterparts in other countries. Cases having international

ramifications are also taken up by the CBI through Interpol.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise in view of (d).

Recommendations of Law Commission on Reporting by Media

3571. SHRI K.S RAO :

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has made recommendations to the Government to enact a law to prevent the media from reporting anything prejudicial to the rights of the accused in criminal cases from the time of arrest during investigation and trial;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (c) The 200th Report of the Law Commission on "Trial by Media: Free Speech and Fair Trial under Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (Amendments to the Contempt of Court Act, 1971)" is in the process of being laid before the Parliament.

Purchase of Machinery/Equipment for Government Presses

3572. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the details of machinery/equipment purchased for various Government presses during each of the last three years alongwith the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : Details of machinery/equipment purchased for various Government of India Presses during last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Name of Machine	Qty. purchased	Press-wise distribution of quantity purchased	Value of each machine (In Rupees)	Total value (In Rupees)
1	2	3	4	5
Digital Duplicator	2 Nos.	Ring Road (1) RP Bhawan (1)	6,17,032	12,34,064
Spiral Binding	1 No.	Santragachi	74,970	74,970
Spiral Binding	1 No.	Santragachi	74,970	74,970
Franking Machine	4 Nos.	Minto Road (1) Nilokheri (1) Faridabad (1) Nashik (1)	87,500	3,50,000
DTP System	79	Santragachi (6) T.S. Kol. (1) Aligarh (1) Nilokheri (2) Nashik (8) Coimbatore (6) Koratty (1) R.P. Bhawan (1) Minto Road (50) Faridabad (2)	Different rate	71,74,337
MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT PURCHASED DURING 2004-2005				
Computerize Paper Cutting Machine	3 Nos.	Ring Road (2) Koratty (1)	Different rate	27,00,000
Paper Cutting Machine (45") Guillotine	16 Nos.	Minto Road (4) Ring Road (2) R.P. Bhawan (1) Nilokheri (1) Faridabad (2) Coimbatore (1) T.S. Kolkata (2) Santragachi (3)	Different rate	1,40,00,000
Two Colour Offset Ptg. Machine	12 Nos.	Minto Road (2) Ring Road (2)	49,59,172 49,59,172	2,54,87,488

1	2	3	4	5
		Faridabad (3)	53,04,986	
		Coimbatore (1)	3,45,814	
		Nashik (2)	49,59,172	
		Santragachi (2)	49,59,172	
Single Colour A2 Size	6 Nos.	Nilokheri (1)	12,30,843	73,85,058
Offset Ptg. Machine		Nashik (2)	24,61,686	
		T.S. Kol. (1)	12,30,843	
		Santragachi (2)	24,61,686	
MACHINERY/EQUIPMENT PURCHASED DURING 2005-06				
Three Knife Trimmer	1 No.	Koratty	17,52,376	17,52,376
Wire Stitching Machine 1"	16 Nos.	Minto Road (2)	46,592	7,45,472
		Ring Road (2)		
		R.P. Bhawan (1)		
		Nilokheri (2)		
		Faridabad (4)		
		Coimbatore (1)		
		T.S. Kol (2)		
		Santragachi (2)		
Plate Processor	10 Nos.	Minto Road (2)	3,43,200	34,32,000
		Ring Road (2)		
		Nilokheri (1)		
		Aligarh (1)		
		Coimbatore (1)		
		Nashik (1)		
		T.S. Kol (1)		
		Santragachi (1)		
Book sewing Machine	2 Nos.	Minto Road (1)	2,34,000	4,88,000
		Faridabad (1)		
Automatic Folding Machine	5 Nos.	Ring Road (1)	18,80,884	94,04,420
		T.S. Kol. (2)		
		Santragachi (2)		
Printing Down Frame	12 Nos.	Minto Road (2)	1,87,200	22,46,400
		Ring Road (2)		
		Nilokheri (1)		
		Aligarh (1)		

1	2	3	4	5
		Coimbatore (1) Nashik (2) T.S. Kol (1) Santragachi (2)		
Knife Grinder	2 Nos.	Koratt (1) T.S. Kol. (1)	2,24,840	4,49,280
Gather Stitcher	2 Nos.	Koratty (1) T.S. Kol (1)	38,92,984 66,14,872	1,05,07,856
Single Colour A1 Size Offset Ptg. Machine	14 Nos.	R.P. Bhawan (1) Nilokheri (1) Faridabad (1) Aligarh (1) Nashik (6) Santragachi (4)	19,57,236	2,74,01,304
Lamination Machine	1 Nos.	Santragachi	49,808	49,608
Single Colour A1 Size Offset Ptg. Machine numbering unit	9 Nos.	Nilokheri (1) Faridabad (2) Coimbatore (1) Nashik (2) T.S. Kol. (1) Santragachi (2)	33,08,512	2,97,76,608

*[Translation]***Restriction on Registration of UCB**

3573. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- whether there is any restriction on registration of Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB);
- if so, the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government proposes to lift the restriction; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India's Annual Policy Statement, for the year 2004-05, refers to the issuance of fresh licence to

UCB Sector. It stipulates that in order to make this Sector strong, healthy and stable, fresh licences will be issued only after a comprehensive policy on UCBs, including an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the sector, is put in place.

In accordance with the announcement, any fresh proposal for organization of new UCBs or for conversion of cooperative credit societies into UCBs is to be considered only after the situation is reviewed and a fresh announcement is made by Reserve Bank of India in this regard. As a first step, in view of the regulatory co-ordination brought about through signing of MoU's with State Governments and based on the positive experience of the Task Force for Urban Cooperative Banks (TAFUCBs), it was stated in the Mid-term Review, to allow financially sound UCBs registered in States that have signed MoU with the Reserve Bank of India and those registered under

the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002 to convert existing extension counters into full fledged branches subject to certain conditions. Guidelines in this regard have been issued to UCBs on November 13, 2006.

For new branches/licences, RBI has informed that only upon completion of review of each state in regard to the progress of restructuring of UCBs, it would permit new branches/licences.

[English]

'Catch them Young' Motto

3574. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Ministry has adopted 'Catch them young' motto;
- (b) if so, the complete details thereof;
- (c) the aims objectives set to achieve from this; and
- (d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) to (d) Developing and nurturing of human resource in Science and Technology has always been on top of the Government's agenda. The Government has given prime importance to catch the students at their young age to pursue science education through innovative schemes at various levels from school to college, moving on to competitive research and R and D at the highest level.

The Government has already instituted several schemes to attract meritorious students and scientists to a career in science – from the attractive Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana scholarships at the School and College level to the Shyama Prasad Mookerjee fellowships, Swamajayanti fellowships, Ramanna Fellowships for performing scientists, young scientists projects and awards, JC Bose and Ramanujan fellowships at the research level. Events like National Children's Science Congress, International Science Olympiad are also aimed at youngsters to take up challenging and interesting areas of S and T. Through the Fund for Improvement of Science and Technology (FIST) programme and by establishing

research facilities and centers for excellence, the Government has also tried to make available competitive research infrastructure to our basic science researchers. More recently, three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been set up at Kolkata, Pune and Chandigarh, which, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

The Government, in the XI Plan is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science ions (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships.

Inclusion of Jatropha Plantation under NREGS

3575. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has suggested for giving boost to the plantation of a Jatropha so as to produce bio-diesel and thereby bring down import of petroleum products by India;
- (b) if so, whether it has also suggested inclusion of plantation of a Jatropha and production of bio-diesel as a part under National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS); and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT . (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. No suggestions have been received in the Department of Rural Development from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for giving boost to the plantation of Jatropha so as to produce bio-diesel and bring down import of petroleum products. However, in the production process of bio-diesel, the first step comprising plantation and raising of oil seeds may be taken up by the State Governments under the

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act as this is within the scope of works mentioned in schedule I of the Act.

World Bank Study on Taxes

3576. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ :
DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India has 9000 pages of IT laws as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 14, 2006;
- (b) if so, the reactions of the Government thereon;
- (c) whether complicated IT procedure lead to tax evasion; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government have issued a denial based upon which Hindustan Times published the following in their edition dated 28-11-2006 in the column 'Letters to Editor':

"The report India has 9,000 pages of income tax laws (November 14), appears to suggest that India has a complex income tax legislation. The report is based on a Pricewaterhouse Coopers-World Bank Study entitled 'Paying taxes, the global picture'. On page 16 of the study, the number of pages of primary tax legislation in India is shown as 9,000. On page 17, the study states India has the most number of pages of primary federal tax legislation, at 9,000. It clearly refers to all central tax legislations and not just income tax."

The HT report suggests that all the 9,000 pages relate only to income tax law. The report is incorrect and against public interest.

(c) and (d) Yes, complicated income-tax procedures encourages tax evasion and avoidance. Therefore, Government had set-up an expert Group to prepare a draft for new simplified Income-tax Code. The Group has submitted its report on 08-09-2006. The Report is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Cut in Government Spending

3577. SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of cut in government spending as a result of fiscal consolidation the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government has made available funds for investment in key sectors; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) to (c) In order to allocate higher resources for key sectors, the Government has followed a two pronged approach. On the one hand, revenue mobilization has been enhanced through reasonable rates, better compliance and widening of the tax base. As a result of this, the gross tax - GDP ratio has gone up from 9.2% in 2003-04 to 11.2% in 2006-07 (Budget Estimates).

Simultaneously, the Government has contained the growth of Non-Plan Expenditure in 2006-07 to 5.5%, one of the smallest in recent years. This has resulted in increase in Plan Expenditure during 2006-07 by 20.4%. This has enabled us to allocate an additional Rs. 15,088 crores for eight Flagship Programmes. These are:

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission.

The details of trends in expenditure under different categories of expenditure are given in Annexure 3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 of the Expenditure Budget Vol.1 presented with Budget 2006-07. The trends show significant improvement in the allocation of resources for development and investment.

[English]

Siphoning Funds Abroad

3578. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether case of siphoning and laundering of funds out of India through Trusts registered abroad have come to notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to hold investigation into the whole affairs and take action against these trusts/companies; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The concerned agencies of this Ministry have no information on cases of siphoning and laundering of funds out of India through Trusts registered abroad.

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

Issue of Pass Book

3579.SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made it compulsory to issue the pass books and monthly statements to saving bank account holders free of cost by all the banks working in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some banks are reluctant to obey the order of RBI;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Indian Bank Association has approached to RBI for relaxation in the matter; and

(f) if so, the reaction of RBI thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI), vide its guidelines dated October 4, 2006, has advised all scheduled commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks) to invariably offer pass book facility to all its savings bank account holders (Individuals). In case the bank offers the facility of sending statement of account, and the customer chooses to get this

statement, the bank must issue a monthly statement of account. The banks have also been advised that the cost of providing such pass book or statements should not be charged to the customer.

(c) to (f) In view of most banks moving to Core Banking platform wherein customers have the convenience of round-the-clock banking services through ATMs, phone banking, Net Banking, etc., Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has requested RBI to review the aforesaid instructions. RBI is examining the issues raised by IBA.

Urban Village

3580.SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of urban villages in Delhi;

(b) the definition of urban village particularly in context of Delhi;

(c) the facilities/concessions being provided to such villages; and

(d) the rules and regulations regarding construction of houses in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that villages are notified as urban under section 507 of DMC Act. MCD has also informed that there are 135 urban villages that have been so notified.

(c) MCD has reported that development works like providing roads, drains, pavements (including their improvement) and upgradation and improvement of parks are carried out by it in respect of such villages. Facilities like community hall, milk-booth, barat ghar etc. are provided as per redevelopment plan.

Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that for villages falling under DDA projects, it has undertaken a scheme for providing civic amenities and facilities.

(d) MCD has further reported that the Building activities in urban villages come under the purview of MPD 2001/Zonal Plan Regulation and concerned redevelopment plan of village/building bye-laws. Hence, approval of building plans by MCD is a pre-requisite for construction

in these villages. Development charges are also levied at the time of sanction of building plans @ Rs. 15/- per sqm.

Interest on IT Refund

3581. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has refunded huge sums of money together with interest thereon during the last three years;

(b) if so, the amount refunded and the interest paid thereon; and

(c) action taken against the authorities for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Sir, Raising of demand or granting of refund to an assessee consequent to assessment in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is a continuous process of the Income Tax Department. Refund and interest thereon is paid to the assessee in accordance with the provisions of Income Tax Act, 1961.

(b) The details of total amount of refund and interest paid thereon to the assessee for the last three years are as follows:—

Financial Year	Total amount of refund to the assessee (In Rupees crore)	Interest paid to the assessee (In Rupees crore)
2003-2004	25737	4701
2004-2005	28514	3865
2005-2006	29435	4553

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

[Translation]

Investigation by CBI against DDA Officials

3582. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officials in the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) against whom CBI is conducting investigation at present;

(b) the number of DDA officials against whom

charge-sheets have been filed during the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check corruption in DDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) and (b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that they are investigating two cases involving Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials and it has filed charge-sheets against 16 officials of DDA, during the period 2004 to till date.

(c) DDA has reported that it has taken various steps like dissemination of information, setting up of facilitation centres, appointment of counsellors, launching interactive website, providing easy public access to its senior officers, publication of hand books etc. to enhance transparency in its functioning and check corruption.

[English]

Special Projects under SGSY

3583. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned three special projects under SGSY;

(b) if so, the salient features of the projects and the districts in which they are being implemented;

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be implemented fully; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Union Government has sanctioned and released first instalment of funds for 24 Special Projects under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) during the current financial year 2006-2007. Details of these 24 special projects sanctioned in various sectors which inter-alia include Agriculture and Land Development, Garments, Bamboo, Forestry, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Handicraft, Coir and Coconut, Dairy Development, Cattle Development, Sericulture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Projects Sanctioned in 2006-07 under SGSY Special Projects (As on 12.12.2006)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State	Sector	Implementing Agency	Period in which Project Sanctioned	Project Period	Total Project Cost
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Project for Enhancement of Livelihood Option to the Turmeric Growers by Providing Technical and Marketing Technologies through Common Facility Centres at Nizamabad	Andhra Pradesh	Agriculture and Land Development	DRDA, Nizamabad	2006-07	3	1383.350
2.	Income Generation of Rural Poor Women through Garment Manufacturing and Textile Processing, Vijayanagaram	Andhra Pradesh	Garments	DRDA, Vizianagaram	2006-07	3	1216.320
3.	Project for Bamboo Stick Plants at Yealling Village in Tezu CD, Lohit District	Arunachal Pradesh	Bamboo	DRDA, Lohit	2006-07	2	95.800
4.	Entrepreneurship Development in Agriculture practices with Support Services of Agri and Marketing Extension in 6 Districts of Assam	Assam	Agriculture and Land Development	SIRD, Assam	2006-07	2	1500.000
5.	Lac Cultivation in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh	Forestry	DRDA, Raigarh	2006-07	3	487.630

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
6.	Special Project for Lift-Irrigation, Fishery and Dairy Development in Premnagar and Balrampur Blocks of Serguja District	Chhattisgarh	Multiple Sector	DRDA, Serguja	2006-07	3	1215.990
7.	Special Project for Horticulture Development Mahasamund	Chhattisgarh	Agriculture and Land Development	DRDA, Mahasamund	2006-07	3	1395.000
8.	Special Project for Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Kanker	Chhattisgarh	Multiple Sector	DRDA, Kanker	2006-07	3	1407.890
9.	Special Project for Cultivation, Value Addition and Marketing of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants for Rural Upliftment, Deptt. of Biotechnology	Himachal Pradesh	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	HP Society for Promotion of Biotechnology, HP	2006-07	5	1448.350
10.	Development of New Design and Technology for Weavers of Khundi of Ranchi District, Jharkhand	Jharkhand	Handicraft	DRDA, Ranchi	2006-07	2	363.240
11.	Jenothan Project for Participatory Management of Natural Resources in Kalingaigi and Hubli blocks of Dharwad District	Karnataka	Agriculture and Land Development	DRDA, Dharwad	2006-07	3	388.32
12.	Production and Marketing of Value-added Coir and Coir Products in Kerala	Kerala	Coir and Coconut	DRDA, Alappuzha	2006-07	3	1480.000
13.	Establishment of Cattle Breeding and Dairy Farm in Amravati District	Maharashtra	Dairy Development	DRDA, Amravati	2006-07	5	1390.450
14.	Jena Samrudhhi, Hingoli District	Maharashtra	Cattle Development	DRDA, Hingoli	2006-07	5	1416.380

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15.	Poverty Alleviation of Tribal Jhumias through Integrated Community Dairy Development in Senapati District, Manipur-Revised Proposal	Manipur	Dairy Development	DRDA, Senapati	2006-07	2	134.080
16.	Aloe Vera Cultivation in NERCIMP-IFAD Villages in West Garo Hills and West Khasi Hills Districts	Meghalaya	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	DRDA, West Khasi Hills	2006-07	3	507.210
17.	Establishment of 210 Integrated Livestock Development Centres in MP	Madhya Pradesh	Cattle Development	DRDA, Bhopal	2006-07	5	1417.410
18.	Livelihood Based Development Project in Sultampur District, UP	Uttar Pradesh	Multiple Sector	BAIF and LABS	2006-07	5	1497.360
19.	Dairy Development Project, Itawa, UP	Uttar Pradesh	Dairy Development	DRDA, Etawah	2006-07	5	461.780
20.	Livelihood Based Development Project in Raebareilly District, UP	Uttar Pradesh	Multiple Sector	DRDA, Raebareilly	2006-07	5	1489.860
21.	Income Generation by Skill Development of the Tribal Gum Pickers in AP, MP, Mah, Guj and Chhattisgarh	Multiple States	Forestry	TRIFED	2006-07 (17.04.06)	2	227.200
22.	Development, Demonstration and Dissemination of Biodegradable Emulsions for Food Security and Prevention of Waste of Perishable Food Items by Extending their Shelf Life	Multiple States	Agriculture and Land Development	IIT, Delhi	2006-07	5	1118.840
23.	Development of Mulberry Sericulture in Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal	Sericulture	Central Silk Board, Bangalore	2006-07	5	757.840
24.	Floriculture in Sikkim, SIRD, Jorethang, South Sikkim	Sikkim	Agriculture and Land Development	SIRD, Sikkim	2006-07	5	695.440

Loan for Handloom Weavers

3584. SHRJ N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has decided to extend the scheme of low interest loans to handloom weavers on lines similar to those extended to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) It has been decided that Ministry of Finance in consultation with Ministry of Textiles and other stake holders shall discuss the problems relating to credit to the handloom weavers. No decision has been taken as of now.

LIC Agents

3585. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ :

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether limit for income tax rebate for all is Rs. 1 lakh while rebate for income tax for Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) agents is Rs. 5000/-;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals in regard to amendment of Gratuity Rules for calculating gratuity of LIC agents;

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

(e) whether LIC has introduced lapsation criteria which have been adversely affecting the LIC agents;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the drop out rate of agents?

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

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that as per Finance Act, 2006, in case of

individual assessee, tax on income exceeding Rs. 1 lakh is chargeable whereas the tax deduction at source (TDS) at the rate of 10% is on total commission exceeding Rs. 5000/- received by LIC agent. The threshold limit of Rs. 5000/- in respect of TDS from commission paid to insurance agent was fixed as per provisions of the Finance Act, 1987 w.e.f. 01.06.1987.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) LIC have informed that the lapsation criteria was introduced in the revised Club Membership Rules w.e.f. 1.4.2001. The clause does not adversely affect the LIC Agents. In case, the policy lapsation ratio of particular agent exceeds 15%, his Club Membership is cancelled. But all other benefits which, inter alia, include commission, term assurance and gratuity are paid continuously to the agent. The drop out rate of the agents was 17.52% in the year 2004-05, it has been successfully brought down to 15.72% in the year ending on 31.03.2006.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Power Project

3586. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some differences have arisen on the proposed site identified by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the setting up of Ultra Mega Power Project in the State;

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

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) There is no difference of opinion between Government of Tamil Nadu and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) with regard to locating a Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) at suitable location in Tamil Nadu. Availability of suitable port with adequate capacity to handle coal is the pre-requisite for finalization of site. CEA and State authorities are jointly working for identification of feasible site keeping this requirement in mind.

Intellectual Property Rights for Scientists

3587.SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new UD type legislation to promote innovation and flexibility in the country's universities where scientists would be given ownership of intellectual property for the first time for their inventions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this decision will be beneficial for universities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.

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

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

Manufacturing of Power Plant Equipments

3588.SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has any plans to manufacture power plant equipments in collaboration with other public sector undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress so far made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : (a) to (c) NTPC exploring the possibility of entering into a strategic partnership with Transformers and Electricals Kerala Ltd. (TELK), a Government of Kerala owned Public Sector Undertaking engaged in manufacturing of transformer and allied electric equipment and services related thereto. In this regard, an Expression of Interest has been signed with TELK on 18th August 2006. A joint working group, comprising representatives from NTPC, TELK and Government of Kerala has been constituted to carryout the due-diligence.

Violation of Master Plan, Delhi

3589.SHRI SUBRATA BOSE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cases of violation of Master Plan Delhi have come to the notice of the Delhi Development Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN) : (a) to (c) Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has reported that on detection of cases of violation of Master Plan, Show Cause Notices are issued under section 29(2) of Delhi Development Act, 1957. Prosecution is launched in the designated court of Metropolitan Magistrate on the basis of the reply received to the Show Cause Notices and other relevant evidence. In the year 2005-2006. DDA had launched 405 prosecution cases in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate.

BSUP Programme

3590.SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the aims and objectives of Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) programme;

(b) whether some cities/towns have been identified under BSUP programme;

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

(d) the criteria adopted in selecting the cities/towns; and

(e) the plans of the Government to expand this programme to other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) The aims and objectives of the Basic Services to Urban Poor (BSUP) are, interalia, as follows:--

- Focused attention to integrated development of basic services to the urban poor.
- Security of tenure at affordable price, improved housing, water supply, sanitation.
- Convergence of services in the education, health and social security sector.
- To provide housing near the place of occupation of the urban poor, to the extent possible.
- Effective linkage between asset creation and asset management to ensure efficiency in maintenance of Basic Services to the urban poor.
- Scaling up delivery of civic amenities and provision of utilities with emphasis on universal access to urban poor.
- Ensuring adequate investment of funds to fulfill deficiencies in the basic services to the urban poor.

(b) and (c) 63 cities/towns have been identified under BSUP. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) to (e) Keeping in view the paucity of resources and administrative constraints in taking up all cities and towns under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP), only 63 selected cities have been taken up, as per norms/criteria as under:-

Category	Number
A Cities with 4 million plus population as per 2001 census population	: 7
B Cities with 1 million plus but less than 4 million population	: 28
C Selected cities (State Capitales and other cities/Urban Agglomerations of religious/historic and touristic importance.	: 28

In all other towns/cities in the country, the integrated

Housing and Slum Development Programme (HSDP) is implemented.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the City/Town/UA (Category under JNNURM)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad (a) Vijayawada (b) Visakhapatnam (b)
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar (c)
3.	Assam	Guwahati (c)
4.	Bihar	Bodh Gaya (c) Patna (b)
5.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur (c)
6.	Goa	Panaji (c)
7.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad (a) Rajkot (b) Surat (b) Vadodara (b)
8.	Haryana	Faridabad (b)
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (c)
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu (c) Srinagar (c)
11.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad (b) Jamshedpur (b) Ranchi (c)
12.	Karnataka	Banglore (a) Mysore (c)
13.	Kerala	Cochin (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c)
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal (b) Indore (b) Jabalpur (b) Ujjain (c)

1	2	3
15. Maharashtra		Greater Murabai (a) Napur (b) Nanded (c) Nashik (b) Pune (b)
16. Manipur		Imphal (c)
17. Meghalaya		Shillong (c)
18. Mizoram		Aizawal (c)
19. Nagaland		Kohima (c)
20. Orissa		Bhubaneswar (c) Puri (c)
21. Punjab		Atritsar (b) Ludhiana (b)
22. Rajasthan		Ajmer-Pushkar (c) Jaipur (b)
23. Sikkim		Gangtok (c)
24. Tamil Nadu		Chennai (a) Coimbatore (b) Madurai (b)
25. Tripura		Agartala (c)
26. Uttaranchal		Dehradun (c) Haridwar (c) Nainital (c)
27. Uttar Pradesh		Agra (b) Allahabad (b) Kanpur (b) Lucknow (b) Mathura (b) Meerut (b) Varanasi (b)
28. West Bengal		Asansol (b) Kolkata (a)
29. Delhi		Delhi (a)

1	2	3
30. Pondicherry		Pondicherry (c)
31. Chandigarh		Chandigarh (c)

[Translation]

NABARD Scheme for Rural Artisan

3591. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (NABARD) has formulated any scheme for rural artisans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to the State under various schemes by NABARD since 2003-04 till date; and

(d) the number of people benefited under this scheme during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. NABARD has introduced various schemes for the benefit of rural artisans. The schemes currently in operation are:-

- (i) Cluster Development Programme
- (ii) Rural Entrepreneurship Development Programme
- (iii) Skill Development Initiatives
- (iv) Rural Mart Scheme
- (v) Marketing Support
- (vi) Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme (SCC)

Out of the above, except Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme, all the other schemes are implemented as grant based and implemented through Non Government Organisations, Training Establishments, Development Organisations, etc. Swarojgar credit Card is a credit product and is being implemented by banks.

Under National Programme for Rural Industrialisation (NPRI), NABARD has identified 65 Rural Clusters for development and implementation is in progress in 55 clusters in 17 states and 16000 (approx.) beneficiaries are covered. Further, State-wise list of clusters promoted under NPRI is at Statement-I enclosed.

As on 31st March 2006, Rs. 18.35 lakh has been sanctioned to Self Help Groups for setting up the Rural Marts and Rs. 0.84 lakh to NGOs for facilitating for setting up of 19 Rural Marts in 6 States. During 2005-06, a total

sum of Rs. 2.76 lakh was released supporting 11 Rural Marts in 3 states, viz. Punjab and Haryana (9), Orissa (1) and Rajasthan (1).

As on 31st March, 2006, a cumulative amount of Rs. 63.60 lakh was sanctioned for supporting 27 Rural haats across 12 states. Out of 27 Rural Haats 13 haats have become operational.

The details of implementation of SCC State-wise and bank-wise is at Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

NABARD adopted clusters under NPRI as on 31 march 2004

Sl. No.	State	No. of clusters	Activity	Location	Amount sanctioned as grant/RFA (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	Idol making	Mangalam, Chittoor district	47437
			Brass and Bell metal craft	Saravakota, Srikakulam district	217127
			Imitation jewellery	Machilipatnam, Krishna district	8329
			Idol/Memento making	Divlapalli, Mahbub Nagar district	156890
			Handloom cluster	Pochampally, Nalgonda district	64880
2.	Assam	2	Brass metal craft	Jorhat district	80000
			Cano and Bamboo cluster	Nagaon district	
3.	Bihar	2	Madhubani painting	Madhubani district	505596
			Leather craft	Biharsharif in Nalanda district	55270
4.	Gujarat	4	Bamboo and paper based	Dahod district	311800
			Leather cluster	Kharvado, Kutch district	451500
			Bandhni	Jamnagar district	600000
			Oxidised Metal Works	Rajkot, Gujarat	600000
5.	Haryana	1	Zari jutties	Rewari district	180000
6.	Jharkhand	1	Black smithy	Bhendra village, Bokaro district	314300

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Karnataka	6	Bidri craft	Bidar district	105600
			Silk weaving	Chitradurga district	19251
			Sisal fibre rope making	Kudoru, Chamrajnagar district	57000
			Leather craft	Alhad, Belgaum district	118000
			Banjara embroidery	Sandur, Bellary district	497930
			Kasuti quilt making and block	Dharwad district	24304
8.	Kerala	3	Bellmetal craft	Changanacherty, Kottayam district	347600
			Straw arts craft	Penanad, Kollam district	8216
			Kora grass cluster	Alappuzha district	
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2	Block/Batik printing	Ujjain district	32765
			Blacksmithy	Bagrozi, Jabalpur district	2435
10.	Maharashtra	4	Cashew processing	Sindhudurg district	6639876
			Ganesh idol making	Pen block, Raigad district	50178
			Palthani sarees	Yeola, Nasik District	39024
			Tassar silk	Bhandara district	3802
11.	Nagaland	1	Woodcraft making	Delzhephe village, Dimapur	69500
12.	Orissa	7	Brass and boll metal	Rengali block, Sambalpur district	888252
			Dokra casing	Angul district	302000
			Horn craft	Gjapati district	
			Terracota craft	Haldharpur block, Keonjhar district	198000
			Brass and Metal craft	Nayagarh district	
			Handloom Cluster	Nuapatna, Cuttack district	199000
			Wood craft cluster	Khairpadar Kalahandi district	
13	Punjab	1	Shoe making	Gidderbaha block, Mukthsar district	120000
14.	Rajasthan	5	Weavers cluster	Bakani block, Jhalawar district	
			Juttics making	Ismailpur village, Alwar district	369921
			Hand block printing	Akola block, Chitorgarh district	392500
			Mirror embroidery	Daily Pugal Talai, Bikaner district	10000
			Mirror Work and Embroidery	Nazalia, Barmer district	9500

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Tamil Nadu	6	Woodcraft	Kallakurichi, Villupuram district	437434
			Coconut shell craft	Kanyakumari district	207150
			Papier mache toy making	Kancheepuram district	90000
			Ceramic toys	Vindhyachalam, Cuddalore district	
			Hand Printed and Tie and Dye	Madurai district	
			Banana Based Products	Tiruchirappally district	
16.	Uttar Pradesh	4	Horn and Bone craft products	Saraitareen, Moradabad district	271788
			Wood craft	Bijnor, Nagina	107055
			Pottery cluster	Chunnar village, Mirzapur district	6172
			Pottery cluster	Khurja, Bulandshahar district	2275
17.	West Bengal	1	Handlooms	Nabadweep block, Nadia district	468559

RFA - Revolving Fund assistance.

Statement-II

*State-wise position of Swarojgar Credit Cards (SCO)
issued Cumulative as on 30 September
2006 (from inception)*

(Rs in Lakh)

State	No of SCCs Issued	Credit Limit Sanctioned
1	2	3
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	73	20.75
Andhra Pradesh	61439	37237.625
Assam	2381	631.85
Bihar	23756	17208.71
Chhattisgarh	13524	2849.98
Goa	327	392.08
Gujarat	15522	4049.8
Haryana	39357	10442.18
Himachal Pradesh	5028	1717.54
Jharkhand	6536	1570.18

1	2	3
Karnataka	50480	17713.14
Kerala	59504	46488.06
Madhya Pradesh	14765	4765.51
Maharashtra	8601	1618.34
Mizoram	95	47.1
Nagaland	4	1.19
Orissa	30746	7354.49
Punjab	14852	4673.36
Rajasthan	19816	5626.84
Tamil Nadu	20837	9017.23
Tripura	23	6.43
Uttar Pradesh	79505	25120.83
Uttaranchal	6092	1955.18
West Bengal	21876	8708.45
Grand Total	495139	209215.845

*provisional

Education Loan

12.00 hrs.

3592. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL :

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has put banking industry on guard against the under influences in the sanctioning of mandatory loans for higher education as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of students who have taken loans for higher education are unable to refund the same to the banks;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) With a view that no deserving/meritorious student is denied opportunity to pursue higher education for want of financial support, Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in consultation with Government has circulated Education Loan Scheme, 2001, which was revised in 2004, to all member banks for implementation. In order to ensure that the Scheme is implemented in letter and spirit, the Scheme provides broad guidelines to banks for operationalising the Education Loan Scheme and the implementing bank will have the discretion to make changes suiting to the convenience of the students/parents to make the scheme more customer friendly.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Vast portion of the loans under the Scheme have not yet become due for repayment.

(e) Does not arise.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited, New Shimla, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5518/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Power Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5519/2006]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rural Electrification Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rural Electrification Corporation, New Delhi, for

[Shri Sushilkumar Shinde]

the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5520/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, 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 Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5521/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for the year 2005-2006, under section 101 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5522/2006]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 100 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5523/2006]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Income Tax (14th Amendment) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 2016 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th November, 2006, under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5524/2006]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bar Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5525/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Law Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5526/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) on the pending Law Commission Report – December 2006.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5527/2006]

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Bose Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5528/2006]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5529/2006]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5530/2006]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5531/2006]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5532/2006]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5533/2006]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5534/2006]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Nainital for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

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the working of the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences, Nainital, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5535/2006]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts,

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Navi Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5536/2006]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5537/2006]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5538/2006]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Bioreources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Bioreources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5539/2006]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5540/2006]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5541/2006]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5542/2006]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5543/2006]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi for the year 2005-06.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5544/2006]

- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2005-2006 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government

of the working of the Institute of Life Sciences, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5545/2006]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Working of the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5546/2006]

- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, 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 National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5547/2006]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5548/2006]

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the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5549/2006]

- (23) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5550/2006]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Corporation Limited, Bulandshahr, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5551/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Prem Chand Gupta I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 621 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October 2006 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 557 (E) dated the 14th September, 2006 issued under Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5552/2006]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949:—
- (i) The Chartered Accountants (Election Tribunal) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 708 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2006.
- (ii) The Appellate Authority (Allowances payable to, and other terms and conditions of service of Chairperson and members and the manner of meeting expenditure of the Authority) Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 711 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5553/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Company Secretaries (election Tribunal) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2006 under sub-section (4) of section 39 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5554/2006]

- (4) A copy of the Cost and Works Accountants (Election Tribunal) Rules, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 710 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2006 under sub-section (5) of section 39 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5555/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) :

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Swaran Singh National Institute of Renewable Energy, Kapurthala, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5556/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5557/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Coal India Limited, Kolkata, and its subsidiaries for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Coal India Limited, Kolkata, and its subsidiaries for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library. See No. LT 5558/2006)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
- (i) S.O. 2061 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st December, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT) dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (ii) S.O. 2032 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (iii) S.O. 2033 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.
- (iv) G.S.R. 719 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2006

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together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2005-Cus.(NT) dated the 2nd May, 2005.

- (v) G.S.R. 720 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 81/2006-Cus.(NT) dated the 13th July, 2006.
- (vi) G.S.R. 721 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd November, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 81/2006-Cus.(NT) dated the 13th July, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5559/2006]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5560/2006]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5561/2006]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5562/2006]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5563/2006]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5564/2006]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5565/2006]

(3) A copy of the Draft Notification No. F.NO. 11/30/2004 BOA (Hindi and English versions) declaring the provisions of sections 13 and 15(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 shall not apply to Indian Bank for a period of five years, issued under sub-section (2) of section 53 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5566/2006]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980:-

(i) The Vijaya Bank Officers' Service Amendment Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. PER/PA and PD/5244/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2006.

(ii) The Corporation Bank (Officers') Service Amendment Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. 146 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5567/2006]

(5) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution:-

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India – Union Government (No. 9 of 2006) (Non tax receipts) – for the year ended March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5568/2006]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India – Union Government (Civil) –(No. 20 of 2006) (Performance Audit)—Performance Audit of Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation – for the year ended March, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5568A/2006]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

(i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for holding inquiry and imposing penalties by adjudicating officer) Amendment Rules, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 1961 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2006.

(ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Portfolio Managers) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. S.O. 2053 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th November, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5569/2006]

(7) A copy of the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 535 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2006, under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5570/2006]

12.01 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Minutes

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-first to Twenty-fourth sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the Eighth and Ninth sessions.

12.01¼ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES**

Fifteenth Report

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances regarding requests for dropping of assurances.

12.01½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English Versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

- (1) Sixteenth Report on 'Special Contingency Policies on Mobile Handsets by Insurance Companies' – Based on Chapter X of C and AG Report (Commercial) No.4 of 2005.
- (2) Seventeenth Report on 'GAIL (India) Limited'.

12.01¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES**

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Fifth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.02 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES**

Statements

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources contained in their Second and Fourth Reports (Fourteenth Lok Sabha).

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Seventy-ninth and Eightieth Reports

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:—

- (1) 79th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its Seventy-second Report on the Problems of Coffee Growers; and

- (2) 80th Report on the Functioning of the Spices Board.

12.02½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

One Hundred and Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred and Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on 'Functioning and Performance of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited'.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of Standing Committee on Urban Development on Demands for Grants (2006-07) pertaining to the Ministry of Urban Development

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (Shri Ajay Maken) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of the direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, which reads as under:—

"The Minister concerned shall make once in six months a statement in that House regarding the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Reports of Departmentally Related Standing Committee of Lok Sabha with regard to his Ministry."

I would like to inform for the benefit of the hon. Members of the House that the 14th Report of the Standing

* Laid on the Table of the House and also placed in Library.
See No. LT 5571/2006.

Committee of the 14th Lok Sabha on Urban Development was presented to Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006. The Report contains 19 recommendations. Latest status of Action Taken by the Government has been indicated against each recommendation in the enclosed statement. Action Taken Notes on these recommendations as prevailing in August, 2006 were sent by the Ministry of Urban Development to the Standing Committee on Urban Development on 28th August, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Members that in respect of 19 recommendations, which have been accepted by the Government, further follow up action wherever necessary will be taken.

The Annexure to this statement is placed on the Table of the House.

12.03½ hrs.

- (ii) Status of Implementation of the recommendations contained in the 155th Report of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to the Department of Science and Technology

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Fifty-fifth (155th) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests laid their One Hundred Fifty-fifth (155th) Report on 18th May, 2006 in the Lok Sabha. In

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 5572/2006.

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all, there were 13 recommendations in the 155th Report of the Committee. Action taken on these recommendations was reported to the Committee. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended annexure.

12.04 hrs.

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel pertaining to the Ministry of Coal

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha parliamentary Bulletin Part-II, dated September 1, 2004.

The Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 22.03.2006. Action Taken statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 13.06.2006.

There are 15 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like manpower planning utilization of surplus manpower, filling up of Board level post, Pension Scheme, Voluntary Retirement Scheme, training, procurement and utilization of HEMM and outsourcing in Coal India Limited.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in

*Laid on the Table of the House and also placed in Library.
See No. LT 5573/2006.

the annexure to my statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.05 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the remaining part of the Session will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:-
 - (a) The Sikkim University Bill, 2006;
 - (b) The Tripura University Bill, 2006; and
 - (c) The Rajiv Gandhi University Bill, 2006.
3. Consideration and passing of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2006.
4. Consideration and passing of the Prevention of Child Marriage Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
5. Consideration and passing of the Administrative Tribunals (Second Amendment) Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara) : Sir, the following two items may be included for discussion in the House during the next week:-

- (1) Need for introduction of Bill for 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies.

- (2) Need for introduction of Pension Scheme for farmers who have attained 60 years of age.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) The decision of the Government to ban Al Jazeera and Al Akbar, the well known TV and Radio Channels from transmitting in India, an action which is inconsistent with our independent Foreign Policy.
- (2) To discuss the policy of the Centre not giving Freedom Fighter Pension to hundreds of old patriots who applied for it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Bhojpuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution to protect the prestige and self-respect of 22 crore Bhojpuri speaking people in the country and abroad.
- (2) An expert committee should be constituted for the regulation of fees to exercise check over the Government and private and educational institutions of the country that charge arbitrary fees from primary to higher education level.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following two items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) To allot surplus land to the landless people of poor and dalit community of the country for agriculture purpose so as to enable them to have shelter and means of livelihood by bringing required amendment in the Forest Conservation Act.
- (2) To provide remunerative price of crops to farmers by constituting high level committee for reforms in agriculture and related economic sectors.

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV (Secundrabad) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) To provide metro railway facility in Hyderabad so that the people in Hyderabad may get travelling facility and may save their travelling time.
- (2) To make Hyderabad a one city so that software and hardware business of the city may be uplifted to the international level.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) There is a National Highway that passes through Nepal, Gorakhpur, Deoria, Bhagalpur, Sikandarpur and Baxar. The stretch of the above National Highway falling in Uttar Pradesh has not yet been completed. In public interest the said work should be completed at the earliest.
- (2) The highway from Bhatpara, Bhingari, Bhawani Chhapra to Bihar which has been declared as a national highway should be opened to traffic.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur) : Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:-

- (1) The caste like Namasudra, Pandra and Malo are Scheduled Castes in West Bengal and other States but Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal States have not provided these castes as Scheduled Caste specially the migrated people during partition.
- (2) The atrocities of Police, specially at Karolbagh in Delhi and the harassment of the Bengali goldsmiths when they are leaving their workshops at night. They are being charged by the police to give them gold. Otherwise, they are harassed either in the lock up or penalty is charged.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai) : Sir, the following items may be added in the next week's agenda:-

- (1) Providing social security and rehabilitation to unorganized artisans and toy-makers who make things for children.
- (2) Identify and encourage the self-styled traditional gymnasts and train from among them potential athletics and trainers much needed for the country.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Women's Reservation Bill as this is a very important issue, on which there is consensus among major political Parties.
2. Establishment of a Uranium processing unit at Seripally village, Nalgonda District, A.P. against the public opinion that will contaminate the Nagarjunasagar water.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's List of Business:-

1. Need to provide reservation for SC, ST and OBC in higher Judicial Services.
2. Need to provide reservation for SC, ST and OBC women while giving reservation to women in Parliament and Assemblies.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, hon. Minister, do you wish to say anything?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I may submit to the House that in view of an urgency to pass an important legislation, the Forest Rights Bill, I propose this to the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Malhotra, please listen to him. You have to respond to him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I did have a consultation with the Parties. Though I say officially, I assure you that it should not be treated as a precedent. Can we defer today's Private Members Business upto 6 p.m. to facilitate the passage of the Forest Rights Bill? It is a very important Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to know your views.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have any objection to the passage of This Bill today and the proposal given by the Hon. Minister to prepone it is alright, however it is a very irregular way.

[English]

We have not received the amendments.

MR. SPEAKER : You are right.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I want to make a submission.

[Translation]

The Bill has not been circulated even today. It should have been circulated. We have not received the recommendations from the Standing Committee and the previous Bill. We are not even aware of the amendments to be made. We cannot suggest amendments in the proposed amendments. So, it is an irregular way, however since it is an important Bill, we also want it to be passed.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you that this will not be treated as a precedent. It is because all sections agree, I am permitting this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, this is a very important Bill, and we have been waiting for so many days. This Bill should be passed today.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good. All right, thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill has not yet been circulated.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill has been circulated, but listen to me.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : It has not yet been circulated. We have not yet received. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is the trouble. If the Speaker wants to say something, nobody wants to hear. Only you want me to hear your things. Sometimes, let the role be reversed. Kindly sit down.

Do you agree?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura) : I am only submitting that this suggestion of changing the time of the Private Members Business should not be taken as a precedent.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already mentioned it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Secondly, the method in which the Government is piloting the Bill is not correct. We have not received the amendments as yet. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. May I clarify the matter? All sections of the House are prepared for this Bill to be passed. That is why I allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly listen to me. Otherwise I would not have permitted this. Therefore, it should not be treated as a precedent.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, before you go to your ruling, the procedural aspect is to be seen. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am saying it. Let me finish Mr. Dasgupta.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : This Bill should be passed today itself. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Your submission is not going on record.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Only because all the House, I ascertained it earlier, wanted it to be passed and because of the importance and urgency as all of you have said, we are, sort of, deviating from the procedure, deviating from the ordinary standard of functioning in a substantial manner. I agree. Therefore, in future also there is no question of such similar facilities being allowed unless extraordinary situation arises and all sides agree.

Here, I have been informed that the Bill was circulated which was sent to the Standing Committee and the Standing Committee made certain suggestions and that the report of the Standing Committee was presented which was circulated to all the hon. Members. It may have been that it did not come to every hon. Members' notice. I am not making any grievance of that. That is why, according to the procedure, it is not submitted again. The only thing is the amendments are being circulated immediately so far as English version is concerned. Therefore, let us not take further time.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : If any Member wants to suggest amendments you may allow him as well.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we will do that.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : This Bill was passed by the Cabinet seven days ago.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Malhotraji, I have agreed with all the hon. Members about their comment about the procedure that has been adopted.

Now let us go to Item No. 21.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Sir, the Government is also to be asked not to repeat like this. The Bill is not in order. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not have to. My observations from the Chair are binding on everybody. It is binding on everybody in this country, including the Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let us take up Item No. 21. May I request, please follow the rules. There are two Calling Attention matters. There is this important Bill. There are some important matters. I wish to allow them. But please see that the rules are followed. You make some observations and seek clarifications.

Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, will the 'Zero hour' be after the Calling Attention? . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing called 'Zero hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : You are losing your 'Zero hour'. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : I will come to that later. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now this is 'working hour'.

(Interruptions)

12.19 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) Problems being faced by Bidi workers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and steps taken by the Government in this regard

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The problems being faced by Beedi workers in the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

MR. SPEAKER : I think the statement has been circulated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, our notice was not only pertaining to Kerala and Andhra Pradesh but the entire country. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Sir, the problems concerns the Ministry of Labour also.

MR. SPEAKER : He has sent it to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister of Labour and Employment should also be present. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you go on interrupting like this, then there is no point. You get rid of the Chair first.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Minister of Labour and Employment is also here. He should also take note of this.

MR. SPEAKER : Your very valuable observations are noted.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES) : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the reply of the hon. Minister can be taken to be laid on the Table of the House, instead of him reading it. I think all of you have got it.

* THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) : Sir, the bidi industry has voiced its concern on the 'The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2006' notified recently providing for printing of specified warnings of skull and cross bones and 5 pictorial warnings reflecting the ill-effects of tobacco consumption. According to them the requirement of printing of pictorial warnings on the packages of bidis are not required as smoking of bidi is less harmful as compared to other forms of tobacco and such requirement is adversely affecting the bidi industry resulting lakhs of bidi workers jobless.

I may clarify that at present around 45 per cent of total consumption in the country is in the form of bidi, with cigarette and oral tobacco accounting for around 15 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. Bidi is most often consumed by the poorer and less educated section of society including the children. Further, I may also clarify that there is no evidence to indicate that consumption of any form of tobacco is less harmful. The comparative product assay study as reported in the compilation of Research on Tobacco in India published jointly by the World Bank and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research concluded that bidi contains higher concentrations of nicotine than conventional cigarettes and it is logical to presume that bidi smokers are at risk of becoming nicotine dependent. Although bidis tend to be smaller than conventional cigarettes, they can be every bit as deadly and addictive as conventional cigarettes. Moreover, bidis tend to be smoked more intensively with more frequent puffs, thus resulting in higher actual nicotine intake and cardiovascular effect than cigarettes, as well as 2-3 times greater tar inhalation. In cohort studies, bidi

smoking has been shown to result in high excess mortality and high risk for diseases that are caused by cigarettes smoking. Bidi smoking has been associated with a threefold risk of oral cancer and studies have also shown bidi smoking to be an important cause for cardiovascular disease. There are further studies to indicate that children who work for hours sitting cross-legged making bidis often suffer from backaches and knee problems and over the long term, many develop chronic bronchitis, asthma and even T.B.

Considering these facts and also that around 50 per cent of cancer deaths are attributable to tobacco consumption, the legislation enacted in 2003, aimed mainly to discourage the consumption of tobacco products, did not make any distinction amongst various tobacco products. This Act has been formulated on the basis of the recommendations of the Department-related Parliamentary Committee on HRD which specifically recommended that besides written warning, some symbol like skull and cross bones and such other pictorial depiction may also be given specially for the convenience of illiterate or semi-literate consumers. The Committee had extensive consultations with various tobacco Industry/Associations before finalizing their recommendations. We are also one of the parties to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which aims to reduce the tobacco consumption globally by which we are to carry out number of measures including depiction of pictorial health warnings on tobacco products.

It has been projected that the Rules notified recently will have adverse impact on employment. I must clarify that there are studies to indicate that various positive public health measures such as the present one do not have any immediate economic impact on the industry, due to the addictive nature of the tobacco product and the time taken for demand reduction. On the other hand, such positive public health measures go a long way in improving the overall health and economy of the nation. Further, these Rules are yet to come into force and, therefore, it is premature to conclude that the impact of such pictorial warnings would result in closure of bidi manufacturing units and render the workers jobless.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : The Government of India has issued a notification on 5.7.2006 directing the manufacturers to depict skull, bones etc. on the bidi from 1st February, 2007. The industry owners are preparing to close all the bidi industry. About three crores of people are depending on this industry throughout the country, especially ten lakh of bidi workers working in Andhra Pradesh. Most of them are belonging to poorer sections, women belonging to S.C., S.T., Minorities and other backward classes. By this notification, if the industry is closed all will be unemployed. On the one side the Government is providing employment by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and on the other side by giving such notifications we are driving them towards unemployment.

In this scenario, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh I want to mention it here. Already the Assembly of Andhra Pradesh has passed a unanimous Resolution and informed the Government of India to withdraw the notification issued on 5.7.2006. That is why, I am humbly requesting the Government of India to please withdraw the notification in the interest of the bidi workers. Otherwise they would be put to irreparable loss. They will lose the employment.

Recently, the hon. Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has also given a statement saying that the notification will be put in abeyance and after alternative employment is provided then only this would be taken into operation. Even the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment has also given an assurance to the people of Andhra Pradesh, particularly the bidi workers that he would examine and do the needful.

In this scenario, in the interest of the bidi workers, it is better to withdraw the notification given by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Otherwise, ten lakh people will lose employment. Without giving any alternative employment, you have suddenly issued the notification. The legislation was passed in the year 2003. But you have given the notification recently. Why have they not given it earlier? They wanted to provide alternative employment and they had to take steps for protecting the workers. That

is why the previous government has delayed the issuance of the notification. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : In this scenario, you have to respect the sentiments of the people of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution. It means the eight crore people of Andhra Pradesh are interested in the withdrawal of this notification. The Government of India should withdraw the notification with immediate effect. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam just to seek a clarification only.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam) : Thank you, Sir. The bidi industry as such is promoting the habit of smoking bidi. The habit of smoking bidi is a poor man's luxury nowadays. . . .(Interruptions) In this connection, I want to put the question first not to the Minister of Health and Family Welfare but to the Minister of Labour and Employment.

There are about 42 lakh people depending on this industry. The bidi industry gets its inputs from the forests, the green *tendu* leaf is collected by the tribal women from the forests. That is the first stage of this bidi industry. The second stage is the farmers who grow tobacco. In the third phase it comes to the making of the bidi. In making the bidi also, there are so many procedures. There is no doubt that it is very injurious to health.

Would the Government propose to give some identity cards to the bidi workers? It should be only one card that should be given. They are being ignored. There are laws from 1966 or 1970. These laws are not being implemented. I want to know from the hon. Minister of Labour whether they would issue any identity cards to these workers.

The second part of my question is to the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare. In his written reply it is stated that bidi only is contributing to oral cancer much than the cigarette. The Government is getting six rupees per thousand bidis as excise duty, but on cigarettes it is getting

about Rs. 15 as excise duty on thousand cigarettes. I want to know whether this fact is leading the Government to minimize the injury by bidi. I want to know whether it is a fact that if bidi is so cancerous, in this situation why is this discouragement of showing the advertisements of skull and crossed bones etc.? That is very much threatening the people, threatening their livelihood and threatening the industry also. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether it is unreasonable to make such an advertisement; otherwise kindly withdraw it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a recommendation by the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod) : Sir, hon. Minister of Labour is also sitting here. Considering the vast majority of workers engaged in the beedi industry, whose number is in lakhs and most of whom are women, getting very low wages - I want to draw the attention of the Government and also the Ministry - will the Government take immediate steps to implement The Beedi and Cigar Act in those States where beedi industry is dominant? Will the Government consider to levy excise duty on tobacco instead of the total number of beedis produced? I want to know whether the Government will take measures to give more funds to the Beedi Welfare Fund so as to give the benefit to the workers. Will the Government consider to enhance the amount given under housing scheme from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 1 lakh.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot ask plenty of questions.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Government consider establishing hospitals for the beedi workers? The former Labour Minister had assured this House that they will start hospitals in the beedi-producing areas. Considering the unorganised character of the beedi workers, will the Government provide a special insurance scheme covering all the beedi workers, whether they are in the Government or the private sector?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there are 65 lakh beedi workers in the country. It means about four crore people are depending on this industry. We are not against telling the consumers about health hazards, but the

problem is what he has stated in the end that showing or publishing pictorial warning, with a skull and two bones crossing it, will not adversely affect the beedi industry. Already a large number of beedi industries are on the verge of closure. Thousands of beedi workers, who belong to backward community of our country and poorer section of our country, merely get Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 per day for preparing 1,000 beedis. If it is made compulsory by way of the regulation, the notification issued by the Central Government to print a pictorial warning on the packet of the beedi, this will definitely adversely affect the beedi industries and thereby, lots of beedi workers will be affected. In the State of West Bengal, there are eight lakh beedi workers in five or six districts. Their livelihood will be adversely affected. There is a demand from various sections of the people, the workers, the trade unions and even the Members of Parliament, irrespective of political parties, that instead of pictorial warning, the warning may be put in some other form.

MR. SPEAKER : You mean 'in words'.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is being done in the case of cigarette also. Such type of warning should be printed on the packet of beedi. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this proposal in the interest of lakhs and lakhs of beedi workers whose livelihood will be adversely affected because of this new regulation, new notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

MR. SPEAKER : You should not speak any more. We have a lot of work to do.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal) : According to Dr. Swaminathan, we must see the world which is called a tobacco free world. Before it, we should ensure that the people, who would have been deprived of their livelihood, are taken care of.

That is why I am not pleading for promotion of tobacco consumption either in smoking form or in smokeless form. The fact is that lakhs of tribal people who pluck kendu leaves and tendu leaves are earning their livelihood from this. You are well aware that especially the tribal dominated

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

areas are now being poached by naxalites. So, any kind of unemployment will further encourage naxal agitation in those areas. We know that our country is a signatory to World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control which aims at reducing tobacco consumption globally.

I hail from District Murshidabad which has the highest concentration of beedi workers in the West Bengal. They are about more than six lakh in number. There is no other alternative employment for those beedi rolling employees. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to adopt a phase-out manner in this regard. First we have to educate the beedi smoking people that it is injurious to health.

An agitation has been launched against tobacco consumption worldwide. But it involves lakhs and crores of poor and vulnerable people's livelihood in our country. My request to the hon. Minister is that instead of a pictorial depiction involving a skull and cross bones, or a dead body covered in coffin, the Government may consider printing of only a text warning. The shape of the beedi is conical. Therefore, it is hard for the beedi manufacturers to print this kind of an impression on the beedi packet.

May I ask the hon. Minister whether the Framework Convention has made it mandatory to depicting the impression of skull and cross bones or the dead body covered in a coffin? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called five hon. Members. But there is a request from a new Member Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury. Again, not as a precedent but by way of accommodation, I am calling him. Just put your question Mr. Khan Chowdhury.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are not a new Member. Just get rid of the idea that if anybody sends a notice I am obliged to call. Read the rules first. This is a wrong idea that is developing that anybody who gives notice would be called.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not disturb him please, he is a new Member.

SHRI ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY (Malda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of people in Malda District, about three lakh people, work in beedi industry. I am concerned about the workers. I do not understand why particularly beedi has been selected and they want to put the picture of a dead body on the beedi packet. Beedi smoking does not bring instant death. That kind of a picture will scare people away from smoking beedi. Whatever they are doing in the case of cigarette should also be done in the case of beedi also. Like 'Smoking is injurious to health', let them say that in the case of beedi also.

MR. SPEAKER : I compliment you on your maiden intervention. Now the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sorry, I would not allow.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will adjourn the House and go away. This type of disorderliness I will not permit. I will not permit, you go on shouting. There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Jayaprada, then ask for a proper discussion.

Do not record one word of this.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not disturb the House. This is very wrong. Shrimati Jayaprada, this is very wrong. I will not allow. This is a Calling Attention. No, I will not allow.

Shri Athawale, will you go back to your seat? Do not stand up and interrupt!

Nobody bothers for the rules. You can shout at any time you like without caring for the permission from the Chair. Do not make this House ridiculous, please.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : I will not give permission.

Head Master is a respectable post, it is not a bad job.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should speak Hindi; you have good command on the language.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : As the Minister of Health, I am equally concerned about the health of the citizens of the country. In my answer, I have given the percentage of people who are smoking and consuming tobacco. There are about 250 million people in India who use tobacco. When we say 250 million people, it is a huge number of people using tobacco products. Out of these 250 million people, approximately 40 to 45 per cent of them use bidi, approximately 15 per cent use cigarettes, and the rest use smokeless tobacco, that is, eating tobacco. I do not want to lecture to the hon. Members here about the problems faced due to tobacco usage because I am sure all the hon. Members know about the effects of use of it. It not only causes cancer, in fact, we have approximately one million cancer deaths in India due to tobacco usage. Tobacco not only leads to deaths, but it would also lead to heart problems, lung problems, kidney problems, skin problems, impotency, mal-formation problems; and all sorts of problems are related to tobacco.

I could go one step further, approximately 40 per cent of all the health problems in this country is due to tobacco. Such a huge problem is being faced due to the tobacco usage. Mostly youngsters, in the age group of 10 to 12 and those who are out of school, take tobacco. This includes innocent kids who are using tobacco. Definitely we need to have a structured system for us to deviate these kids from using this produce.

Way back in 2003, during the previous regime, the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 was

enacted. In that Act, it was clearly mentioned that pictorial warnings should be made mandatory in all the tobacco products. The Parliamentary Committee on HRD have also, after going through a lot of consultations with different associations, industry and everyone concerned, recommended that these mandatory warnings should be implemented.

Indian is one of the early signatories of The Framework Consultation on Tobacco Control (FCTC) by the WHO, where it is also mentioned that these things should be enforced in due course of time. Literally, a lot of countries in the world are using these pictorial warnings. Some of the hon. Members have stated that as to why we can have the wordings rather than pictorial warnings. I am sure, the hon. Members must be knowing that we have a statutory warning: Cigarette smoking is injurious to health. These words have not made any effect and the effect is miniscule and the usage of tobacco has increased. Scientifically, it does not have much meaning.

Then, the Parliamentary Committee on HRD have stated that for the literate and semi-literate, rural youths in the rural people who smoke, these pictures should deviate them from taking up this habit.

From the coming year, 2007, all the packaged food products in this country must mandatorily have the ingredients mentioned on the one side and the nutritional level value on the other side. So, people will know as to what they are eating and as to how much calories they are taking and as to what is the saturated fats. People have to know all that. This is one of the means of awareness creation for the people to deviate them from using this product.

I do not know how this pictorial warnings would definitely close the industry. This is not being enforced today. It is going to be enforced from February, 2007. I do not know as to how the industry says today that we have already closed down industry because it is not made mandatory from today. This notification is effective from 2007. Some of the issues raised by the hon. Members, who were very good friends like, Shri Yerrannaaidu, have asked for the withdrawal of notification.

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

This is in the Act, which was framed in this august House way back in 2003, which says that it should be mandatory. This Act also says that there should not be smoking in public places, there should not be direct or indirect advertisement relating to tobacco products, tobacco products should not be sold to minors under the age of 18 years and tobacco products should not be sold within 100 m of educational institutions, pictorial warnings, nicotine and tar, contents of all tobacco products should be mentioned. We have literally tried to enforce this which has already been passed in this august House.

Dr. Babu Rao talked about poor man's luxury. I do not know what statement is, poor man's luxury; is it the way to heaven or hell! Pertaining to some questions asked by hon. Members, if you permit the Labour Minister can answer to those points. He has come here for this Calling Attention only. If you permit him, Sir, he can take up some of the issues raised by the hon. Members, like, the identity card for beedi workers. My friend, Dr. Babu Rao has asked as to whether beedi is pre-cancerous. In my reply, it is clearly shown that there is no discrimination between cigarette and beedi. All are cancerous. In fact, beedis are smoked by poor, illiterate and innocent people and they tend to smoke more. Scientific studies done have clearly stated this. . . .(Interruptions)

Shri Karunakaran has raised some issues regarding Beedi Welfare Fund, housing scheme and hospitals. I am sure, my hon. colleague with your permission will reply to all that.

Shri Basudeb Acharya has said that the large Beedi industry is on the verge of closure. I would like to reiterate that this Notification has not yet been enforced. It will come into force in 2007. In fact he wanted in place of pictorial warning any other warning. I have already explained that we have a warning today that 'Cigarette smoking is injurious to health' but nobody heeds to that warning.

MR. SPEAKER : Unfortunately, like the Child Labour legislation.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : Yes, Sir. Countries like Canada, Brazil Thailand, Singapore, Australia, and European Union have enforced this and scientific study says that this has been very effective. . . .(Interruptions)

Shri Adhir Chowdhury wanted to know whether FCTC, Framework Commission of Tobacco Control is mandatory or not. As India's Secretary has mentioned that this should be in due course of time. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not question-answer session. You are very knowledgeable. Please go and meet him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not a single word will go on record without my permission.

(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS : In spite of all these details, notwithstanding, I have got a lot of representations from different parties, a lot of Members of Parliament, a lot of delegations from industry and almost all sections of industry saying that this will be a problem to the employment. Taking into consideration all these things, with your permission if all the Members agree we will try to postpone this Notification for four months. Instead of from February we can postpone it to May end. . . .(Interruptions) Only if the hon. Member accepts it. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do that I will not permit the Labour Minister to respond. He will not respond.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record a single word. No word is being recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Labour Minister may make a very brief intervention if he so wishes.

(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Sir, I am only replying to the points raised by Members. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may see, here also different views are expressed. This is not the manner in which you have to express your views. There is a limit. Five Members are allowed. As a matter of fact, a sixth Member has been allowed. We find that even the Labour Minister has volunteered to come. Listen to him. You go on having running questions and running comments.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Sir. Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam has raised the matter of issuing the identity cards to bidi workers. There is already a card but we will make a pucca system to give identity cards to the workers which can be used for a comprehensive purpose. The other welfare schemes like housing, scholarship, education, etc. we are doing everything in all the areas of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Item No.22. Shri Bhubaneswar Prasad Mehta to raise the Calling Attention Motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would not allow this.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do not record even one word.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Except Shri Mehta, nobody else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not want the second Calling Attention to be taken up, I would adjourn the House.

*Not recorded.

12.45 hrs.

(II) Situation arising out of the accident at Bhatdih Colliery of BCCL in Western Jharia resulting in loss of lives of about 50 workers and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Coal towards the following subject urgent public importance and request him to make a statement in this regard :

"Situation arising out of the accident at Bhatdih Colliery of BCCL in Western Jharia resulting in loss of lives of about 50 workers and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : Sir, a major accident occurred at Nagda mine of Bhatdih Colliery, Western Jharia Area of Bharat Coking Coal (BCCL) on 6-9-2006 at about 8.00 P.M. (II Shift), in which 50 persons died and four received reportable injuries. The accident which *prima facie* appears to be an explosion, occurred in 17th No. Incline, Mahuda bottom seam where Bord and Pillar system of mining and depillaring with sand stowing was in progress.

A loud sound was reportedly heard from the fan drift of 17th No. Incline at about 8.00 P.M. Three persons (1 Haulage Khalasi and 2 trammers) engaged at '0' level came out of the mine and were found covered with coal dust. Immediately on receipt of information about the incident, senior officials of BCCL; CMD, BCCL; CMD, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and officers from Directorate General of Mines Safety rushed to the accident site to organise and supervise rescue operations. The then Minister of Coal and Secretary (Coal) also visited the site of mine accident on 7.9.2006.

*Placed in Library. See No. LT 5575/2006.

[Dr. Dasari Narayan Rao]

Control Rooms were established at Ministry of Coal, New Delhi, Coal India Ltd. Headquarters, Kolkata, BCeL Headquarters, Ohanbad and at Moonidih mine. All 50 bodies could be located within 44 hours after clearing the mine of obnoxious and toxic gases resulting from the explosion. This could be achieved by quick response and efforts put in by rescue teams and the supervising personnel by establishing fresh air bases in the underground workings.

Soon after the accident CMD, BCCL with the approval of CMD, CIL ordered an enquiry into the accident by a High Level Committee of Senior officials comprising of CMD, Central Mines Planning Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL), Director(Tech.), CIL, Director(P and IR), eIL and Director(Tech.), CMPDI. The enquiry is in progress and the Committee has been directed to submit its report by 1-1-2007.

While there are different conjunctures regarding the accident, however, the cause of such disaster can only be ascertained after detailed enquiry. The Court of Inquiry has already been constituted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, New Delhi, vide Notification No. S.O.1756 (E) dated 12-10-2006. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within 3 months. Suitable action will be initiated based on the findings and recommendations of the enquiry reports.

I wish to state that the rescue/recovery operations and rehabilitation work including clearing of dues, payment of compensation etc., were completed in most systematic manner in a very short time. The dependents of each deceased are entitled to compensation ranging from, Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakhs. This covers payments towards ex-gratia, Life Cover, Benevolent fund, funeral expenses, compensation as per Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923 and gratuity. This also includes additional ex-gratia of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to the family of each deceased person as announced by the then Minister of Coal and Rs. One lakh to each sanctioned by the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. In addition, all ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1.00

lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned. Besides, payment of Provident Fund through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) is being disbursed. Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen has already been given (two under-aged male dependents have been kept in employment roster and their mothers have been given monetary compensation till they become major). One lady dependent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one widow will be offered employment pending genuinity of her claim.

Subsequent to the mine accident, Secretary (Coal) reviewed the safety status of coal mines and instructions have been issued to all CMDs of Coal India Limited(CIL) and its subsidiaries, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) to focus on the need to inculcate a culture of safety at all levels across all operations in the coal companies. Former Minister of Coal and myself have reviewed the safety status of coal mines of CIL, SCCL, NLC and other coal mines in private sector in the meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 17-11-2006 at New Delhi.

I would like to assure the august House that the Government and coal lignite PSUs are determined to ensure safe mining conditions.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Mr Speaker, Sir, about 50 workers were killed and 4 persons sustained serious injuries in an accident at Bhatdih colliery of BCCL in Jharia on 6th September. I myself visited the site of the accident and hon. Member, Shri Basu Deb Achariaji also visited there after me. After speaking to the workers there, we also had a word with the officials there. The locals told us that the management was apprised of it in writing by the Union several times that the colliery was not fit for use since it was not filled with sand properly. Double charges are taken for that work and then it is booked. This kind of an accident could take place any time. When the accident took place in Chaanala mine 274

workers reportedly died in it. Thereafter 64 and 50 workers died in the accident at Gazalita and Bhatdih colliery mines respectively.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this accident would not have occurred if the sand had been filled properly. The officers were given representations many at time, yet no action was taken. This accident may take place any time if the sand is not filled properly. All the Colliery accidents which have taken place till date and in all the Court of Inquiry and the Departmental enquiries instituted so far, the Director General for safety of mines has been found guilty. No action has been taken against the Director General for safety of mines. Besides, there is General Manager or the CMD, followed by the Technical officers and no action was taken against them even. Such incidents have been taking place due to this attitude. I would like to bring it to your knowledge that the CMD of BCCL has now become the Chairman, the Director (Personnel) has become the CMD and the 6 officers who were suspended have been reinstated as the Inquiry report has not been received from the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to refer to another incident. Whenever a Court of Inquiry was constituted into an accident in any colliery, it has recommended that on the basis of the enquiry and evidence it has been found that the Director General, Government of India is responsible to institute an inquiry into the incident and clarify that the mine should not be operated in this condition. Besides, the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Labour and Employment have not taken any action on any report since the year 2001 till date. Court of Inquiry has been constituted. I would quote a few lines from the findings of the Court of Enquiry which was constituted into the Bagdigi Colliery accident. I do not wish to repeat these criticisms or observations but the findings of the evidence indicate that the Directorate General, Mines safety failed in its function and duty in regard to compliance of rules and laws of mine safety.

Sir, action is always taken against the junior officers but never against a senior officer of GM. CMD and Director level. Nothing will come out of the Court of Enquiry, it is

a national calamity. Every year hundreds of workers get killed due to illegal mining. The number of underground mining in the entire Coal India is 72 but there is no monitoring. The Ministry of coal is purely engaged in the allotment of Coal Blocks whereas the officers of Coal India are busy in outsourcing and e-auction. The Court of Enquiry has not been completed and the suspended officers have been reinstated. That is why it is requested that a Committee of Lok Sabha should be constituted for its inquiry.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to go into its background. I would only ask a specific question on the reply given by the Hon. Minister. We expect the economic growth of the country, GDP to be 8 per cent. Every one knows that energy plays a pivotal role in it. Coal is the main source of energy. How much safety is there in the coal mines which are working today! The recent incident in BCCL is a telling commentary on our approach. We are not serious. I have two or three queries pertaining to the report of the Minister. They said that the incident was reported at eight o'clock. As the information given by the Hon'ble Minister, rescue operations were started after two and half hours. Was there prior information of the presence of Bed Methyl gas there? Were the officers aware of it. The Hon'ble Minister has not mentioned anything about this. He should say something in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, one who commits crime is a criminal and if he is given charge to decide on his criminality. the chances are, that justice will be threatened. There is a Director General, Mines Safety in the Department of Mines of the Government of India but he has not been mentioned even once in the report furnished by the Minister. He said that a Committee, consisting of the officers of Coal India, was constituted and CMPDI was also included in the Committee. CM also is under the Ministry of Coal. It means the alleged criminals have formed a committee to certify themselves.

What was the report of DGMS, what was their analysis I request the hon'ble Minister to please acquaint us with the contents and the conclusions of the report given by

[Shri Dharmendra Pradhan]

DGMS. As per the information which we have and what Mehtaji has told us, some lower level officers had been suspended and, subsequently, reinstated by the hon'ble Minister. Please do not sit on the court of inquiry. He may please tell us why he had reinstated them. As per my information Rs. 590 crore were sanctioned. Of that how much amount has been spent? There are large number of underground mines in the country. A case has been received by Human Rights Commission involving Mahanadi Coalfields Limited regarding Talcher and Brajraj Nagar which fall in my Parliamentary constituency. The water level is decreasing and it is badly affecting the environment. I request him to kindly tell us whether he will constitute a high level enquiry Committee to study comprehensively the safety aspects in the under mines all over the country.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have permitted me to speak on a very serious issue and I thank you for that. 50 workers have died in Nagda Mine Bhatdih colliery and this is not the first incident. The Minister has accepted in his answer that the mining work was not being done on the place where this incident occurred. Instead, at that time, sand was being filled through board and pillar system. He knows that the mining workers are not involved where sand filling work is done. First of all, I would like and the hon'ble Minister to explain as to who was responsible for engaging the workers for that task?

Sir, the hon'ble Minister has said that the help was rushed to the site after the emission of the poisonous gas. I want tell him that a new system has been developed in which a bird is taken to the site to check whether the poisonous gas exists but we don't have this new system. The Central Mining Design Institute designs the colliery whether mining should take place. I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the design of the colliery, where the accident occurred was designed as per the norms laid down by CMPDI. This is the responsibility of Director General, Mining Safety to ensure that wherever mining work is conducted, all the statutory posts under the coal

Mining Regulation Act, 1957, are filled up. These posts are Mining Sardar, Mining Man, Mining Under-Manager, Supervisor etc. I would like to ask whether all these posts were filled up. It has been experienced that due to the non-filling of these posts, the supervision work is not conducted properly. Managers do not visit the areas which they are supposed to visit. This is also a reason for such accidents.

Sir, I would like to relate an incident. Once in my constituency, at Kavadi Minem, the benches were not constructed properly and therefore they collapsed killing 10 workers. I want to say that this is the way by which improper mining is done. You have improperly asked the very persons, who were allegedly responsible for this, to conduct the enquiry into this incident. You should not have asked to the officials of CIL to conduct enquiry. I agree with the poser of Shri Mehtaji and reiterate the demand to constitute a Committee of the Lok Sabha to look into this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am strictly allowing Members by rules. There is no absolute rule that only five Members will be called. Please do not do that.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker Sir. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Ask questions only.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given notice but you cannot force the Chair to provide time to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Sir, I am requesting, you

MR. SPEAKER : Ok, you please keep quiet.

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has called the attention of the Government towards the death of 50 workers while working in Nagda BCCL Mine, Nagda, Bhatdih in Jharia. I would like to

request the Hon. Minister that a person from the family of every deceased should be provided a Government job, every family should be given Rs. 11 lakh as compensation, this case should be investigated properly and the persons found guilty should be punished stringently.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask two small questions. Almost 50 persons were killed in this accident. Relief for them has been declared through difference agencies. The State Government, the Prime Minister and the Department have declared relief for them. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the families of the deceased have got the compensation declared by all the three quarters. My Second Question is that in the new context, which types of devices you are using to check such types of accidents which are happening regularly so that their reoccurrence could be prevented in future. Poor people are working in coal mines and they literally struggle between life and death. The Administration does not take care of them. I want to ask as to what steps you are taking at your own level so that such accidents could be prevented in future.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for your cooperation.

13.00 hrs.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : Sir, I feel very sorry about this incident. . . *(Interruptions)* I would like to inform the House that coal mining is a hazardous profession. That is why, all possible efforts are made to minimize the accidents and if possible to eliminate the accidents.

Sir, here the hon. Members have reported one-by-one that this mine is not fit for mining. Actually, the DGMS is from the Ministry of Labour. It is the technical authority who can authorize and who can say whether this mine is mineable or not. The DGMS carried out the inspection in Nagda Mine in July, 2005 during which they suspended mining operations and have asked the BCCL to do more sand stowing. Then, after due filling of the sand, mining operations were resumed in August, 2005. Again, the DGMS made an inspection of mine from 9.11.2005 to

1.12.2006 and found no violations. The Area Safety Officer inspected the Nagda Mine in June, 2006. Headquarters level inspection was done in February, 2006. Pit Safety Committee inspection was made in August, 2006.

Sir, actually, as against the statutory needs, the equipment of gas testing instruments available in Nagda Mine are as follows: Five Methno Meters were available and functioning at Nagda Mine at the time of the accident. One Carbon Monoxide detector and 13 safety lamps were also available there. So, they have taken all the measures. However, unfortunately, the accident took place.

Sir, this accident took place at about 8.00 p.m. As per the statutory requirement, the rescue teams should be available within 35 kilometres of the mine. Dansar rescue station is about 20 kilometres from this mine. They reached this spot by 9.30 a.m. The total area was in full of dust. There was no possibility of entering into the mine. So, they waited for two hours and rescue efforts were started from 11.30 a.m. The CMD of Coal India Limited and the CMD of BCCL reached the spot by soon. On the very next morning, the then Minister of Coal and the hon. Chief Minister visited the spot. So, this is actually the timing of the whole programme. The rescue operation has taken place within 40 hours and all the bodies were recovered. So, they have taken all the rescue measures in a right way.

As far as holding of inquiry is concerned, there is Internal Security Organization. But more than that, the Chairman, Coal India Limited has appointed a high-level Enquiry Committee. They suspended five officers so that they do not tamper with the evidence. The suspension was revoked only after the Departmental Inquiry is completed. After taking the evidence, they were transferred from that place. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Nobody was hold responsible. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The inquiry is going on. Shri Acharia let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says. I would not allow. I cannot make an exception in favour of the Leaders.

*(Interruptions)**

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : Actually, DGMS is the statutory organization and the court of inquiry was set up. So, already they have constituted the court of inquiry. But actually, CMD of BCCL have constituted a high level Committee and the Committee is functioning. If we have two reports, I think we can cross verify it. But, actually, yesterday, we had a meeting. Even in that meeting, we have discussed one thing. We would like to consider a judicial inquiry for any accident. I think that is under consideration. I think we are going to discuss this. This is about the inquiry.

Regarding the compensation, the hon. Member asked what was the compensation given for the dependents of each deceased. The dependents of each deceased are entitled to a compensation ranging from Rs. 8.78 lakh to Rs. 11 lakh. Rs. 3 lakh special *ex gratia* is there. The hon. Prime Minister has sanctioned Rs. 1 lakh from PM's Relief Fund and Rs. 1 lakh is from the Chief Minister, Jharkhand. The entire amount was given except the amount from CM's Relief Fund of Jharkhand. That is going to be given shortly. In addition to this, the dependents of all the deceased will get Provident Fund in the range of Rs.4-5 lakh according to age and the service left and pension at the rate of 25 per cent of last pay. Dependents of 48 deceased were already given employment. One widow has opted for monthly compensation. It will be paid. It will be about Rs.4000 per month till she attains 60 years. But this amount of Rs.4000 has been there since 1994. In 1994, this amount has been fixed. It has not been revised. Now, we are considering to revise this amount. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am sorry. I cannot allow.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO : The DGMS is inquiring into it. We are going to get the report within three months.

*Not recorded.

The High Powered Committee will give its report within one month's time. As soon as I get it, I will act.

13.07 hrs.

SECURITIES CONTRACTS (REGULATION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2005

(English)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I withdraw the Bill.

13.06 hrs.

GOVERNMENT BILLS — *Introduced*

(I) Information Technology (Amendment)
Bill, 2006*

(English)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD) : Sir, on behalf of my colleague Shri Dayanidhi Maran, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000."

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD : I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, Dated 15.12.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

13.09 hrs.

**(H) Securities Contracts (Regulation)
Amendment Bill, 2006***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I introduce** the Bill.

13.09½ hrs.

**SCHEDULED TRIBES AND OTHER TRADITIONAL
FOREST DWELLERS (RECOGNITION OF
FOREST RIGHTS) BILL, 2006*****

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is no Lunch recess today. Item No. 26 – Shri P.R. Kyndiah.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not give you a chance. Shri P.R. Kyndiah.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I did not give you the chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very important Bill which

*Published in the Gazettee of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, Dated 15.12.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

***Not recorded.

every side of the House has asked for. Please listen to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Only the hon. Minister's statement is to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

13.09½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH) : Sir I beg to move :

"That the Bill to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may give your amendment. That will be circulated. Nobody said 'no' to it. Please go back to your seat. It has already been circulated. This type of

*Not recorded.

an attitude is not fair. You are such a responsible Member. I have high respect for you. You cannot talk to me from the well. Please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

13.10 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur
Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat.)*

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yerrannaidu, you are deliberately disturbing the House. I told in the morning that I would not allow that matter to be raised here.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, . . . *(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Yerrannaidu, you are forcing my hands.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is very unfair. I said categorically in the morning that this subject cannot be discussed. I have said that. I did not give any permission. You are wrong that I said that I would allow you after the Question Hour. I never said that. I said that this issue can never be allowed to be raised. If you want to raise it by some other method, it is not permitted so long as I am here.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Sir, I have given notice. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have rejected it.

Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, if you want to give an amendment, you can give that.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I have already given it.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. It will be considered.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : But has it been accepted or not?

MR. SPEAKER : Your amendment will be circulated.

*Not recorded.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the JPC Report has not been circulated.

MR. SPEAKER : It has been circulated.

13.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this bill but the Government have not shown required seriousness in presenting the bill. The recommendations of JPC Report should have been circulated earlier in the House. But that was not done. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : It is now being circulated. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JUAL ORAM : I was also a Member of the JPC. The JPC report was circulated but whether the Government are accepting it or not further, whether it was passed by the Cabinet or not, it is not clear. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jual Oram, you should address the Chair. Otherwise you will be in trouble.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : I am addressing the Chair only. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Bill has not been circulated. It is very unfortunate. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Speaker has already given the ruling. Your amendment will be circulated.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your amendment is under process, they will circulate it after that.

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon. Member that when the Bill is introduced, at that time itself it is circulated. After introduction, it goes to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee submits the Report. That is also a part of the House. Then, the Government takes a decision on it. If the Government accepts it totally, there is no problem. If the Government takes a decision to move amendments, official amendments are moved by the Government. That is all. Why is he telling that the Bill has not been circulated? On the day of introduction itself it was circulated.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : How can we give our amendments? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Everybody is entitled to give amendment. The Speaker has said that in the morning.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : I was the member of JPC. There is no doubt that recommendations of JPC have been circulated in the House. But it is not clear whether the Government have fully or partially accepted the same. As far as I know, cabinet has accepted the same only two days ago. What would have been the problem, had the same been circulated two days back? We would have studied the report in detail and accordingly would have been in

a position to tell if further amendment is required or not. I am not opposing the bill, I am just pressing you in this regard. I would like to submit that Government was trying to pay attention towards tribals but it is not possible. Now the Government has brought this bill under a compulsion, not on its own. Government has brought the bill under our pressure. I would like to submit to you that it should be effective from 13 December, 2005. Regarding definition of remaining forest dwellers, some changes proposed are to be accepted by the Ministry. Now it is learnt that Minister has accepted the same.

[English]

You are accepting the amendment.

[Translation]

I do not have to speak much on what has been recommended by JPC. I have to extend my thanks only. But you are accepting it now which is a good thing. I would like to mention 2-3 points. Definition of three generation – 75 years – 25 year per generation has been accepted by the Government. It is correct but I would like that it should be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule. It was the unanimous demand of the JPC that it should not be changed. As you are aware that many communities cannot raise their voice on this, hence it should not be done like this.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for recognizing or regularizing the land of scheduled tribes and forest dwellers. But I have read in the Bill that forest department will constitute an expert committee etc. but the same will not be accepted. Government are going to make changes in the suggestions made by us regarding the definition of Core Area in sanctuaries and National Parks. You have not accepted all the recommendations. When you reply on this very question kindly intimate us in this regard.

Minor Forest Produce – You are aware that tribals and other living in forests and on its periphery are dependent on forests. They earn their livelihood with produce of the forest. The Bamboo, stone etc. should be incorporated in minor forest produce. Hon'ble Minister has incorporated

[Shri Jual Oram]

some items and left out some items in circular. Kindly tell us now reasons for not accepting the report submitted by JPC. You are aware that North-East is the largest bamboo producing region. If it is not incorporated in minor forest produce, there is no meaning of bringing such bill.

I had submitted that they should be provided net present value of their land if they are displaced from their land specially from core area. You are aware that they don't know the cost of their land. Deposits of various valuable minerals like manganese, iron ore, chromite etc. are found underground in their land. Keeping this factor in view the rate fixed by you is very low. Hence it is not sufficient to provide them only compensation in this regard. For this JPC has forwarded their report that these forest dwellers should be provided net present value by assessing the land. I belong to a village. In village people have lease of 200 acre land if there is 1000 acre of land but village has indirect right over remaining 800 acre of land. They use everything whether it is wood or bamboo. But when Government transfer or acquire the land, calculation is done as per the value of 200 acre land. This should not be done like this. JPC has submitted their detailed report in this regard that everything should be of community use. JPC has submitted such report. Hon'ble Minister kindly answer on this very issue.

I would like to mention one-two more things regarding the said bill. You must be aware that it was NDA Government which had first set up Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is not because of the reason that SCs STs have been separated but we have asked to pay special attention towards tribals. It is very sad that more than 2½ years have passed since this Government came into power but only three works have been performed by the Government for the tribals – first you have brought this bill today. We have been demanding the same for the very long time. JPC has unanimously recommended for this. Secondly – National Policy of Tribals which has been made available on website but the shortcomings have not been removed after adopting this policy and third – you have amended the

provision regarding the Lohara tribe of Bihar by bringing the constitutional amendment for this purpose. Apart from this no decision has been taken for the welfare of tribals in last 2½ years which is a matter of regret. Shri Dasmunshji is present here. I would like to submit that I am not going to comment on, what are you doing for other people but you are definitely neglecting us.

Many people have raised their voice on Tigers Bill that there will be no forest, this will happen or that will happen. I asked them if forest land is regularized, what area of percent forest land will be covered under it, they said that they did not know. I told them that only two percent land will be covered, and in remaining 98 percent and you may keep tiger, bear and deer. But only 2 percent land, which is not forest and where our ancestors had been living and cultivating it for the last 30-40 years will be covered. Unfortunately, the land is registered in the name of reserved forest or sanctuary due to which our names do not appear in revenue record. Their officers visit the land every year and enquire about the cultivation. They have to give some share to them. Similarly, they have to give share to people of Revenue Department, whereas we have been occupying the land, we have been cultivating the land. Grama Sabha has been given significance. The hon'ble Minister recognized this fact but once again an obstacle has been created as decision of district level committee will be final in case there is any dispute at district level. You are aware that as per the PESA Act even today Grama Sabha is fully authorized to take decision regarding the land of the area whether it is given or not to be given for mining and industry but the land is acquired by misusing the Grama Sabha. You are aware that what will happen if Sarpanch of Grama Sabha or people of village create some dispute and Sub-Divisional Officer and Collector take decision in this regard and ask to give their land. We are having problem on this provision. Though we have got some relief with this. You are aware that how marriages take place in villages. Status of a person depends upon the area of land he has or area of land ploughed by him Tribal people who don't have land, have

no status. Therefore it was recommended in the Governors Conference that the person who don't have any land may be provided land on lease. Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission constituted under the chairmanship of Bhurijaji has submitted its report but the report has not been made public as yet. Nothing has been said as to whether or not you are accepting some of the provision recommended in the report. The Ghewar Commission was constituted in 1961. Thereafter, no Commission was constituted, whereas in Article 339 there is a provision that every year a Commission should be constituted to look into the condition of the Scheduled area and the Scheduled Tribes and to see whether the provisions are required to be revised or not and what should be provided and what should not be provided, and what should be done regarding the administration of that area. We had constituted Commission for that purpose. Then, I was the Minister. Now the report of that Commission has been submitted. I would like to know as to what decision is being taken by the Government regarding accepting or not accepting the recommendations and about schools, medical and many other things.

Sir, the Governor submits special report to the President regarding the scheduled areas. Regarding the scheduled areas, the Governor has power to intervene and dispatch his report about them to the President. However, proper report is not being submitted by the Governor. The report of the Tribal Advisory Committee is not being given properly. I am supporting it, however, merely giving money does not serve all the purpose. I was going through it and found that the Special sub-Plan for the scheduled areas has been admitted from 1974-75. However, despite providing special grants since 1974-1975, we are lagging behind in every sector. We are much below in respect of all the indicators of human development tendencies. We have more than 50 percent backwardness in respect of the number of BPL people and in respect of education we have 90 percent dropouts. Similarly, we have very little medical facilities available. So, the Government should seriously deal with the situation. The hon'ble Minister is a senior Member; however, it has been observed that he is

not helping us in taking a decision in this regard. Much lobbying was done in respect of this Bill by the Forest Department and several other Departments. However, they could not stall the Bill. It is on account of the initiatives that we had taken that the Bill has been introduced today in the House for discussion. For this, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister. However, there are shortcomings in the Bill that the hon'ble Minister has himself accepted. He should remove them. When the Bill will be discussed clause by clause then we will discuss it in detail.

Bwismuthiaryji has also a lot of to say on this Bill. So, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you please allow us when clause by clause discussion on this Bill is taken up because the Bill has been circulated today itself. Though, it is right that the JPC has formulated this Bill after holding 14-15 sittings and there cannot be two different opinions in this regard. Out of sight is out of mind. We have remained aloof from this thing for a long period of time and the Government have introduced this Bill in the House for the welfare of tribal people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not at the time of clause by clause discussion you give your amendments right now.

SHRI JUAL ORAM : At that time, too, I will speak on it in detail. I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me time to speak on this Bill. Alongwith this, I congratulate the hon'ble Minister for introducing this Bill in the House. Not only the treasury bench but also the Opposition will support this Bill. We all are supporting this Bill for the welfare of the tribals. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that he should pay more attention for the protection of tribals than the protection of tigers. It will be better if the Government ignore the opinion of those who are lobbying against this Bill for the protection of tigers and instead think about the protection of the tribals.

I once again support this Bill and conclude my speech.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support Scheduled Tribes and

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006. . . .*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :
Sir, I would like to know one thing very clear. It is a new
Bill. I have given amendments. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your amendment is in
process.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Sir, I am not yielding.
. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Bwismuthiary, please
sit down.

Now, Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you can continue your
speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : Mr. Deputy Speaker,
Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to the Prime Minister
of the country, to the UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and
to the present Government for introducing this Bill in the
House. Besides, I also extend my thanks to the Chairman
and the members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee
concerned with this Bill. I was also the member of that JPC.
After much deliberation the Bill has been prepared by the
JPC. In course of preparation of the Bill, the JPC invited
nearly 100-125 NGOs from different parts of the country
and sought their opinion. The experts were also called by
the Committee for seeking their opinion. Thereafter the
Committee prepared its report and submitted it to the
Government and today this Bill has been introduced in the
House for discussion. From the proposed amendments in
the Bill that will be introduced at the time of clause-by-
clause consideration, it seems that most of the recommen-
dations of the JPC has been accepted by the Government.
For this, I would like to congratulate the Government. For
a long time, it was being advocated to provide historic

justice to the tribals of the country. Its purpose was to settle
that task. If the Government thought that it would settle this
land as a forestland, then no settlement could have been
done. For settlement of land within the whole country, it
is essential that if the land is being tilled the forest office
should be asked to submit report in this regard. Like the
tribal people who live in forests, there are many non-tribals
as well who dwell in the forests all over the country. In
this regard, I would like to bring it to your notice that in
the year 1951 when the Kaka Kalelkar Commission visited
all over the country, it found many such castes that resided
in forest, however, due to several reasons they could not
be enlisted. Though their traditions, food habits, way of
living etc. are all similar to the tribals, despite that those
tribals could not be covered under the Scheduled Tribe
category. They also till forestland and have been cultivating
this land for years. Their ancestors also cultivated on
forestland; however, they were not treated as tribals. It was
on account of this that it was suggested to deny them the
land right. But it would have led to conflict between the
non-tribals living in the tribals area and the tribal people.
So, after much deliberation the JPC included them as well
for this purpose. I am pleased that the Government have
agreed to allot the land till 13 December, 2005 to those
who live in forest and cultivate on forest land. For this, I
would like to extend my thanks to the Government. I would
also like to submit that Gram Sabhas have been entrusted
with the power to implement it. Not only this, if someone
does not have written evidence he can take oral evidence
from the Gram Sabha and get the land. The provision is
that the age of the re-vegetation on the land, the time when
the terrace was made and the time since cultivation was
being done on that land are taken into consideration and
then the land is allotted.

Sir, I would like to give further one-two suggestions.
I believe that once the process of settlement is completed
all over the country, there will be decline in the violent
movement going on in the country. The people will switch
over from forest economy to agriculture economy because
till now the people living in the forests were dependent
only on the income from the forest. The Forest economy
is not a supporting economy rather the main economy is

agriculture, and the persons who have been cultivating in these areas may easily switch over to agriculture economy once they get the land right. This will lead to increase in their income and I feel that those who are at present in the BPL category and are large in number as has also been submitted just now by our colleague will come out from that category. Just now, hon'ble Oramji has also said that stone, fish have been excluded from it. As per the interpretation of the forest produce by the High Court and the Supreme Court, all the commodities found in the forests.

[English]

Which include fish and sand etc., are the forest produces.

So much so, Sir, the Guwahati High Court has gone to the extent of saying that if the sand is found in a forest area, it is a forest produce. So, I do not think that inclusion of the sand, fish, stone etc., should be a problem. They should be included; they should not be excluded. The Guwahati High Court and various other courts of this country have already established that there are forest produce.

[Translation]

My second suggestion is that the age of marriage should be reduced from 25 to 21. Presently it has been kept at 25.

[English]

You hold on a minute. This is my view. You can have your views. Your view is fine. These are my views.

[Translation]

The age of the people dwelling in forest areas at the time of independence and thereafter who were entitled for that should be slightly changed. As per the amendment, a person who has got the right to sell the minor forest produce also reserves the rights to carry it. The word transport has been deleted in it. Today the situation is such that if anyone wants to sell to anybody he has to take the permission from the forest department. He will not be able

to carry it without permission from the forest department. The forest department has an apprehension that maximum number of people will carry them in trucks or any other vehicle and sell them so instead of 'transport' the term 'carry' should be used. The Forest Department or any other department shall have no problem if it is carried on cycles or boats. He should not carry it in a truck. I would like to know as to in how many states a stay has been granted on transfer of ownership of the land owned till 1980 in any other person's name? A hue and cry was raised outside claiming that granting entitlement of land would destroy the entire forest area and the country would lose its land. We should not harbour any such fears. Several Governments had passed the resolution of transferring the ownership of land owned till 1980. The Government had said that the entitlement of 2 percent land post 1980 would be given to those persons who were cultivating that land till 1980. The Government has allotted the land to those who were cultivating it till 1980 but how many states are there in which it is yet to be implemented? A very small section of adivasis will be given land on transfer of entitlement basis between the years 1980 to 2005 but its figures have not been disclosed. I would like to ask the persons opposing it as to what area of land is being covered under it? A huge area of land lies with the Department of Forests in Gujarat. Leave aside the fact whether the land is fertile or not but it would take 58 years to cover that land. We have done all these calculations. The Forest Department cannot do anything in this. The top layer of soil gets washed away into the river during rains. It is exposing the rock. How many areas are there which have been fenced by the forest department on the lines of fencing done on the border. Grazing rights have been highly violated. Almost everything is included in forest produce.

[English]

Traditional rights are not being, in fact, honoured by the Forest Department in a number of States, including in my own State.

[Translation]

Despite having been mentioned in part III of the guidelines and manual, these are being violated. I have

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

gone through the JPC report. It has given its recommendations after thorough deliberations. I congratulate the Government for accepting these. There are also disputes among the forest dwellers. A proper mechanism and process has been put in place to settle those disputes but it is not implemented properly. We have been fighting for it since 1992. 20,000 to 25,000 people took out a procession in Ahmedabad and 39,000 hectare land was allotted to 66,000 farmers. However, the Government has provided land to only 32,000 people from 1992 to 2005, as there are no surveyors, no persons to demarcate and hand over the land. One, who has been given land on lease, has been given cultivation rights and when they go for plantation to the forest department they are dispossessed of their land. I would request the hon. Minister to rehabilitate those persons at their place of dwelling who had been cultivating land before 13th December 2005 and were dispossessed of their land against their rights. The people who have been residing in forest areas for three generations should get their rights and the possession of that land back.

There is a Minor Forests Produce Nationalisation Act under which most of the forest produces have been nationalised. Mahua, Salsi and Tendu leaves are three major income-generating produces which come under this nationalization. The Forest Development Corporation earns maximum income from these produces in every State and pays meagre wages to labourers who collect those produces. The workers engaged in this work are not covered under any Labour law. So many workers fall down from the trees and many times they are not given compensation. Many a time contractors run away without paying them any wages. There is only one way out which can settle these disputes and nothing can substitute the Forest Produce Price Commission. So I would request the hon. Minister to set up a Forest Produce Price Commission on the lines of Agriculture Price Commission so as to fix the support price of forest produce every year. Either the Government or the Forest Department should procure the produce if it is sold at lower rates and if they are offered higher price by the traders then.

[English]

They should be allowed to sell it everywhere.

[Translation]

These days' tendu leaves have become a major income generating produce for Madhya Pradesh Government Exchequer, however, there has been no discernible change in the plight of leaves collectors which include tribals as well as non-tribals. They are getting Rs. 40 per hundred bundle with a maximum bonus of Rs. 5.

[English]

The State was earning more than Rs. 300 crore only on Tendu Patta in Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

Before the division of the State. However, the forest dwellers engaged in this profession, whose rights have been defined, should enjoy full freedom to sell the produce. But the Forest Department creates all kinds of hurdles and restricts the definition of their rights so as to prevent them from working. This Bill would pave the way to save them from this situation

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs and Chair towards the Acts like.

[English]

Indian Forest Act, Wildlife Protection, Act, Cattle Grazing Act, Environment and Biodiversity Act.

[Translation]

Which tend to discourage the forest produce based occupations instead of encouraging them. A forest dweller cannot fetch wood from the forest without their permission. If a person wants to make anything from the forest produce or earn a livelihood it is not possible. They cannot make anything out of bamboos. For example, if I make a bamboo basket from the bamboos produced in my field, then I will have to prove that the bamboo has not been taken from the forest but has been produced by me.

[English]

I have to prove. The onus to prove is on the person and not on the Department.

[Translation]

The Department would prove that the grass, leave and bamboos have been taken from the forest whereas one will have to prove it otherwise.

This is the reason the development of forest raw material based occupation of all the tribal areas whose population is eight per cent has been arrested. That is why the land has not been transferred and the people could not enter into agricultural economy. All the dams here constructed in the tribal areas due to which the water flows in the lower regions and could not be drawn up which arrested the agriculture development in those areas. The watershed schemes are facing the same development problems. This has led to a starvation like situation in the country. The entire forest produce is sent to the plains. Now, lakhs of tribals and forest dwellers are migrating to other areas to find employment as farm labourers, construction labourers and followers of other small and petty occupations.

[English]

Sir, it is high time now, and I request the hon. Minister, to look into and review the entire Tribal *Sub-Plan*.

[Translation]

The funds provided to the States under the tribal sub plan are mostly diverted. However, during the review of the tribal sub-plan we also have to see as to how many changes are required to be incorporated in it and whether any change is required at all or not. Alongwith that we also have to compare their population in proportion to the total population of the country, their resources and the resources of the States. Similarly, the reservation Bill for SCs and STs was introduced which is related to it because it ensures income.

[English]

Agriculture is assuring an income. Irrigation is assuring an income.

[Translation]

So I feel that if the ownership right of that land is transferred to them, their economic condition will be greatly improved on account of this ownership right. Most of the recommendations given in this regard by the JPC have been accepted by him and for this I would like to extend my congratulations to him, however, alongwith that I would like to submit that. . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mistryji, twenty minutes have elapsed since you started. Many speakers are yet to speak.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY : I am concluding. There are many clauses in it and in clause 2(1) it is mentioned.

[English]

"Fuel wood and the like, stones, slates and boulders. . . ."

[Translation]

The products that have been omitted should be included in it. They should not be excluded. In place of 25 years of age it should be 21 years of age. Regarding the clause 3(1)C of transport, feel that the word transport should be replaced by the word carry. I also feel that in clause 4(2)B it is mentioned that :

[English]

". . . With the consent of all the rights holders and in consultation with independent ecological and social scientists. . . ."

[Translation]

It is essential and it should be retained in it. Similarly, I feel that clauses 4/7 and 4/8 should also be retained. Retaining such clauses will make much difference.

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

At the end I would like to submit that if it is to be implemented then the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Department of Forest should together arrange for big extra funds and after conducting a survey the land should be demarcated and handed over to those people who have been cultivating that land in national parks and sanctuaries for many centuries and without honey combing their settlements the land should be allotted to them in periphery. Beside this, as per today's circular, once a national park and sanctuary has been declared after 1980 that land cannot be handed over to that person who is cultivating that land. This provision is not good. I feel that if it is not possible to allot land inside the park and sanctuary then land should be allotted in the periphery. A drastic change should be brought in the present circular. I once again extend my congratulations to the present Government, the hon. Minister, our Chairperson and the hon. Prime Minister for bringing this Bill. It is on account of this that today the tribals and forest dwellers all over the country have become hopeful about their future and one more commitment of the UFA program has been fulfilled. I would like to request the Government only for its implementation that once the bill is passed by the Parliament, it should be implemented at the earliest. This will lead to a change, in the very attitude of the Forest Department. Since the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is a separate Ministry, it should develop a mechanism on its own so that these people may get land in the entire country. I feel that we have to work for the upliftment of the poor people and we have before us the commitment of our Government towards the poor people. Once again I would like to extend my congratulations to the Government, our hon. Minister and all others and conclude.

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East) : Thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on this important Bill.

I feel that the UPA Government has taken one step forward to correct the historical mistake left uncorrected by

the successive Governments since the British period. During the British period, they had the Forest Act in the year 1846, and the Indian Forest Act in 1927. Tribal people living in Indian forests were controlled under the provisions of these Acts.

It is 59 years since our country has got Independence. India as a country has advanced and the Indian people have advanced in these 59 years. But the socio-economic conditions of the nine per cent of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the country have gone from bad to worse. Most of the people living below the poverty line now are Scheduled Tribes. The longstanding demand of the Scheduled Tribes people, who have been traditionally living in the forest areas, that their rights should be recognized by the Government has not been attended by any Government so far. This UPA Government has brought at least one historic Bill. With this historic Bill, I hope the economic conditions of the poor tribal people in India will improve and they will gain some foothold in the country.

We have the Indian Forest Conservation Act of 1980. Under the provisions of that Act, the Government agreed that lakhs of people are residing in the forest areas. However, the Government declared those people who have been traditionally living in the forest areas, the tribals who have been living traditionally in the forest areas as encroachers. The Government identified about 43 lakh hectares of land as being in the occupation of tribal encroachers. Out of that, tribals living in about 25 lakh hectares land have been removed and others are still there. I do not consider that these tribal people and other forest dwelling people living in the reserve areas are encroachers. They have been living there since the British period. They use the forest produce for their livelihood.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill, the Government has stated that forest dwelling tribal people and forests are inseparable, and one cannot survive without the other. This is a truth. This is a fact. These people live on forest and they save these forests. In almost all parts of the country, forests are being destroyed. It is not the tribal people who are destroying it, but by the

interested persons and forest contractors. Is it the policy of the Government to destroy forests? This Bill is brought up by the Tribal Affairs Department. I have a doubt. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Forest Departments of the Government and other Departments should work in coordination and with sincerity to look into the interests of the tribals. If tribals, who have been living in forests for a long time, are removed from there, it would be difficult for them. They cannot prove that they are living there for long as they do not have any revenue records. All they have to show as proof are their small huts, some trees and other valuable timber in the forests. There is nothing to prove that they are living since long.

Through this Bill, I hope, the Tribal Affairs Department should contribute in future to give them land also. After our Independence, these tribals were not recognized as tribals in any part of our country.

I am from Tripura and I am from the Scheduled Tribe community. I belong to the Riang community in Tripura. My relatives who are from the same community and following the same culture are also living in Assam. But they are not recognized as the Scheduled Tribe. After the passing of this Bill, the Riang community people of Tripura will get the land but the Riang community people in Assam will not get the land. In that areas they are termed as 'traditional forest dwellers'. In this way, throughout the country, there are lots of people who are traditionally inhabited and depend on forest produce and whose livelihood is forest. When this Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha, these traditional forest dwellers aspect was not considered. In the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a number of witnesses and all those who are interested were invited to depose. . .
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your Party has given three names and you have already taken more than eight minutes.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : I am concluding.

Lots of people have appeared as witnesses before the JPC. I was also a Member of the JPC. We have examined

a number of persons, including some NGOs. They told us that the pastoral communities are not considered as Schedule Tribes in any part of the country. Their livelihood and their economic conditions are considered as to who will be tribal people. But actually they are tribals but they are not considered as tribal people. After the consideration of the Report of the JPC, the Government has accepted it and circulated it today. I have seen that some amendments were accepted. In the amendment, as per the recommendations of the JPC, the rights of the traditional forest dwellers will also be recognized here. In this way, they will also get benefited with this Bill.

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. If you take more time, your Party Members will not get time to speak.

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Sir, injustice has been done to them for the last 59 years of our Independence. The UPA Government is the first Government which has recognized the rights of the tribal. Now, the question is who will identify the beneficiaries. Panchayats, Gram Sabhas and in some places Village Committees will be the main bodies which will be identifying the beneficiaries. I thank the Government for having brought this Bill before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Samajwadi Party, I support the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognitions of Forest Right) Bill, 2006. It had been demanded for a long time to provide forest rights to the tribals and the forest dwellers and for many years voluntary organisation and Non Governmental Organisations were active regarding this issue. I would like to extend my thanks to them also who have made efforts for justice to the tribals after a long struggle.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill was introduced by the Government here and then the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) was constituted. On this occasion I would like to extend my thanks to the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, Shri Kishor Chandji and

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

all other members of the Committee who worked in the Committee and after doing hard labour submitted very pertinent recommendations to the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset of the Bill it has been mentioned that in independent India while consolidating the State forests, forest rights of the tribals and the forest dwellers on their ancestral land have not been properly recognized and it is on account of this that gross injustice has been done to the Scheduled Castes and other traditional forest dwellers. We all accept that justice has not been done to those tribals and the forest dwellers who have been living in the forest area for a long time. It is said that there are merely 25 Articles in our Constitution providing for the protection of Tribal People. However, the laws that were formulated by Britishers for tribal areas continued to remain in practice in our country. Indian Forest Act, 1927, Land Acquisition Rule 1894 and Police Rule 1860 are old laws. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Government that in the changing scenario the above laws have become impracticable and obsolete and thus, there is a need to amend or reform those laws. Nearly two crore tribals have been dispossessed of their land in the name of various developmental projects. It was in the manifesto of the UPA and it was their commitment. Even the President, in his address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament had also advocated formulation of laws for the forest dwellers. Nearly 8 crore people live in forests and in 1862 British Government had established Forest Department for strengthening their colonial rule and resorted to reckless exploitation of natural resources of India.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are still toying the line drawn by the Britishers. The forest cover that we had in our country has been reduced to 20 per cent. These forests were not destroyed by tribals or those who live in forest area rather the forests have been destroyed by forest Mafias. Indiscriminate felling of trees is done under the very nose of forest officials. Because of that the forest cover in the country has shrunk to only 20 per cent.

Sir, the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 presented by the hon. Minister states that:

[English]

"The State shall constitute a district level committee and finally approve the record of forest rights prepared by the sub-divisional level committee. The decision of the district level committee on the record of forest rights shall be final and binding. The State Government shall constitute the State level Monitoring Committee to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and to submit to the nodal agency such returns and reports as may be called for by the agency."

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that in the process of allotting land, the Gram Sabha will have the right to determine the eligible person and community for consolidating records and after doing that the proposal will be sent to the Taluka Committee. If the person concerned has any objections, he can get his grievances lodged within 60 days. If his grievances are not sorted out, they may proceed to the district committee. One officer each from revenue department, forest department, the department of Scheduled Castes, two persons from Panchayati Raj institutions and one woman will be member of these committees. Except for Gram Panchayats, there is no mention in the bill about the Chairman or need of the committees at various levels. An issue which is more important than that is the absence of the representatives of the victims in those Committees and it will result in unfair interference of officers. Ultimately, the victim will not get justice. So, I want to request that these committees should have broader representation base with more and more people's representing base with more and more people's representatives and Chairmen at various levels.

Sir, in the initial stage of the bill it was not a compact one when it was introduced in the House. But, it was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee when it was demanded so. I congratulate the Chairman and Members

of the Joint Parliamentary Committee for making suitable suggestions for removing the flaws and presenting an important and comprehensive Bill. In this way, this House has provided justice to the forest inhabitants and the tribals. It will give rights to those persons who have been neglected for hundreds of years. I support this Bill on behalf of my party, Samajwadi Party.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on this important Bill. Today, the Government have introduced the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006. The initial Bill introduced in this regard had some flaws and to remove those flaws, it was sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the present Bill has been drafted and introduced after incorporating the suggestions of that Joint Committee. Firstly, I would like to congratulate hon. Minister and the U.P.A. Government who have taken the historical decision of introducing that Bill. The Scheduled Tribes constitute almost nine per cent of the population of the country who have been involved traditionally with forests but the paradox is that even when they are living in forest for a long time, they had not got any legal rights on forests due to some legal hurdles and were unable to earn their livelihood from forests in a proper manner. They were facing many hurdles and there were many archaic laws since the time of the English which were acting as hindrances for them. In the present scenario, the situations, surroundings, thinking and needs of the people have changed. Accordingly, the U.P.A. Government have taken some important decisions which have made people free by breaking the bindings of archaic laws. I think the law enacted by this Bill will be beneficial especially for the most economically deprived and uneducated people. You can witness the condition of the tribal people living in far flung, remote and forest areas. One will not find any trace of progress in those areas even after 59 years of independence. They run away when they see civilized people like us from developed areas. The origin of our history and even history of the human beings has its origin among those people. But, those forefathers of our human race are living a life of poverty and deprivation. Certainly,

this law will be a succour for them. Now, they will be able to earn their livelihood. Even now, they do not have a house to live in and clothes to wear. Most of them are uneducated. Although the Government is trying its best to uplift them and provide them education, I think this law will give them the right to do some business. The forests have been wiped out on a large scale by the big contractors and land-mafia. The forests and the tribals are dependent on each other and they cannot exist in the absence of either of them. Even today, the tribals are not at ease in urban surroundings. So, I think it is an important step taken by the Government after long deliberations. The Joint Parliamentary Committee have gone through the bill step by step and was able to remove its deficiencies. They should be thanked for that. I think the tribals will be able to come out of their economic hardship through the help of this Bill and it will make them self-dependent to an extent. But, I want to request the hon. Minister that there are many laws for the upliftment of the people but these laws are not implemented in letter and spirit. Many hon. Members have expressed their apprehensions in this regard. The U.P.A. Government should enact laws for the upliftment of the most deprived persons of the country and it should show its will to do so by its will-power and efforts. Your will-power was reflected in the introduction of this Bill. Now, it should be implemented in letter and spirit so that the tribals, whose population is 9 per cent in this country, can make progress. Again I welcome this Bill and I express my gratitude to honourable Minister, U.P.A. Government and honourable Prime Minister and request to include these people in this Bill who have not been included so far so that they could get justice also. Now a lot of castes have been left. They may also be included therein so that they could get justice as well. They are also taking financial crisis and they will also try to make progress with the help of this law. I again express my thanks to you while supporting this bill. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not received your name so far.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : Sir, I would like to impress upon two or three points regarding this Bill.

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

First of all, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Standing Committee concerning Shri Chandra Deo as he has taken much efforts to find solutions to the problems relating this Bill. I served in this Committee and I know that he has taken much efforts by calling all sections of tribals, officers and took their evidence. He has recommended some points and the Government has accepted most of the suggestions given by the Standing Committee. Hence I thank the Chairman and the Government of India. It is not only this that I want to say. This Bill is exclusively for Scheduled Tribes but we all struggled to involve other forest dwellers who are living nearby the forest land, whether they belong to Scheduled Castes or Backward Classes, so that they would also get benefits. That recommendation is also accepted by this Bill and the Bill is going to be passed.

They have mentioned some clauses regarding forest land. Forest land also includes the land nearby the forest which is used as a forest land. There are no two different opinions on this point about forest land. But near the forest land, there is a lot of vacant land where many people from the middle class and the lower class live for years together. Those lands have not been given to them though they have been living there for many years.

I urge upon Government of India to direct all the State Governments to give *pattas* for those people who live in such lands for years together.

In clause 6, clear rights of the Gram Sabhas have been mentioned. The Gram Sabhas shall be the authority for determining the nature and extent of individuals. I welcome this point. The Gram Sabha has been given more powers to identify the forest lands and has been given more powers to pass resolutions, and with those resolutions, the Government or the courts may take up cases relating to the subject.

One more recommendation of the Standing Committee is about the pastoralist communities. From Madurai, I got a complaint on this point. In hilly areas, there are traditional pastoralist communities which are enjoying their rights in

pastoralist lands by grazing their cows and buffaloes. I recommended it strongly and that has been accepted by the Committee and the Government. I strongly recommended it. It has been accepted by the Committee as well as by the Government of India. Now, I would like to quote clause 10 :

"No court shall take cognizance of any offence under section 9 unless any forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe in case of dispute relating to a resolution of a Gram Sabha or the Gram Sabha. . . ."

I welcome it because for the last 100 years, the forest officers, in the name of protecting the forests are misusing their powers and are enjoying a lot for suppressing the tribal people. That has been scrapped now by clause 10 of this Bill. But in clause 12 it is mentioned – 'protection of action taken in good faith'. I would like to quote from clause 12 :

"No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer or other employee of the Central Government or the State Government for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done by or under this Act."

My apprehension is about the word 'in good faith'. The officers who are knowledgeable, with their cleverness intending to show everybody that in good faith they are doing, can victimize the tribal people. So, we have to carefully look into this clause 12. We have to delete these words 'in good faith' and we can leave it as it is in clause 10. This is my humble request to the hon. Minister.

Sir, today the U.P.A. Government has brought this Bill. Yesterday, they brought the Bill for the reservations in Central institutions. This Government is working for the downtrodden people and for their social justice. That is why, on behalf of the DMK Party, I welcome and I support this Bill.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for moving this historical legislation. We feel proud that our cultural evolution started through the process of forests. We

have all accepted forests as the highest form of cultural evolution.

According to Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore, the distinctiveness of Indian culture consists of its making defined life in the forest as the highest form of cultural evolution. Western civilization is built of brick and wood. It is rooted in the cities. But Indian civilization has been distinctive in locating its source of regeneration material and intellectual in the forest, not the city. The intimate relationship between the tribals and living nature became the source of nature.

I feel proud that my deity is a tribal deity. As you know, the tribals are performing their *sewa, puja* since centuries together. Our dynamic leader who became the national hero in the inter-national map of the world and became the 'Bhumiputra' of Indonesia, late Shri Biju Patnaik's dream was that forests should be properly protected and the tribal should be given the social, political and administrative rights. Social, political and administrative rights should be given. Accordingly, the *adivasis* and tribals were vested with some police powers during his Chief Ministership. The present Chief Minister's popular slogan is to protect the interest of the tribals and their forest land.

14.25 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

The proposed Bill is seeking to accord recognition to those Scheduled Tribes that once enjoyed all such customary rights. The attempt is to set right the historical injustice. Unfortunately, the Bill itself has been a victim of some criticism. They say it is misconception or misinformation. I am hopeful that this misconception and ambiguity will be cleared in due time. Ambiguity will definitely crop up when any new legislation is introduced.

The Scheduled Tribes Forest Rights Bill is no doubt a progressive legislation. There are strong legal and ethical grounds for protection of the land rights of *adivasis* and tribals. In many cases, these tribals are inhabitants of the land. But the land was snatched away from their ancestors in many unjust ways. In colonial times and even in Independent India, demarcation of forest area was made

without taking into account their rights and livelihood considerations.

As you know, another criticism is that the Bill suits the *netas* and *babus*. The tribals must have the option to live in their land inside the forest and their habitats must be left untouched. I would request the hon. Minister to take into consideration my humble submission.

Sir, Orissa is a very beautiful State having vast forest areas. There is a saying in my mother tongue.

Banane Vibhusha Mandir Maleni
Prakritir Ganta Ghar.

Orissa is full of dense forests, vast natural resources and temples like Lord Jagannath where the tribals have been vested with their rights for centuries together to offer *sewa* and *pooja*. That has become helpful in teaching the theme of peace and brotherhood, social integrity. It is the real message of secularism. It is actually spreading from the Temple of Lord Jagannath. Also, Lord Jagannath settled in the forest area. The mountain itself is known as Nila Saila.

The proposed Tribal Bill leads to immense division and strife. They say this is an attempt to set right things. But, in my mind, I feel that this Tribal Bill will definitely bring integration among the tribals. They will feel that they are the real sons of the land because for centuries together they feel proud of it. We feel proud of the social evolution, cultural upliftment of the tribals. The real inception has started from the tribals. So, it is really a very dynamic legislation which the hon. Minister has introduced for the betterment of the tribals. As a result of it, the rights will be properly preserved.

In this context, I would like to draw the attention of this august House that in our State, encroachers from neighbouring States and even from Bangladesh are coming into the forest areas and they are trying to dismantle the forests. They are converting forest lands into cultivable lands and they are erecting their houses on those lands. I would request the Government to provide a safeguard in this Bill to stop such practices.

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

Then, I would like to submit that the Joint Committee had suggested that the rights would be determined by the Gram Sabha. In such a situation, how will the encroachers be restricted? This aspect has to be looked into by the Government. As indicated in the map there is a forest area, but actually there is no forest existing in some places.

I would further like to submit that forest wealth must be brought under the control of the States because the Central Government, sitting in Delhi which is thousands of kilometres away, cannot look after the forest areas that are there in various parts of our country. So, this should be brought under the control of State Governments.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. This is a very progressive legislation. So, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I welcome this Bill. I also express my thanks to UPA Government for fulfilling the commitment made in Common Minimum Programme for bringing in this Bill for the tribals and other poor forest dwellers. This Government accepted the suggestions made by Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) constituted to look into the Bill. I would like to thank all the Members of that Committee also who tried to make this Bill more beneficial for the interested people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 60 years have passed since India got independence. But for the first time an historic Bill has been introduced for poor tribal people. I have an experience in Jharkhand which borders Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa that the cases are registered against tribal people for cutting wood and using forest produces in tribal areas. 50-60 per cent cases registered in the court there are against these tribals. I have experienced that hundred of tribals are put behind the bars in forest cases where they died. It has not been mentioned in this Bill whether Government are withdrawing the cases registered against lakhs of tribals living in forests. I demand that the Government should issue directions to State

Governments to withdraw those cases. If not so, then there is no use of introducing this Bill. These cases will continue. Now hon. Minister said that the period of generation of tribes has been fixed at 25 years. If he had talked about three generations then it would be 75 years as per the calculation of three generations. I have moved an amendment to reduce it to 15 or 18 to make it more beneficial for the intended people. As hon. Members said that the tribals whether they are Shaheed Birsa Munda or Sidhu or Kanhu, they had participated in freedom struggle at the time when freedom movement was not even started in other parts of the country and I have experienced it in Jharkhand. This is the history of tribals but today they are in distress. The tribals who live in forests, are being exploited severely in all respects and they are the neglected most. The money lenders (mahajans) have taken possession of tribals land whether it is in or outside the forest. The moneylenders have taken possession of their land by giving some money or foodgrains. Therefore, I submit that the Central Government should consider with regard to tribals land possessed by moneylenders and a Bill should be introduced for this purpose and that land should be returned to tribals, poor people and dalits from moneylenders. It is quoted in page no. 3 and 4 of amendment moved here:

[English]

"Fuel wood and the like, stones, slates and boulders and products from water bodies including fish, weeds. . . ."

[Translation]

I request that it should be omitted, it should not be accepted because it will deprive the tribals of their rights prepared to be given to them. The forest officers say that tribals are enemies of forest. I would like to tell him that if anybody has strong affinity towards forests and plants then they are the tribal people. We celebrate Sama and Karma festivals there and people worship trees in these festivals and tie rakhi. By doing this those tribals make a commitment to preserve tree and forest. They have

affinity and natural love to forests. Even today the style of the people of Kho, Vihore, Paharia etc. tribes is very inferior. The number of these tribals has been decreasing day by day. The honourable Minister may have details of survey conducted in this regard will reveal that the number of primitive tribals living in this area has been decreasing today. It is imperative to consider as to how these tribals should be uplifted and protected. The matters of tribals education and health has not been discussed more in this Bill. But I would like to say that a special Bill should be introduced for tribals education and health and to improve their standard of living. I come from Jharkhand where 32 per cent population of tribals live and it is known as tribal state. Today people are migrating from there and there is no job available for them. The forest officers and forest mafias are responsible for present pathetic condition of forests. These people are earning crores of rupees by felling trees and they blame tribals for this. The rights provided to tribesmen living in forests are admirable. At the same time, as honorable Members have said, the tribals should have right over forest produces and a scheme should be drawn up for development of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes.

At last I would like to say that the funds provided by Central Government or State Government for welfare of tribals are not spent for the intended purpose. So you, may see lakhs of naked and hungry tribals living there and the women folk there, are forced to lead their lives with one saree. Today this is the pitiable condition of tribals.

I express my thanks to you and Central Government for bringing in this Bill and request to remove the shortcomings which have been left in this Bill to ensure the developments of tribals.

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 presented by the Minister of Tribal Affairs. While associating myself with it, I would like to express my gratitude towards the Chairman and the Members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted in regard to

this Bill, who have worked hard and after much deliberations have presented their recommendations to the Government. Though those recommendations were not included in the Bill which was presented earlier, it appears that the amendments which have been proposed in this Bill will provide some relief to the Adivasi people.

Adivasi people have been residing in the forests or near forests for many years. They have been continuously struggling for their rights, but their agitation has yielded fruits only after 59 years of independence. I would like to thank the hon. Minister and the Government in this regard. I agree with the views expressed by Shri Jual Oram, Shri Mistry and hon. Shri Ramji Lai Suman and associate myself with the views expressed by them.

At the time of independence, the tribal population was 12 per cent of the country's population. In 1991, it was 8.08 per cent and its growth in ten years has been around 3.5 per cent, and added together it comes to around 12 per cent. Prior to independence, the tribals had rights over the forest. When British Government came to power, it enacted its own legislations, but the share of forest products was definitely given to the tribals. Now, Forest Protection Committees have been given right to protect the forests in their respective areas and will get fifty per cent share of forest production.

As per the requirement, the 33 per cent of the area of the country should be reserved as forest cover. But Sumanji has said that it is 20 per cent, but as per my information, this forest cover has shrunk to 9 per cent. We will have to allow certain area of the forests to be inhabited by tribals to increase forest cover upto 33 per cent. Forest department is allocated funds for forestation, on the same lines these people should also be provided proportionate amount of funds and if competition in regard to planting of trees is held between Forest Department and Tribal people, I am sure that Tribal people will win and would be able to extend forest area more than the Forest Department. I can assure you that if the fencing work done from security point of view is entrusted to the tribal people, we would be able to extend forest area to a great extent.

[Shri Mahavir Bhagora]

I would like to submit that this Bill should be passed with all the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee so that the rights once enjoyed by these tribal people are restored back to them so that they are able to earn their livelihood.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a lot has been said about this Bill, but I would like to mention two – three points before the House. This is indeed a revolutionary bill. In my opinion, when Forest Act was presented in 1927, it was for the first time that something was said in favour of tribal people. But that remained on papers and in form of policy statements only. I believe that this is for the first time that a concrete step has been taken to give legal sanctity to these measures. There is a Hindi film song "Hum laye hain toofan se kishki nikal kar", I believe that much more struggle has been made to bring this bill in the parliament. Shri Oram said many difficulties were faced in bringing this bill. I agree that even today there is certain section of society in country who have this feeling that ultimately the bill has been brought, may be in any form for the last so many years. The entire forest management is with the Forest Department, one may visit Raipur, Bilaspur or any other place, he will find big colonies of timber mafia or mining mafia, but I have not ever seen a big house of a tribal person, who often face allegations of felling the forests. I have participated in very big conferences of Forest Department, where Tribal people are presented a case study, but they are never given opportunity to present their views in these workshops. The person who lives in forests and whose livelihood depends on forests is presented as a puppet. It is very unfortunate that since when the Act related to it has been brought, it has been said in every Act, every Policy that first of all rights of tribal people or other forest dwellers would be recognised, and would be put in writing, then other tasks would be taken up but this never happened. In 1951-52, when India was integrated with efforts of Sardar Patel, some princely states willingly merged with India, some were forced to merge with the help of Indian Army and at that time forest cover available

was given a definition, and the forest dwellers were relegated to the position of non-entity. Under the policy formulated in 1950-51, one-third area of the country had to be conserved as forest land. I would like to ask why one-third of land was treated as forest? If forest land was only 18 or 20 per cent or 25 per cent, why it was extended by 7-8 per cent, what are basis on which the forest land was increased? It was the area which was inhabited by these tribal and poor people who have no voice. The area where influential Jamindars or Raja-Maharajas or big industrialists were living were not declared as forest land. The ridge area in Delhi was conserved as forest area. But the Government never took cognisance of such areas where big colonies in Delhi had come up. I would like to say that the issues of tribals and the forest land have always been treated in a manner whereby these influential people could get maximum benefit and these tribal people remained neglected. I would like to draw your attention towards a judgement. It is about Delhi, but I would request the entire House to pay attention to this statement. There is ridge area in Delhi, it is treated as forest land and is considered as life line of Delhi. DDA had allotted some land in ridge area to big contractors. The case was filed in the court and you will be surprised to listen the judgement of the Supreme Court in this case. The Supreme Court says about Delhi:

[English]

It says:

"Had such parties inking of an idea that such clearances were not obtained by DDA, they would not have invested huge sums of money. . . ."

[Translation]

It means if rich and influential people violate the rule, they would have done it unknowingly, but if a poor man, who does not have any resources, and is unaware of rules and regulations is always held guilty.

[English]

It further says:

"...The stand that wherever constructions have been made unauthorisedly demolition is the only option cannot apply to the present cases. . . ."

[Translation]

If forest land is acquired by influential people, demolition will not be applied.

[English]

It further says:

"...more particularly, when they unlike, where some private individuals or private limited companies or firms being allowed to have made contraventions, are corporate bodies and institutions. . . ."

It further says:

"...corporate bodies and institutions; and question of their having indulged in any malpractices in getting the approval or sanction, does not arise."

When influential people occupy forest land, the Court terms it as a wrongful act, but we do not agree with the court's version. If tribals do so, they may be jailed, the police may torture them in any way it likes. The majority of society in India has such a mindset and regretfully, we, too, are members of the said society. The Court pronounces such kind of judgement. The said Bill is intended to change such mindset of the people. We have listened many a logic that the Government have evicted them from forest land. Tribals are demanding only 2 percent area of forest land and not 2 per cent land of the country. If 4-hectare land is provided to each family they won't be dependent upon anybody else. The tribals do not migrate to Delhi or Mumbai, they want to live on forest land in their area. They want that they be granted their legitimate right. We should realize that some of us came to this country later than the tribals. We should never forget that they are original inhabitants. They are the real owners of this land.

SHRI HARIHAR SWAIN (Aska) : Their party has been in power in Delhi for the last 7-8 years. How did he say that the NDA Government did it. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : That land belonged to DDA and DDA had allocated that. . . .(Interruptions) DDA was under their Government. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Interruptions caused will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not argue, make your point.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : We would not have opposed, had their attention been good. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : It is the same BJP, which allots land to large corporate houses. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR) : He is reading out the court's verdict. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a Minister, why are you speaking while standing?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : His speech is not going on record. Why are you making noise?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record, especially anything spoken by the Ministers..

(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The speech of hon. Members who are speaking without permission from the Chair will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : I just want to say that he should have the patience to hear me. I mentioned about

*Not recorded.

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

DDA and read out the Courts' verdict. Actually, guilty conscious is always suspicious; I made no mention of NDA.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He did not hear you properly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : He mistook DDA for NDA.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dikshitji, you stop cross-talks and finish your speech.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : Apart from the logic, I have placed, would like to say one more thing. I would like to quote a newspaper report reflecting the way the said Bill is being opposed. It has been reported by a leading newspaper of Delhi. It states,

[English]

"However, quick calculations indicate the amount of land that would be given away, if the Bill becomes a law."

[Translation]

It is about this Bill.

[English]

"About 20 per cent of India's lands are 68 million hectares of forest land. Eight per cent of its population is Tribal. If each family ends up claiming two-and-a-half hectares, it adds to 50 million hectares."

[Translation]

It is totally untrue. It is a matter of 13 million hectares of land. Newspapers and environmentalist lobby is spreading rumour that lakhs and crores of hectares of land will be allocated to tribals. They say that not tribals, but land mafia will take hold of said forest land. . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI JUAL ORAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already spoken, he is not hinting at the subject. Whatever you speak, will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : The Bill he is talking about should be brought and I would support that. That Bill should definitely be brought and I would support that. There is no hitch in it. I am asking them to support the Bill and that the tribals should be allotted DDA land in Delhi. I would welcome it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no harm in supporting something which is not going to materialize.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT : I would like to say one more thing. Now, the ownership of about 13 million hectares land is proposed to be transferred to the tribals, whereas, as per the Government records, since 1980, 10 million hectares of said forest land has been diverted by the forest officials for mining or other industrial purposes. It means we are finding it very difficult to recognise their right to ownership of forest land, whereas, we are of the opinion that they have the right on forest land since 1927, but approximately 10 million hectares of land has been diverted to mining contractors or the industries. I would say two things regarding the manner in which forest officials implement certain rules. It has been said repeatedly and the Ministry of Environment during the hearing on Godvarman case stated that whenever the Ministry has asked to recognize the right of tribals and forest dwellers on said land, some of the States do not follow the directions of the Ministry. But the States like M.P., Orissa and Maharashtra have certainly taken some steps in this direction. But when it comes to eviction, the Inspector General of Forests issues a brief circular that those who have settled there be evicted and then all of them are evicted forcefully. I am telling you a very interesting fact. The Ministry of Environment and Forests in year 2000 stated that the department of Forests is not permitted to remove the dead wood from forests. The wood which lies there cannot be lifted by the department of forests but they

*Not recorded.

draw the inference that lifting of any minor forest produce irrespective of whosoever collects it is prohibited. Whenever there comes a Government order the department of forests twist it according to their sweet will but when there is something regarding their rights, I have never seen anyone from the forest department or any Wild Lifer showing any concern for their rights regarding land and other things.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even now I say that the day it is implemented, three, five or seven years down the line, you will find that not only Indian forests having qualities in abundance will improve but the animals whom we apprehend nearing extinction might also return to forests of the country through the protective efforts of these very tribals. I appreciate the efforts of hon. Minister that he has taken such an important step. I know with how much difficulty you have introduced this Bill. You must keep in mind two or three points and incorporate this amendment in the present Act. Further more, you have given an expanded definition of NTFP and somewhere in the Bill you have prohibited picking up of small panthers, cucumber, fish etc. I request you to leave that amendment and maintain status-quo. Secondly, I would like to refer to shifting or 'jhoom' cultivation. It is common in the entire Central Eastern Region that they live in village for quite sometime and after one or two years they return there. Shifting cultivation has been omitted. Kindly, do not omit it. Otherwise, it would be a great injustice to the people.

15.00 hrs.

A little reference has been made regarding transport. Hon'ble Minister, Sir. The moment you remove the transport from the Bill, the Forest Guard who is perhaps the most oppressive officer in India, who is the greatest symbol of oppression in India will detain and harass any tribal woman or forest dweller who will be passing through his side carrying any small bundle on one's head. I would like to request you to change the definition of transport. Kindly delete non-mechanised transport and small or large vehicles. Please do permit a Tribal if he wants to transport something packed in a bundle on his head or on his bullock cart.

In addition to it, I would like to request you to retain the Section E(i) to (v) of the Clause 5 which you have proposed to delete as it is quite essential for the Bill. I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Kaiias Baitha – not present.

[English]

Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam to speak now.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity. At the outset I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs Shri P.R. Kyndiah and the Chairman of the Joint Committee Shri V. Kishore Chandra Deo because these two elder Members of this House are bringing this historical Bill to protect the rights of the tribal people. I welcome this Bill and I support this wholeheartedly.

In this Bill, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is said that the tribals and the forests are inseparable. It is a fact. As history goes, in our country the ancient people were tribals. They were mainly in the Central India – Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. These are the thickly tribal populated States. There are about 705 sects of the tribal people and about ten crore of tribal people are there in our country. Their livelihood mainly depends on the forests. The forests and the tribal people, in a symbiotic relationship, are living for centuries together in the forests. But the laws that were enforced, the laws made before Independence by the Britishers like the Forest Act of 1927 or the Acts made after the Independence also, want to separate and avoid the livelihood of the tribal people.

The forest conservation is the prime duty of the Forest Department. But our practice in the past 50 or 60 years of Independence shows that the Forest Department is the major department which is adding to the destruction and dilution of the forests. Moreover, nowadays some environmentalists and some people are blaming the tribals for their shifting cultivation, as though the shifting cultivation is the cause for the destruction and dilution of the thick

[Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam]

forests. It is not the fact. The drought and less rains are all as a result of the division of the rain-catching forests.

What happens in the shifting cultivation? The shifting cultivation is an ancient practice of the pre-agricultural groups of the tribal people. In the shifting cultivation, what they do is they do not fell the big trees. They do not use any seesaw or any tools that would destroy the forests. They only use some minor tools and they would just clear the bushes and they will sow some seeds there and they would get their livelihood.

By doing so, they can earn livelihood for about three to four months only in a year. The proceeds of shifting cultivation are not sufficient to lead one tribal family. Their life mainly depends on shifting cultivation. Hence, in this Bill, in Chapter on Rights, I want shifting cultivators to be included as the beneficiaries so that they can get the benefits of this Bill. Shifting cultivators, as the name goes, are shifting cultivation from one place to another. For one or two years, they are able to grow something in that area and after three years, they will shift to the other place. At the new place, they will clear the bushes, sow something and get some benefit from produce. They will not fell any big tree or rain-fed forest. So, their living depends on the shifting cultivation. We must recognise shifting cultivators and shifting cultivation as a tool of their livelihood. Therefore, in this Bill, I want the shifting cultivators to be included.

Let us look at shifting cultivation *vis a vis* destruction of the forest. If we go into a deep forest and see a forest village or a revenue village in the erstwhile agency areas or the scheduled areas, we find normal tribal family living there. We do not find any chair to sit on in their houses. We will not find any cot to sleep on. He sleeps on the floor. He will not have any furniture in his house. Such is the miserable situation of the tribal people residing in the middle of the forest. If they want to make use of forest and exploit the forest, they can make use of forest and reserved forest for their personal use, but they do not do it. This has been occurring for centuries, but degradation of forest is

occurring because of the holding that is prompted by the Forest Department.

I want to suggest a few more things in regard to this Bill. Clause 2(c) at page 2 defines 'forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes'. It says 'who primarily reside in or in close proximity of forests'. I want to add 'in close proximity' here. At page 3, it is said 'omit fuel wood and the like, stones, slates and builders and products from water bodies, including fish, weeds. . .'. It would say not to omit them, but to add them to the minor produce. At page 8, in clause 6(1), please add after 'a resolution to that effect', the words 'the list of the landholders to be beneficiaries under this Act'.

Lastly, Gram Sabha should be given the full and final authority to decide the beneficiaries under this Act. At the Committee's level, I want adequate representation of the Gram Sabha. So, I would suggest those people to be included in the various levels of the committees that are going to be formed under this Act.

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA (Bagaha) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got the opportunity to speak in the House for the second time. It is surprising that attention has been paid to the hardships faced by the people living at the lowest rung of the society who live in jungles today, after so many years of freedom. I support the Bill which has been introduced by the hon. Minister and the Parliamentary Committee for taking up all the problems being faced by the tribal communities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, besides he tribal people non-tribals also live in jungles who have protected the forests till now. Despite all this, they do not get any benefit after so many years of Independence. Wood is supplied outside the forests from prominent places but the tribal people are not able to get wood even to make furniture to give it as a gift to their daughter on the occasion of their marriage. Forest is the only source of their livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the right enjoyed by the tribal people in the tiger project has been taken away from them in the West Champaran – the place associated with the Satyagraha activities of Gandhiji – in Bihar. Apart from it,

the tribals have also been deprived of their livelihood which they used to earn by making plates from forest leaves and by selling dead wood collected from the jungles. Now tribals have been implicated in thousands of false court cases. Officers do not attend court on the date of hearing but the tribals go there and return. It is a great problem.

Mr. Chirman, Sir, there are lakhs of acres of land in jungle having no forest on it. Tribals used to cultivate land traditionally but they are made to give up land after the arrival of forest officers. If some tribals appear those forest officers, they are allowed to continue with their cultivation on that very land. The forests lying along with the Nepal border where tribals are living, can be divided into four parts. These people are participating in the Maoist activities for being deprived of land. Some tribals are also migrating from there. Therefore, the danger of Maoist activities is looming large on our border. Even thousands of people are wandering in search of livelihood in Punjab, Haryana and other parts of the country. The whole of the forest area is destroyed due to the nexus between the forest officials and the Maoists. The people who protected forests are facing starvation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister that he has taken care of the lower strata of the society and brought in this Bill which I support wholeheartedly. I also appreciate the recommendations made by the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The tribal people who picked up the fire wood have been implicated in court cases. They are fighting court cases by selling their cattle. They should be acquitted of these cases. The Government is vigilant towards the weaker sections of the society. I wholeheartedly congratulate the Government for this and I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris) : I thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity a little 'out of turn. I will try to be very pointed and not make an elaborate speech.

The Government should be congratulated for bringing this Forest Rights Bill because this is one of the few Bills

which the whole House is supporting even though we have divergent political views. In different parts of our country, which is such a large country, in different States maybe even the same State, sometimes certain Tribes and certain communities are referred to and classified as Scheduled Tribes and others who have the same background are not classified as Scheduled Tribes. That is why the Government has brought this amendment saying that the traditional forest dwellers are also included in this Bill.

I am going into the background. This Bill was introduced last year in December and was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee under the Chairmanship of my friend from Andhra Pradesh, Shri Kishore Deo. I must say, Sir, I was closely involved with the deliberations because people from my constituency came and gave evidence and gave a lot of records to bring the other forest dwellers, especially Scheduled Castes and other very-very poor people into the ambit of this Bill.

I am coming straight to the point. In this amendment, under SI. No. 7, it has been said that other traditional forest dwellers means any member or community who has at least for three generations prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 resided in that particular area. It goes on to say and define a generation as 25 years. I have heard generations being defined as ten or fifteen years, but if they are going to bring a new definition to generation and make it 25 years and say three generations then we are going 75 years behind 2005, which is pre-Independence. How can we sit here and legislate on something that was done pre-Independence? Honestly I think it is a typographical error. I would request the Minister to please go through it again. If it is a typographical error, it is very easy to change. Please apply mind and try to define generation as 10 or 15 years, which is a more reasonable definition. So, we would not go beyond Independence.

In my constituency, which is representative in the whole of India in similar situations, we had two problems. One was the thing called Janmam land, which was owned by the Maharajas of Nilambur, which belong to Kerala under the Malabar Tenancy Act. They nearly owned 1 lakh hectares of forest area. In 1969, the Government of Tamil

[Shri R. Prabhu]

Nadu and the Government of Kerala simultaneously passed legislation abolishing the Janmam Act. So, these lands were transferred to the Government. Kerala directly transferred the land to Forest Department but in Tamil Nadu there was a confusion and some lands were transferred to the Revenue Department and some to the Forest Department. Before this Act came in 1969 there were a lot of forest dwellers already in this land, some were leasees, who had been given land by the kingdom as a lease to stay there and grow their produce. Some people who were working for these royal families for generations were given some sort of land to carry on their livelihood. After 1969, this became a big problem in Tamil Nadu, that is, is this a forest land, revenue land or what. In 1981 there was a petition in the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court gave directions that all this land coming under Janmam Act, which has been abolished, is defined as Section 17 and all these people should make application to the State Government and the State Government should go into all these applications and decide that if they are there for two or three generations they should be given pottas. Till now, various State Governments have come and gone but nothing has happened. This Bill, as it is passed today, will give rights to all these people; the Scheduled Tribes, the people who are worse than the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and very poor people.

Sir, another problem which came up was that in sixties there was a Green Revolution in our country. So, there were a lot of waste land areas and other grazing areas which were not connected with the forest or revenue but were just waste lands. The *adivasis*, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and others were brought to these lands and were told to grow more food. They were encouraged. Now these poor people have worked in that land, grown food and crops and suddenly they are asked to get out by the Forest Department. When Mr. Dikshit was speaking, he was saying that the rich people who have occupied the forests have not been sent out. Only the poor people are being sent out. This is a fact which we all have to

accept. Not only that, another problem here is that these lands which were just waste and grazing lands were wrongly classified by the State Government of Tamil Nadu in 1970 as forest land. So, we have been fighting a big battle saying that you have wrongly classified it. So, please look into it. So, these officers just come and they do not go into the ground. They just sit in the Guest house and try to classify it.

Sir, one thing is common to all in India even though we look different, behave different and eat different. But the officials of the Forest Department are very nasty all over the country. They behave as if they are a law unto themselves and not under the State Government or the Central Government. Sir, if you allow me I would just cite an example without taking any name to what extent they misbehave. As you know, because of our hon. Minister of Rural Development, we have got District Rural Development Committees all over the country and I have the privilege of being the Chairman of two Committees. When I had meetings, I found that these Forest officials never used to come to these meetings. So, we insisted and said that we would pass strictures against them if they do not come. So, ultimately they came in the last meeting. But I did not know they were there. The elected representatives of the people, the MLA and also the District Panchayat Chairman had some points to make about the forest lands in rural areas being wrongly classified and that the Forest Department is evicting people improperly and all that. So, this man does not say anything in the meeting, does not tell anything to me or the District Collector. He writes a letter to the competent authority appointed under the Supreme Court saying that the Chairman and the District Collector have misbehaved and everybody in the meeting misbehaved and let me live with dignity. This officer is only 28 years old and he has occupied his first position. But this is the way he is behaving. So, you can imagine what kind of behaviour these officers do with the small forest dwellers. So, this comprehensive Bill which has been brought today is a great boon for the forest dwellers be they Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes, *adivasis* or whatever.

This is the meaning of over all development. Right from Panditji's days when we got Independence, we have been saying that there should be over all development in the country. But unless our villagers, tribals and poor people are lifted up by other people of the society, this country can never develop. We are talking about the growth rate of 8.7 per cent. Do you think that there is a growth at 8.7 per cent in rural areas? It is not. They are talking about the growth in urban areas. So, if you average it out, it may not be 8.7 per cent. So, we should aim at least for a growth of 5 to 6 per cent in rural areas. So, this is a great step in that direction and we will give these people their right to live with dignity and honour and carry on their small livelihood so that they can make two ends meet.

I congratulate the Government, especially Madam Sonia Gandhi who took a very great interest to include other forest dwellers also. I also congratulate our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. I support this Bill wholeheartedly.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to putforth my point on a very important Bill. Really, the hon. Minister deserves congratulations for introducing this Bill in the House. He has taken a very important step. It is absolutely true, as has been said, that it is an endeavour to cover those under the said Bill that haven't been covered earlier to take them on the path of progress. Our hon. Members have said that the way they were managing the jungles reflects that they had a british mindset. Consequently, the people trapped in the jungles were facing a lot of difficulties. It is a correction of a historical error and the fact is that the country had to pay a lot for the way of working of the forest officials and their insensitivity. The forest officers exploited and filed cases against the people of tribal community to the extent that there is a feeling of resentment among the public and whenever in the North-East and other parts of the country and across the border, wherever people have been

suppressed, the youth have taken to the arms and in my view, the tribal people also have taken to the wrong path and at present the Government is concerned as to how they could be brought back to the mainstream. Here, I would also like to specially reiterate that as my colleagues have earlier said that if we want to bring forward our comrades of all tribal communities who have been with us in freedom movement and participated in country's freedom struggle, if we want to bring them to the mainstream, action should be taken to legally withdraw the cases filed against them and withdraw the prosecution against them.

I wouldn't like to speak for long, I'd just like to putforth the points on some issues. As my colleagues were earlier telling that when the zamindari system was done away with, the Government of India was working under the pressure that we have to transform 25 per cent to 30 per cent or one third of land into jungles, therefore, when the zamindari system was abolished, many-a-peasant couldn't even know as to when the action under section four and five was taken as also under section 20 that pertains to final acquisition. All those lands were transformed into jungles. But people are farming there even now. Those residents who had been living on those lands for 100 or 150 years, are farming there. There are no jungles there. I brought to the notice of the Union Government a number of cases in this regard, an appeal was also made to the H.E. President, but in vain. It all couldn't deliver anything. A lot of tension remained hovering in those areas. Only in my district, Lakhimpur, there are 24 villages having a populace of at least 25 thousand. They are farming there. Those lands are notified as forest lands and the forest officials accompanied with a large number of policemen take action for eviction from time to time and oust them. As it is a fact, the action of eviction is initiated, but it is stopped for unknown reasons. People are still staying there. We can well understand how much corruption is prevailing and flourishing there and how the public are being exploited.

Tribals have been very weak, their education level as well as their level of progress is retarded. Certainly, the

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

forest officials have also been the victims of great exploitation. I am pleased to see that the forest gram sabhas are being accorded the status of panchayats and certainly, the most important thing in it is that not only the tribals but the other people like people of downtrodden castes or backward castes and also the other castes who are also living among the tribals and have become a part of their system and have also been given same rights. It is a good thing and certainly a step to bring the people to the mainstream who were left behind those who have married to tribal boys-girls and developed relations with them. A good system to implement the schemes of Panchayat-through Panchayat has come up and I hope that there'll be an improvement in the social status, human development indicators, education level, employment level and level of health services of these forest dwellers in the days to come. . . .(Interruptions) I will conclude very soon. There are some issues related to my parliamentary constituency which I would like to raise. All those issues would be supported by this law. I would especially like to say one thing that there are nearly 134 villages in my parliamentary constituency which are near to the Dudhwa National Park or within the jungle near the Kheri North Division and the South Division of the department of forests. All these villages are forest villages. The fact is that a situation of clash has developed due to the ways of working of the forest officers and officials. I had written about it to the Government also and I told all the concerned officers and officials that electric fencing should be installed between the jungle and the villages. There are nearly 134 villages. If this had been done there, the situation of clash could have been averted. I hope that this will provide an opportunity to raise the standard of living of the forest dwellers through the Panchayati Raj and we would be able to do this work soon.

I would like to say something about sanctuary. Wherever there are wild life sanctuaries, the human beings living therein have been given the lowest place. Same is the case with Tiger Dudhwa National Park Project in my constituency whereas the fact is that our tribal communities

are a very Significant part of the Eco system. They haven't started residing there only recently, rather they've been residing there for centuries. Certainly, they have not caused any harm to it. It has been repeatedly said and I understand that this issue has already been raised that the people dealing in forest produce have caused this harm. When lions were dying in a sanctuary, it was not so because people were killing them there, rather one Sansar Chand from Delhi was behind these killings. He was killing them. We should pay attention towards it. In my constituency, there was a Gram Sabha called surma, tribals of Tharu community lived therein. Action was taken to oust them from there, even after a period of 20-25 years, they have neither been provided any shelters nor have they been rehabilitated. But now, preparations are on to uproot them. I think this whole situation would entirely be taken care of in the new law that has come in place. If the residents of that area are to be ousted and rehabilitated somewhere else, first there should be proper arrangement of accommodation and land for them. Only then any provision to oust them therefrom should be made.

Sir, I would like to say something about the forest officers. The forest officers have had in the past also a very close relation with the tribal communities residing there, and it would continue in future also. In view of their attitude and ways of working, I feel that you have to make a special cadre making them more sensitive to formulate developmental schemes keeping in view the spirit of the new law called Bio-Diversity Act and the honouring our forest dwellers. I would like to urge the Forest Management System or the affiliated authorities existing therein to be very sensitive to take care of basic issues and provide human beings the right to dignified life as per the 'Right to live with Dignity' mentioned in the Constitution.

I welcome and support you for introducing this Bill.

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West) : Sir, I rise to support this historic piece of legislation, namely, the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Bill.

But I am wondering where to start from because at the last hour, many amendments have been brought in. Hence I am very confused. For the last two years, we have been part and parcel of the whole debate and discussion as to what should be the shape of the Bill, the nature and kind of the Bill. But suddenly, around 1 p.m. when these amendments were brought in, I was very confused and I fail to understand some sections. It is totally a somersault done at the last moment. But I congratulate the hon. Minister because due to his efforts this Bill has finally come up and seen the light of the day. Personally also, I respect the hon. Minister and I congratulate him for bringing up this Bill before this House.

[Translation]

A lot of things have been enumerated in this Bill. I would like to raise such issues that are required to be touched upon. Some of the Members spoke about Gujarat and some other States. I would like to convey to Shri Madhusudan Mistry that when he visualizes Gujarat, his point of view is right and when he takes North-Eastern States into account, he will have to look at them from a different view point as the situation there is entirely different. The forests, topography, land and environment vary from place to place. That's why the laws should be framed keeping in view the interests of the people from these areas. There is approximately 10 crore tribal population in our country. The introduction of this Bill after independence has come as a great boon for their survival. I think that this Bill will bring historic benefits for them. It has been said at various places that the tribals are encroachers. The hon. Minister has said in the Statement of Aims and Objectives of this Bill that,

[English]

tribals and the forests are not separable.

[Translation]

I accept the fact that none but the tribals better know how to preserve the forests. Only tribals know it best as they dwell in and grow with forest. So, when they are called encroachers, they are in fact misconstrued by the people.

The rights vested in them should be dovetailed with the provisions of responsibility as well. I would like to convey this thing clearly to this House that even the tribals have become avaricious. Such people have emerged even from amongst the tribals that are bent upon destroying the forest for earning and accumulating money. So the provisions for checking the abuse and misuse of such rights should also be incorporated in this Bill. As far as north-eastern region is concerned, they should fix a deadline for the recognition of their forest rights. While taking decisions in this respect, a big threat emanating from the illegal infiltration of Bangladesh migrants in north-eastern regions, particularly into Assam should also be kept in view. If we continue to allow such relaxations, undoubtedly it will substantially be enjoyed by the illegal Bangladeshi migrants, which will ultimately jeopardize even the security of the country. The path we used to pass through during our childhood was quite unoccupied. We could sit and have our meal easily at any place there. Today the same place has been fully occupied. Who are these occupiers? They are not our neighbours. Most of them are illegal Bangladeshi migrants. These things must be taken into account while framing the laws.

Hon. Minister, you are from a North-Eastern State and hence it need not be explained elaborately to you. I think that you realise it. There is much confusion in the core areas which you have mentioned. I would like to cite an example. Once upon a time a forest was declared reserved in Arunachal Pradesh by the then British Raj. Before, there was no such demarcation line there. It is said that complete forest area has been declared as 'reserved'. The people who reside there have no right. In spite of the constitution of Panchayat there, it is said that land will not be allocated to it because this is a reserved forest area. At some point of time, there a negotiation be made between the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and determine as to which should be the reserve forest area. We did not concur with its recognition as a reserve forest area. During the English regime, it was suo mottu declared reserved. We are forced to abide by it. It should be redefined. Hon. Minister, please keep this aspect in your

[Shri Kiren Rijju]

mind while framing laws. As I said that the resources available in the tribal areas are beneficial for the country.

[English]

The country has enriched itself because of the resources protected by the tribals.

[Translation]

The tribals have done a tremendous job for the country. They should be provided a relief and rehabilitation by way of a resettlement package in the event of their evacuation for any big project in that tribal area. . . .(Interruptions). Hon. Minister, how many Members from our party are yet to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sir more Member from your party are yet to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take care of time also.

SHRI KIREN RIJU : While I am aware of time restrictions, relief and rehabilitation should be provided to the tribals affected by this project but there is no mention of it in this Bill. This will event further confusion, so it should be made clear right now. If you enforce it, it cannot be ignored as 50 per cent hydro power generation capacity of India exist in my State. Major share of the loss is to be borne by us. We are happy with the introduction of the Bill. We are ready for it. We are not against the project. The land of tribals who reside in the villages and sustain on the cultivation, their land will be acquired for that project. This aspect should also be taken care of.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are well aware of the North-Eastern region and hence I believe that having some empathy with me you will allow me to speak two or three minutes more. This Bill provides for shift cultivation. In the North-Eastern region nothing else but the shifting cultivation is prevalent. It is the most common cultivation practice in this region. Our colleagues have also touched

upon this aspect. Hon. Minister should take care of these things as he himself is from Meghalaya, he knows about it. I am happy that the gram Sabha has been accorded much importance in the committee constituted for this purpose. He has also said that the decision of the district level committee will be final and binding. Now my question is who will be the head of the Committee. Gram Sabha comes up from that very land. But its decision will not assume as much importance as that of the District Level Committee and Sub-Divisional Committee and State Level Committee and above all the decision of the District Level Committee will be final. That's why I want to say that the aforesaid committee should better be headed by a public representative, rather than a bureaucrat; otherwise they will not be able to protect the interest of the people. Besides, in the amendment proposed enumerated at the page 7 and line 28, the sealing of four hectare land has been mentioned. I think it is too less to be sufficient. Four hectare land is too less to be sufficient for us. We cannot do anything in this insufficient land. Four hectare A land will not suffice the way we lead our life as this is a hilly area. I urge you to rethink and change it accordingly.

- At last, as I said earlier, I would like to conclude my speech by combining all those things forests, lands and tribals are inseparable. As I said earlier that the tribals themselves are raising the forests. At some places people do hunting on a large scale. . . .(Interruptions) I have differences with my colleagues sitting beside me because they do hunting very much. . . ."

I oppose it. I am a peace loving person. I do not do so. . . .(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not record it. It would not go on record. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJU : They would have to obey whether you have said. I want to tell the minister that hunting would have to cease. We will remain happy if there are jungles. There would be no purpose of our life if there are no jungles.

*Not recorded.

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I and our party, Bahujan Samaj Party support the Bill introduced by Shri P.R. Kyndiah. It has been done after 59 years of independence, it should have been done long before. Through you, would like to thank the hon. Minister and strongly support this Bill.

The nomads lead their lives like Banjaras. An effort has been made in the Bill to protect their rights. We are very happy with this Bill that their lives will be better and their children will not remain deprived of education who have so far been deprived of education. They will now get medical facilities. By now their children used to be victims of malnutrition, diseases spread among them. They did not get immunization and did not get medical facilities. They will not experience injustice through this Bill which has been brought by the effort of hon. Minister. Now they will get water and electricity and all the schemes will reach to them and so they will be benefited. Justice should be given to them if you want to bring them into the mainstream, otherwise the development of the country would be impossible if we ignore their large population living in the country. We have seen in Uttar Pradesh and its neighbouring State Uttarakhand that these people loiter from here to there like nomads. Their children do not have chappals in their feet and clothes on their bodies and shiver with cold. They keep loitering with one buffalo, goat and a dog etc. Their life is nomadic. We can do justice to the adivasis, dalits and tribals if we understand their pains.

It has been going on for about 59 years since independence and hundreds of years will pass this way, if we do not understand their problems and we will not be able to do justice to them. We can bring them to the mainstream of society if we understand their pain and have a positive thinking.

Our hon. colleague has just said that Bangladeshis come in Assam in large number. We feel it that some Bangladeshi's come in our country but it may also be that it would be wrong if we doubt the Muslims of the country by calling them Bangladeshi. Since 1857 a number of

people in India have shed their blood and these people may be from amongst those people and force them to leave the country by calling them Bangladeshi. Therefore, it should be investigated lest the muslims who are original residents of the country, would experience injustice. I think that there should be no soft corner for the Bangladeshi people but the Muslims of our country who are living in the jungles and have been living there for centuries, should not meet injustice. I strongly support this Bill by concluding my speech. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Nobody opposes Indian Muslims. -

MR. CHAIRMAN : Swainji, Please sit down. He has said the same thing.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I want to take only a few minutes. I would make only a few points.

Sir, I rise to support the Bill. To my mind, it is already overdue. In Bengali literature, we are very much familiar with a term written by Sanjib Chandra. It is in Bengali. It says:

"Banyera Bane Sundar, Sishura Matri Crore".

It means: "Forest dwellers are fine in the forest and the children are at the lap of their mother." Forest dwellers and forests are inseparable. They are co-dependent. Without the help of forest dwellers, forest cannot be protected and without the forest, the life of forest dwellers cannot go on. But the colonial rule ignored that reality. Rather, they snatched the rights of forest dwellers, particularly the rights of the tribals and the Scheduled Castes in different areas of our country. In Bengal, Orissa and in some other States we are very much familiar with the so-called permanent settlement of the British Rule which snatched the rights of the tribals and other forest dwellers. That is why, the uprising is very well enshrined in the history. The Sonotal Rebellion, the Paik Rebellion and the Chuar Rebellion are enshrined in our national liberation struggle and

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

after Independence, we are also carrying on the same legacy.

Sir, I thank the hon. Minister and the UPA Government for bringing this kind of a Bill which gives forest rights to tribals and other traditional forest dwellers. This Bill has been brought 59 years after our Independence. This is a historic Bill and so, I welcome this Bill whole-heartedly.

This Bill recognizes the forest rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been in possession of forest land before 13th December, 2005, as per the amendment. According to this Bill, a forest-dwelling family would be entitled to have a maximum of 2.5 hectares of forest land. This Bill also outlines specific forest rights to them. The Gram Sabha has been empowered to initiate the process of determination of the eligible people. I welcome all these provisions.

So, while supporting this Bill, I would like to seek clarification from the hon. Minister on certain points. I would like to suggest that in the definition of 'traditional forest dwellers', the words, 'dwellers who live in close proximity of the forest land and primarily dependent on the forest land' should be incorporated. I hope the Minister would consider this and say something positive. Then, the interest of those sections or communities who depend on the forest for survival and livelihood reasons, but are not forest dwellers should also be brought under the purview of this Bill.

Sir, the Bill specifies the cut-off date, but it does not clarify the kind of evidence that would be required for those people residing in and around forests to prove their occupancy. A large number of forest dwellers are accused of unauthorized occupation of forest land and their cases are pending in courts. A large number of people have already been removed from the forest land and they have been awarded punishment. What will happen to them? I would like to know from the Government whether those lands would be given back to them. I would request the hon. Minister to clarify this point.

I come to amendments now. I have gone through the amendments which have been circulated today. Amendment No. 5 says:

"Page 3, lines 3 and 4, omit "fuel wood and the like, stones, slates and boulders and products from water bodies including fish, weeds"."

This is unfortunate. The contractors and forest mafias are exploiting the forest resources and destroying our forests. But the poor forest dwellers are collecting fuel wood for their livelihood and so these rights should be given to the tribals. So, stones, slates and boulders, etc. may be omitted, but fuel wood and products from water bodies including fish, weeds may remain.

Now, I come to amendment No.7. It is mentioned:

"Other traditional forest dweller means any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forests and forests land. . ."

15.56 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Sir, even during the British rule, there was a law that any family member who occupies the land for 12 years, should be entitled to that land. So, 12 years can be mentioned instead of what is mentioned in the paper. So, I propose that 12 years should be his entitled.

Now, I come to another point where the proper share to the forest dweller should be provided from the forest woods. It should be there.

My last point is that in most of the forest areas there is mafia raj. They are looting the forests in connivance with the locals and in some areas with forest officials. What does the Government have to say about that? We are in a hurry to pass this Bill. It is all right. This enactment is required. That is all right. But the mafia raj is going on in the forest areas. How do you control this? How do you check this menace?

I think, the hon. Minister will think over all these points, particularly about the amendments that I have mentioned. I have mentioned two points. One is that 12 years period should be mentioned and another is about fuel wood, etc. That should remain there. The hon. Minister may omit the other things which he has mentioned, but these things which I have mentioned should remain.

With these words, I support the Bill and thank the hon. Minister personally and the UPA Government for bringing this Bill here.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON (Lohardaga) : Sir, I rise to speak in support of this Bill. I must support this Bill because being a tribal I know what is the pain of tribals. We have been displaced for centuries. Since Independence, we have been displaced several times and our land has been taken away from us. It is for the first time when we are being rehabilitated. I, therefore, support this Bill.

Sir, first of all I would like to give thanks to the UPA Chairperson, Smt. Soniaji, Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singhji and Shri Kyndiahji who has introduced the Bill in the House. I would also like to thank the Chairman and members of JPC because the original Bill had a mention for only STs. If it had happened, then perhaps the non tribals would have once again met injustice who have been living in the jungles for centuries. The society has harmony with them. If persons belonging to STs would have got right on land and perhaps the feelings of non-tribals would have hurt. I, therefore, would like to thank once again to the Chairman and members of the JPC.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, we need to go into the history as to how the jungle and tribals have been indivisible. Earlier, the tribals and other persons used jungles freely. The English came and Indian Forest Department came into existence in 1864. Since then there is a struggle between the tribals and the forest department. This struggle turned into a movement. Birsa Munda of Jharkhand is famous for this movement. Again a movement started in Bastar in 1911. A movement

was started against the English over the control on jungle. Again the farmers in Kumaon had started a movement regarding the right over the jungle. All struggles had been done to take rights over the jungle. Jungles and the tribals are indivisible. What is the meaning of it? Our life, culture and religion depend on jungle.

Shri Jwal Oramji was speaking. His speech was very emotional. I would like to say by going a bit ahead that other castes of India have their surnames gotras. These are based on knowledge or other grounds. The person who has knowledge of three Vedas, is called Trivedi and the person who has knowledge of four Vedas, is called Chaturvedi and the person who can only read was called Pathak. What is our gotra, How does our Gotra form? Our gotra is Topyo. What is its meaning in Hindi? It is Kath Khodwa in Hindi which means the bird which cuts the wood by sitting in the pit of a tree. It is called woodpecker in English. I do not know what is the gotra of Jwal Oramji because I have not asked him. There are Kujors, there are Lakda which means tiger. All the gotras that we have are related to forest animals, animals and birds or trees. We have an emotional connection with these. Tribal people have strong relation with forests.

It is really unfortunate that when a Bill is about to be presented all those people, whose ancestors used to hunt tigers and get themselves photographed by posing on their sides and displayed those in their drawing rooms, those environmentalists have started opposing us. They are saying that this Bill will lead to destroy both forests and wild life. I would like to remove their misunderstanding. I want to tell them that it was we only and not them who saved the forest and the wild life living in forest. They are spreading rumours throughout the country and the way Jwal Oramji is saying, that it is tiger Vs tribals. It is really unfortunate that educated and so called elite people are talking like this. The country needs to be aware of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are speaking very well and are speaking on the right topic also but there is limited time only, please take care of that.

DR. RAMESHWAR ORAON : This is one subject. Provision has been made in this for Gram Sabha. The lower level democracy has been involved in this. Other people would not know the importance of Gram Sabha. Being a Tribal we know that all our works get done through Gram Sabha. What is to happen where and what is to take place in the village, even as where the marriages are to take place is all decided by the Gram Sabha. We read in books that in the times of Licchavi's there was democracy in Vaishali but after that it got over. But democracy is still alive in tribal society. It comes from earlier than 1947 to till date. Gram Sabha is really important and it has been conferred with all the powers and it is a very good thing. This is also a good thing that there would be 50 percent members of Panchayati Raj System at the sub-divisional and district level. This will protect the rights of tribals and forest dwellers. Since you have talked about time. I would not speak for long but would like to say one thing on this occasion that the tribals and forest dwellers are really insecure. Today what is happening in Jharkhand? The Indian army is going to create a field firing range in Gumla district of Netrahat. This will destroy 200 villages and this place is inhabited by PTG and primitive tribal group people. We people have been educated to some extent and have been elected to Lok Sabha but those people who have seen PTG, they know that their condition is very poor and they are still living in the hunting age although they do not get anything out of hunting but still they are into that age. If PTG people of 200 villages are displaced from there in the name of creating field firing, then they will die the way a fish dies when removed out of water. Their situation would be the same. I would like to urge hon'ble Defence Minister on this occasion that he should remove the field firing range from there and not to establish it there.

One of the hon'ble Member has rightly mentioned that the tribals are affected by only one thing and that's forest department. If once the Forest Department files a case then even though the punishment is only for one year but one may have to fight the case for ten years and has to suffer a lot of emotional trauma and financial loss. On this occasion I would request Government of India as well as

hon'ble Minister that all the Forest cases which are there must be withdrawn. With this I conclude I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this House, discussion is being held on Scheduled Tribe and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Bill, 2006. I rise to speak in favour of this Bill. I am fortunate that I have got an opportunity to become a Member of this Committee and I got an opportunity to serve as Minister of Forest Department in Uttar Pradesh. I have closely observed the pains which is suffered by these tribals who live in tribal and traditional ways because we have been attending Tribal Day and other functions of them therefore, I have very closely observed and know their pathetic condition. Today I would like to thank Mr. Kyndiah, Mr. Dev, Chairman of Joint Parliamentary Committee and hon'ble Members because a number of meetings were conducted for this and after a lot of hard work, and after a lot of thinking and with all the suggestions this Bill has been introduced. I would like to thank the UPA Government that this Bill has been introduced at the right time although this should have been brought much earlier, but still, now that it has been introduced, I would like to congratulate for this. All hon'ble Members have put forth their views here and all kinds of suggestions have been received but if it is to be seen practically then we have to consider as to how we can provide facilities in practical terms to those who are tribals and live in traditional manner, who live in villages, be it minority community, nomadic tribe or all the shepherd sub castes. The report contains all the aspects. If we see today in the entire country, be it a matter of any state, where naxalism is brewing or the younger people are taking to arms, the major reason for this has been that they have remained aloof since last three or four generations. Now they have got an opportunity to get themselves involved into the mainstream. There are certain Naxalite districts in Uttar Pradesh, where our Chief Minister has himself approached their leaders and have made them voters under the Panchayati Raj System. When they fought elections under the Panchayati Raj System and joined the mainstream then they got the respect and development

took place. This is the reason that all the States which are near Uttar Pradesh which are naxalite areas. . .
.(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Are there forests Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : There are some forests.

In Lakhimpur Khiri and on the border of Uttaranchal.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shailender Kumarji, time is limited, otherwise I would have to stop you.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Sir, he asked, that is why I said. He reminded me, that is why I have said. The young people will get really good opportunities from this. This Bill will curb all such kinds of activities. Besides, the tribals who collect wood who are shepherds or who collect honey from the forest, all these people have their own small means of livelihood. They do not cause any harm to the forests. The forests protect them and they protect the forests. But still I would like to say that no harm should be caused to the sanctuaries and national parks of the country. Our natural resources should be conserved. Its beauty, culture and tribal civilization should be maintained. In view of this it has been asked to incorporate this into it and make amendments. This Bill has been presented after carrying out extensive study in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing I would like to say is that when we visited the forests, we saw that their condition was really very bad. It looked like they had been left out of the main stream of society and the country. Today, it is required that there should be fair price shops for those people so that they could get essential commodities. There should be hospitals and schools for them. Their children's condition is pathetic. Hospitals and schools should be opened there for their children. There should be a centre of Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS). Besides this there should be arrangements for providing them services like telecom, power, ponds, drinking water, check dams or all other kinds of water resources. There should be similar facilities available there as are there at other places.

Besides this, I would like to mention another important thing, which we realized after talking to them, that most of the difficulties they have to face are because of the forest officers and officials. They are caught every now and then and false cases are filed against them. Being a responsible public representative I have observed that a number of officials there are in connivance with the mafia people because of which the condition of tribals is extremely pitiable. The need of the hour is to set up a separate department to take care of these tribals and officials are appointed separately, then only we can protect the tribals and save them from exploitation.

I would like to say one more thing that I visited them on Tribal's Day. They make beautiful things with their hands, which include ornaments or domestic decorative handicraft which are used by us in our day-to-day life. I believe that there should be a separate market organized from time to time for them so that the products made by them could get market exposure. The things made by them need to be promoted. This will create employment for them and will improve their financial condition. We have implemented Wild Life Conservation Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Bio-Diversity Act, 2002. So much power was conferred through these Acts that they caused atrocities to these people, which cannot be denied by us and we cannot get away from that. But today, after this Bill is passed, they will have great convenience. My colleague Mr. Bwiswmuthiary is sitting here, he wants to move some amendments, I support him on that and request the hon'ble Minister to seriously listen to what he has to say.

With these words, I would like to thank you hon'ble Mr. Chairman for giving me an opportunity to speak and then conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil) : I welcome this Bill for when passed should prove to be a fine Balance between rights and responsibilities of Forest users.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri A.V. Bellarmin]

Our Mother land is a peninsula having a vast stretch of Hills and Mountains, inclusive of all forest resources. The North Eastern frontiers of the land and also vast regions of mountains such as Vindhyas, Satpuras and Western Ghats, our country occupies a prestigious list of a very few countries endowed with rain forest hot spots. In the Western Ghats and the North east. These forests contribute to the stability of the country's climate and harbour magnificent biodiversity. Many plant and animal species are unique to particular areas of these forests and any loss of these will be catastrophic and permanent. The aim of the provision of the Bill should be of Paramount objective of protecting the surrounding buffer forests retain their flora and fauna to sustain communities and tribes in traditional ways.

More paramount should be that one to guarantee the Protection, livelihood, health care and basic-education of the forest dwellers. There are two types of forest dwellers. The forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes who have been scheduled as forest tribes, dwelling for centuries in the forests. They should be treated and declared as forest settlers. Any rights or activities of the forest authorities should be a deterrent to their routine life and living. They dwell in dens at a particular region of the forest in communities. But they have no right to the land they well all.

They cultivate, but they have no facilities for the marketing of their produce. They live as a deprived and destitute lot, sans provisions for purified drinking water, sans staple foods, sans electricity, sans even roads for travel. The sterling achievements in the field of information. Technology yet to be heard by these people. No telephone connections, no electricity lines are permitted by the authorities. In short they are living a life far away from those of the mainland. Cut off from the main lands. As such before finalizing the bill it should be ensured the right to the land of these dwellers. Similarly other basic amenities of life and living should be provided to them.

Apart from the above type of Forest dwellers, there are dwellers, who enter the forests from adjacent terrains and

plains for living. They should also be provided with the rights and privileges of normal life and dwelling.

While striking a balance between the rights of the forest dwellers and responsibilities and rights of the Forest authorities, it should be borne in mind that the powers entrusted to the forest right holders for prevention of activities that adversely affect wild life, forest and the biodiversity in the local areas. Protection of catch men areas. Water bodies and other ecologically sensitive areas. The dwellers should be protected from the wild animals who often cause irreparable loss and damage to their crops to their lives. The communities which are endemics found no where else e.g. Thodars of Nilgiris should be given preferential treatments.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon'ble Members are requested that nearly 17 Members are yet to speak. The subject is such that more and more people would like to speak. Time is limited and we have to take up Private Members' bill also.

[English]

There is Half-an-Hour Discussion. So, we have to take Half-an-Hour Discussion and Private Members' Business also. So, let each Member speak for five minutes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI) : Sir, this morning it was decided that this Bill is to be disposed of first. Then, the Private Members' Business and Half-an-Hour Discussion would be taken up. So, accordingly, we are proceeding. But I agree with you that if the hon. Members give their speech in writing, they can also be accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Members can lay their speeches if they wish.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is all right to lay it on the Table. One or two Members may lay but the remaining hon'ble Members must get a chance to speak. It is such an important Bill,

the entire country is looking forward to this Bill, and to the rights which we are giving under this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First this Bill will get passed. Only after that Private Members Resolution or Bill would be taken up. But the hon'ble Members will have to conclude their speeches in 5 minutes each.

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR : Sir, how can we conclude in 5 minutes? . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East) : You always disturb at the time of my speech. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri Tapir Gao to speak.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Mr. Chairman, Sir, being Members of Parliament from the tribal community of this country, we are really happy that the long pending historical Bill is going to be passed, and we salute the hon. Tribal Minister, who has, alongwith his officials, done a lot of work to get it done and brought this Bill in this House.

But we have got a few issues in this Bill with which personally I am not convinced. It is because at the very moment of laying this Bill in this House, we had two draft Bills. We are confused to accede to a lot of amendments either from this side or from that side. They are to be finalized in full form. This is an action where we can add a few more clauses so that the people in our country can really enjoy the fruits of this Bill.

Sir, I am concerned with the Joint Parliamentary Committee on this Forest Rights Bill. No doubt, they have convened 40 meetings and more than 15 witnesses were brought in their office and they had discussed this in detail. But how could they realize this, sitting in the air-conditioned room in Delhi without visiting the tribal areas of the country? Therefore, I have got a doubt. Our officials and ministerial staff might have done it in Delhi. It could have been better if our officials and Joint Parliamentary Committee had visited Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, the tribal

places of the entire North-East, Gujarat and other places. But this is a theoretical one which is very light and easy to see. But actually this Bill does not bear the true feelings and sentiments of the tribal people of this country.

Now, I am coming to the points. I will not do a lecture on this. Regarding the cut off year, in the previous Bill which has been circulated to all the Members of Parliament, the cut off year was the Forest Act of 1980. Now, in the other amended Bill, it is 13th of December, 2005. Which one we are going to believe? So, it is a confusing one.

Therefore, I would like to urge the hon. Minister that if the year 2005 is the cut off year, then it should be increased to four generations. If it is from the Forest Act of 1980, then we are agreeable for three generations. In this very particular amendment also, I would like to highlight about the generations. It has been said that 'for the purpose of this clause, generation means a period comprising of 25 years'. It can be misinterpreted in future. The three generations can be calculated within the 25 years. Therefore, my submission to the hon. Minister and this Government is that it should be mentioned that one generation means a period of comprising 25 years. One word should be included there. Otherwise, it will be misinterpreted in the long run and misused.

Now I come to land ceiling. Land ceiling has been increased from two point some hectares to four point some hectares. Now, the tribals are not the encroachers of forests and the reserves and the wildlife sanctuaries on this land; but the Forest Department is the encroacher to the traditionally occupied tribal land in this country.

Let us take the example of Arunachal Pradesh. The people are living in Arunachal Pradesh and the North-Eastern region since time immemorial. Only the Britishers came to that part of the country without knowing the ground reality and they made the forest reservations. So, they are the encroachers to the tribal land, tribal dominated areas. Therefore, it should be classified that it should not be that the land ceilings should be limited to four hectares. It should be taken off from this particular ceiling.

[Shri Tapir Gao]

I am very happy that most of the amendments have been taken from the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. In the last part the Joint Parliamentary Committee recommended strongly that this Bill should be put in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution of this country. But the main purpose of this Bill, the main importance of this Bill has not been taken from the Joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendations. It is my humble submission to the Government that it should be brought under the Ninth Schedule.

I am really pained to highlight all these things. My friend has also stated a few points. But I will not go on that. Only the air, the respiration is now left to them. . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, we have 7.5 per cent reservation. Please allow some more time.

In Chapter II, Clause 3(1) it has been mentioned in the last part "but excluding the traditional right of hunting or trapping or extracting a part of the body of any species of wild animal". That means the tribal should eat the grass. The grass also has been limited. It is, kind of, preventing the horse not to take the grass. How will the tribal survive in the Himalayas? The law can reach, penetrate to the interior areas of the tribal areas. But the development would never reach that areas in time.

With this clause, the tribal will be put to difficulty. The Forest Department will handle the tribals like animals in the long run. Instead of 'excluding' it should be 'including'. The inclusion should be there.

[Translation]

If we ask a horse not eat grass, similarly if we ask tribals that they cannot indulge into trapping, hunting and fishing, then how will they survive?

[English]

Therefore, it is my humble submission.

[Translation]

Therefore, this clause should be included and not excluded.

[English]

I am very much limited to the points. This is Tribal Rights Bill. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Gao, I know that you are from the tribal area, but there are four more Members to speak from your party.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, I will speak on only two points. This Bill is dangerous for the people of the North-Eastern region. Shri Dasmuni could recall the 1972-73 AICC Session held at Lucknow. Shri Pranab Mukherjee also participated in the Session as he was also a member. It was resolved that Bangladesh his should be included in the Voters' List of Assam. That document is with me. Then, IMDT Act and Foreigners Act have been scrapped by the hon. Supreme Court.

Now, in the Tribal Forest Rights Bill, is this not a clause where you are going to accommodate Bangladeshis also in Assam? I would like to get a clarification or assurance from the hon. Minister in this regard.

Alongwith this, there is one more dangerous point. We had no objection to the other non-tribal friends, citizens and forest-dwellers being included in the term given in this Bill. Their accommodation is not harmful to the tribals, but there will begin a process of forging the documents with respect to the tribal land because tribals are still not educated up to the mark. Then, there will be wrong documentation, forged documents and all that, and the non-tribals who have exploited the tribals' animals and forests will be able to occupy the huge land. As a result, the tribals will again be cornered to the other corner of this country. This is a dangerous law. Therefore, it is my humble submission to the hon. Minister, Shri Kyndiah, that please rectify this clause while you are summarising these two Bills - the amended Bill and the earlier Bill.

It should be very carefully taken into account. Otherwise, our seniormost Member of the North-East, Shri Kyndiah, will have to reply to my khasi brothers in Shillong and Tura as to why he has made this law, which is going to harm not only khasis but all the tribal people of this country. Therefore, it is my humble request to the hon. Minister and the UPA Government to have a serious re-look at, while elaborating on these two Bills which have been circulated to the hon. Members, what we have highlighted in this august House.

With these words, I conclude and thank you.

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN (Contai) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw attention of this House to certain things with regard to historical Tribal Forest Rights Bill. I also support the Bill while welcoming the recommendations and Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Only eight per cent population of the tribal people out of the total tribal population in the country is dwelling in the forests. The rights of the forest-dwelling people, the Scheduled Tribes, who have been inhabiting the forest for generations and are in occupation of the forest land, have not been adequately recognised so far, resulting in historical injustice to these forest-dwelling STs, who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest eco-system. If the people dwelling in the forests are taken away, it will result in ecological imbalance because these people are part and parcel also of the forest life.

As far as I know, the protection of forests and the rights of the tribal people have been started by the participation and management of the tribal people from my district, Midnapur, in West Bengal. In our State, West Bengal, one of the Ministers is deputed for the protection of forests and the rights of the tribal people, specially in Midnapur, Bakhuda, Purulia and such other districts. This model should be adopted in other States of the country also. I have some suggestions to make.

I would like to congratulate the UPA Government and its Minister also for bringing this Bill to protect the rights of the tribal people and to look after their demands, their livelihood, and their status and also their harassment.

Forest officers, forest contractors, and mafia sometimes harass the tribal people but it is campaigned that tribals destroy the forest. It is not correct. Tribal people live and dwell in the forests. They get their livelihood on the basis of forest and forest products like fruits, mahuya, chiruli, honey, sal leaves, tendu leaves, etc. They love the forests so much. In this respect, they have some fear of eviction. It should be stopped. I hope that with the implementation of this, it would stop because in the recommendations there is a mention to the effect that *pattas* or lease rights should be given to them and the beneficiaries should be determined by the Gram Sabha or the Gram Panchayat or Gram Committees and finally, it would be selected by the Collectorate of the District Committee also. They can supervise it. I also have the opinion which was expressed by Shri Madhusudan that this is happening generation after generation. One generation means 25 years. Before Independence, they were living within the forests. I have the opinion that a generation means 21 years and three generations mean 63 years and 63 years should be maintained. All such types should be implemented in a short period after the passing of this Bill.

Once again, I congratulate the Minister and the UPA Government with the hope that the forests rights and the rights of the tribal people be restored by the passing of this Bill.

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital) : Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to participate in the discussion on Forest Rights Bills. I thank the Hon. Minister and the Joint Committee for adding 'other traditional forest dwellers' to the Bill.

Sir, it was only after Independence that the people were classified as tribals in various States, meaning that tribals in some States may not be classified as tribals in other states. For example, Buxas and Tharus of Uttarakhand may not be considered as tribals in other States and tribals of other States might not be considered tribals in Uttarakhand. Therefore, inclusion of 'other traditional forest dwellers' in the Bill helps all the tribals living in various States of the country to be included in the Bill alongwith other forest dwellers.

[Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba']

Sir, Uttarakhand is one place where we have only 3.2 per cent of tribals. In our case, there is some difference, so other forest dwellers play a very big role. In Uttarakhand, people from centuries – maybe thousand years – used to come down from the hills to graze their cattle, goats, etc. When they came down to the *tarai* and *bhabhar*, that is the foot hills of the Himalayas, they resided in "Gote-, *khattas* and *Paraws*".

[Translation]

I would like to tell you that in the past those people who used to come down to the plains from the hilly region for grazing their animals and used to stay in Khatta, Goth or paravs and during summers returned to the mountains, but for the last few years some of them are living there only. I would request that they and those who are living there for generations must also be treated like any other people of forests. They should be treated like other people only and be included in therein and the Khatta and paravs existing on their land should be regularized. Till today they are considered as forest land. I would request the Government that it should be converted from forest land to revenue land.

I can also give you an example of this; There is a Bindu Khatta in an area. Bindu Khatta is such a place, where there are roads and schools, but still we have to face difficulties. Whenever we want to make any development there, some or the other problem of forest crops up over there.

I would like to tell you that 'Bindu Khatta' is such 'Khatta', which is still treated as forest, though no forest land exists near it. If one wants to grow forest on this land, it cannot be done under any circumstances. The population of this area is 60 lakh. There are many other 'Khattas', like Bagga-54 which certainly is situated in the heart of forest, but ex-servicemen and other castes including people belonging to Scheduled Castes are residing there. Then there is a place 'Upper Kosi Papdi' which is called 'Poonchhari'. People of other castes are also inhabiting there and they are living there for generations. I would

like to tell you that there are many such places in Uttarakhand, where people were rehabilitated by the Government. Only dalit families live in Sunderkhal Ramnagar, district Nainital. Only dalit families have been living in Patrani, Ramnagar, district Nainital. There is a place known as Nai Basti Haripur Harsan in Bajpur where also only our dalit brethren have been living. Maldan Chaud is such a place, where people have been rehabilitated by the Government. The people living over there are not local tribals, but are other forest dwellers, therefore, I would like to request the Government to treat them in the same way as they are also living in the forests and their land has not been regularised as yet. Their land is still considered as forest land and any development work including that of providing a drinking water tap for them cannot be done. If in modern time, in 21st century, all this is happening, it is really sad. There were such areas in my state, where people were settled in the name of Togiagram during British rule. They were those people who used to work in forests, therefore they were habitated in the near forests, but today they have transformed into big villages. Today, that land is being cultivated. Similarly, there is a Ram Nagar Division. Ram Nagar Division falls in forest Corbert Area. Therefore, I would like to tell in that regard that Rampur, Chopra village and other such villages still come under the forest area. All of us have heard about Corbett National Park. I would like to tell you that the people having revenue land in the buffer zone of Corbett National Park have been removed from the Buffer Zone for the benefit of the forest and the Park. They were removed from the forest land. Though, they were provided land against land but no proper measurement of it has been done so far. The person having four hectares of land was definitely provided four hectares of land, but road was passing though that land. Though it was a revenue land, but today roads are being constructed through their land, because it is a forest land. But we are unable to provide them schools, potable water and water tanks. My Utrakhand is slightly different in these aspects. I would like to request that such land should be regularised and be included under revenue land.

In the end, I would like to give some suggestions.

I support the Bill.

[English]

As regards Clause 2(a), the wildlife sanctuaries and national parks which have been already established and where rights have been already settled/compensations awarded should be kept out of the definition of "community forest resource". These should be classified as "critical wildlife habitats".

Coming to Clause 2(b), the methodology for declaring an area as a critical wildlife habitat by the committee under this clause should be applied to areas notified in the future or as yet unsettled.

Under Clause 2(o), "Close Proximity" to forest land should be defined and specified further.

Clause 2(o)(v) should be deleted as it amounts to legalizing forcible encroachments on forests.

Coming to Clause 3(1)(c) the right to collect minor forest produce should be restricted to customary boundaries of the village as already proposed in Clause 2(a). Under Clause 3(1)(e), primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities should be identified and listed in the Bill itself.

Under Clause 3(4) for development of such infrastructure free hold land should be purchased and forest land not diverted. Add the cost of land to the project cost, rather than doing a project at the cost of forest land.

To conclude, I would, once again, convey my thanks to the UPA Government, the Joint Committee and specially our Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi who took special interest in bringing this historic legislation to do away the historic injustice meted out to the people living in the forests, both tribals and non-tribals.

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri) : Sir, on behalf of PMK Party, I rise to support the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006. The UPA Government, under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and under the able guidance of

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, is adding one more feather to its cap. Having the Common Minimum Programme as its road map, it has gone on to fulfill one more promise which it made in the CMP. Hence, I whole-heartedly support the Bill.

Sir, before I start discussing the provisions of the Bill I wish to share one information with the august House. Forest cover has been dwindling all over the world. But satellite maps have shown that in part of the world forest cover has been widening. Since 1983 till 2003 the total land area of one forest in the whole world had increased its size by 23 per cent and this was the Satyamangalam forest area. The reason why this area had expanded in land cover was because this was the area where forest brigand Veerappan was hiding. Since Veerappan was hiding no forest official had dared to go inside that forest and hence that forest was growing. This is not my version. This is what was written in an article in *'The Hindu'* after the killing of Veerappan. It said that as long as Veerappan was there the forest was not touched by forest officials and it was comfortably growing in its size day by day, but since Veerappan has been killed, I am very much worried that forest officials will now go into the forests and there may be destruction of the forest.

Sir, I wanted to raise this point because much of the major objections to this Bill was from those people who believed that left to the tribals and local communities, the forests would be destroyed. I want to reaffirm that the forest communities, as has been mentioned by everybody here, live unanimity in nature and they could only help in improving the forests. By conferring their rights, as contained in the provisions of the Bill, the Government has undone a historic injustice to them. Hence I support the Bill.

Sir, I would just like to make two or three points. Many people have raised apprehensions about the rights of the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the forest areas. But I wish to say that if you take the case of North-western part of Tamil Nadu bordering Karnataka, one would find that the major forest dwellers do not belong to

[Dr. R. Senthil]

the Scheduled Tribe community, but all the same they belong to a very backward community. Likewise, in the Virudhunagar district there are nomadic tribes who does not belong to the Scheduled Tribe community. But they are the people who live in the forests. While I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill, I would like to request him to bring about an amendment to the Bill as soon as possible to confer rights to all those people who live in the forests and not restrict it to merely people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, this Bill contains one very commendable provision and that is, for the first time the Government has recognized the importance of the local Government and has given all the powers to the local Government. In overseeing the activities of the Gram Sabhas, the Government has given powers to the forest officials. I would only suggest that if these powers could be given to the District Panchayats alongwith the officials. It is because we should give more powers to the elected bodies since our elected bodies are becoming more and more professional. This would actually help in expediting the implementation of the provisions of this Act faster than what we have witnessed hitherto.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Bill.

*SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill piloted by Shri Kyndiah. This is a very important Bill in relation to tribal and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people who are living in the forest areas. I understand the President of India in his Address to the Parliament said that there should be no removal of encroachments from the forest areas.

I support the Government's stand and would like to say that there should be no removal of encroachment made by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBC and other forest dwellers of the country. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, there are places of Gandhi Nagar,

Shanti Nagar, Paschim Sagar, Gaina Dabla, Bara Dabla, Burma Chal, Girjinala, and nearby Pahalgao areas. In fact, all the encroachments upto the date of passing this Bill should be regularized and all the encroachers upto the date of passing this Bill should be regularized and all the encroachers should be rehabilitated. They should be provided with drinking water, schools, dispensary and all other essential benefits for the livelihood of poor people.

I would like to thank the Government of India and the UPA Government for taking such a people oriented action by passing this Bill.

I whole-heartedly support that no tribal land should be taken over by the Government. I understand atrocities in the Nicobar District, particularly, the Kachal Islands, should be immediately stopped. I support the Bill.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki) : Sir, I rise to support the Bill and also would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for having brought forward a legislation that seeks to correct the historical injustices. It is for the first time that a comprehensive view has been taken of the problems that are being faced by the forest dwellers, especially the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribe who have been inhabiting the forests since times immemorial.

Sir, after the passage of the Forest Conservation Act of 1980, which had been termed as a historical legislation and also after a Supreme Court judgment in accordance with that legislation, many problems were sought to be encountered by the tribal people and also by those people who had been residing in the forest areas for a long time. In that Bill even the basic amenities that are provided to all other sections of the society had been denied to the forest dwellers. There are a lot of tribal settlements in my constituency, namely the Anamelakudi settlement in Idukki district where one has to walk 18 kilometers to reach that settlement.

Sir, those poor people are walking through their settlement for 36 kilometres everyday to come outside for their basic needs. If their children want to go to school, they have to walk 36 kilometres everyday braving wild

*The speech was laid on the Table.

animals like elephants, tigers and so on. I have been to that settlement. Their only demand is that they should be provided with a road which of course was not possible under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. They have no other facility. They do not have telephones or electricity. Of course, water from natural sources is available. But during summer, they have to move out even to fetch water braving wild animals like elephants. So, it is very imperative that we change this system. When all other sections in our country can have these basic amenities, our poor brethren who live in the forest areas are not enjoying any such amenity. That is very unjustifiable. So, this particular Bill which intends to provide almost all the basic amenities is most welcome. For the first time, a change is being made which, I hope, will go a long way in improving the conditions of these poor people who have been living for centuries in isolated forest areas.

But there are one or two issues to be highlighted. Other than tribal people, there are settlers in forest areas who are called forest dwellers. In the case of Kerala, there has been an All Party Agreement regarding settlers who have come into the forest area. They are not encroachers. They have been encouraged to settle down in the forest area during the Second World War under 'Grow More Food Programme'. They have been there for a long time. Alongwith the tribals, they are also under eviction after the passing of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. A decision was arrived at in the State of Kerala that all settlers prior to 1.1.1977 should be provided with the ownership of the land in which they reside and they should be provided with *pucca* title deeds. The case has been registered in the Supreme Court and that case is still going on. All the title deeds which have been given are with a rider saying that the validity of this will be subject to the final verdict of the Supreme Court. Thus, practically, there is no use with those title deeds because they cannot approach the bank or they cannot use it for any other purpose. So, this kind of injustice has to be corrected and regular *pattas* should be issued to all the settlers who are in the forest areas.

Now, this law will be applicable from December, 2005 onwards and the rights of land which the settlers in the

forest areas or the non-tribal settlers should be immediately ensured and this law should be included in the Ninth Schedule so that there would not be further court cases like the one which is already there in the Supreme Court.

There is one more issue which is about the powers of the Gram Sabha which have been mentioned in the Bill. The Gram Sabha should be a body to see that all the basic amenities are provided and how much land has to be provided for establishing those basic amenities in each settlement. The power of the Gram Sabha should be above any other rule of law which the Government might subsequently make.

Considering the importance of this Bill and also the clarifications which have been made by the hon. Members here and since it has been introduced at the last moment, whatever good suggestions which have been made by the hon. Members should be accepted by the Government.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving an opportunity to speak on the Bill for recognition of forest rights to the Scheduled Tribes. I express my gratitude towards hon'ble Minister for tabling this Bill, but I oppose some provisions of this bill.

While emphasising on the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, I would like to say that the Bill introduced on 13th December, 2005 to provide for the right of forest land to STs was good one. It was introduced to provide rights to the tribal people, but it was referred to Joint Parliamentary Committee, and now it's present form has brought the Committee to a fix. I would like to repeat that there are total of eight States in our north-eastern region. The JPC Members visited only three States out of these eight States. None of Committee Members visited rest of five States—Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram., Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The new provision of Section 6 in particular, inserted on the recommendations of JPC will prove detrimental for all autonomous district councils and territorial councils like Bodoland Territorial Council, Carvi-

[Shri Sansuma Khungur Bwiswmuthiary]

Onlong Autonomous District Council, Khasi Hills, Autonomous District Council, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council Autonomous Council in Mizoram State. It is not good that while framing these provisions. The people over there were not taken into confidence. If JPC was having good intentions, it should have held discussions with the representatives of various autonomous district-councils of our North-Eastern region and it should have listened to their view-points, but they did not do so. Their opinion was not sought. Therefore, I demand that the amendments proposed by me should be accepted. The first amendment proposed by me in that the provisions of sub-clause (o) of Section 2 should never be implemented in north-eastern region.

[English]

The very provision enshrined under section 2(o) should be deleted in the case of North-Eastern region. Otherwise, this kind of unholistic move tantamounts to intending to create a lot of trouble and tension in that area. Please do not try to create some more trouble because our North-Eastern region has already become a very restive and volatile region.

[Translation]

Therefore, the provisions of sub clause (o) of Section-2 should be withdrawn from Bill, particularly in regard to our North-Eastern region. It would be acceptable to me if it is implemented in other States and regions of the country, but this is a detrimental clause for tribal people of our north-eastern region. The Government should not try to push the tribal people of North-Eastern region into dreadful situation by imposing this clause. The power provided in the sixth schedule.

17.00 hrs.

Should be delegated to autonomous district council like Bodoland Autonomous Territorial Council, instead of Gram Sabha, because till now the Panchayat System has not been implemented under Bodoland Autonomous Territorial Council.

[English]

You must also know one very serious fact that cas on today panchayati Raj system does not have any power over the reserved forests. It is very clear.

17.01 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

Gram Sabhas are not having any jurisdiction over forest land.

[English]

The Gram Sabha does not have any jurisdiction over the reserved forests. Then, how can you provide equal rights to the tribal people on their forest land through Panchayati Raj system, particularly in respect of identifying the beneficiaries of this law? I cannot understand under what consideration this panchayati raj system is brought into the provision under Section 6 particularly in relation to the North-Eastern Region wherein Autonomous District Council have been existing there right from 1952. So, these serious aspects have to be looked and taken into account while passing this Bill. Otherwise, you cannot get any support from the people of North-Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Till now, we have been suffering, even then the Government want us to give more troubles.

[English]

Our friends from the North-Eastern Region have already spoken a lot about the unchecked influx of unwanted and illegal immigrants from the neighbouring countries to the North-Eastern Region. Apart from the foreign countries, there is a lot of influx of people from other advanced parts of the country to the North-Eastern Region.

[Translation]

Then what will be the fate of tribals, because all the tribal belts in Assam have been occupied by the immigrants.

[English]

Sir, the Government of India had set up one National Commission by the name U.N. Dhebar Commission in 1960. That Commission had recommended a lot of good suggestions to the Government of India for the restoration of alienated lands of the tribals to the tribals again. But till today, even after the lapse of more than 40 years, none of the recommendations of that Commission has yet been implemented by the Government of India. So, it is a matter of shame. So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India, particularly to the hon. Minister who also hails from the North-Eastern Region, at least to consider my proposals for amendment which I have tabled, particularly under Section 2(o). In the context of Section 6 of the Bill, the Gram Sabha should be replaced by the Autonomous District Council and Autonomous Territorial Council like Bodoland Territorial Council in relation to the Sixth Scheduled areas.

A total number of 36 MPs have submitted a Memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister of India and to the concerned Minister urging them to consider our genuine demands for amendment. So, the Government of India should consider our request and try to accommodate our amendments in the Bill

[Translation]

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. Recognised forest villages of the country, in particular, north-eastern region have not been converted into revenue villages, due to which people living in forest villages are not getting any rights and facilities and any development work is not taking place over there.

[English]

So, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to convert all the existing recognized forest villages into revenue villages in view of the ongoing situation, one Central force has to be created to protect and preserve the forest and environment on the lines of CISF which I have been pressing hard since long years back. So, let

there be a Central Force called the Central Forest Protection Force on the lines of the CISF.

Sir, with these few words, I would request the hon. Minister once again to consider our amendments and include them in the legislation in the greater interest of the Scheduled Tribes and other indigenous people of the North Eastern Region.

I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the context of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Bill, 2006, I would like to say that the Adivasis and the people belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs residing in the forests have been dispossessed of land even prior to it on a number of times. There are thousands of such people who have been residing there for hundred of years but they have not so far been accorded ownership of land holdings. They have been cultivating for several years but in record the land has been shown as forest land. They have been called encroachers, their houses are located on forest land but now there is no forest there. As far as this Bill is concerned, my first demand is that they should be accorded the ownership of land holdings.

There are hutments and houses and cultivation is done on the forest land in the Vidarbha areas of Maharashtra which is called "Jhurpi" Forest and in other parts the same land is called as pasture land. In 1955 this land was converted into forest land but the same was not made public. In this situation, dispossessing them of such land does not hold any justification. The case is sub-judice. So I would like to urge the hon. Minister that all these people should be given the ownership of land holdings within six months under a time bound programme and the State Governments should also be intimated in this regard.

Secondly, I would like to say that virtually there are villages in the tiger sanctuary. You must clarify what action would you like to take in this respect. The right over tendu leaves, Gun, folia etc. is vested in the Department of Forest

[Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar]

and the State Government realize money for these products. The amount of money realised is very less. I would like to quote Maharashtra as an example where mere Rs. 40 is realised. My fourth demand is that all the rights over forest produce should be vested in the Gram Sabha. The revenue earned from the forest produce will go to the Gram Sabha and the concerned village. This will result in development of the village at a very fast speed.

Sir, I would like to clarify a few points. Many people say that the forests have been cut by the tribals. This is not true. The forest dwellers have never destroyed the forests. You may get it investigated. I would also like to say that the State Government officials have cut forests at various places, they are the most corrupt people so restrictions are required to be put on those officials. Can administrative initiatives be taken in this regard? I am telling you about Maharashtra where trees are there on the lands of forest dwellers but they do not have any right to cut these trees. The Department of Forest cut them and the revenue earned therefrom goes to the State Government. In this respect the Union Government should intervene and take initiative regarding the forest produce, cultivation and trees etc.

As regards the criminal activities, I would like to say especially as none of the honourable members has touched this aspect. The forest dwellers do not commit crimes. It is the mafia who is behind all the criminal activities. The forest officers are also involved in getting the crimes committed. That's why the provisions to deal with crimes are required to be made in this Bill. The forest dwellers should be given the ownership of the land-holdings within six months period. The forest produce should be handed over to the Gram Sabha. The basic needs of the forest dwellers, such as road connectivity, school, hospital and drinking water should be fulfilled. This is the responsibility of both the Union Government and the State Government.

A number of good provisions have been incorporated in this Bill. It is necessary to incorporate it in Section 9.

A large number of Bangladeshis are residing in Assam and they have their strong hold in as many as 9 districts. . . .(Interruptions) The matter regarding Bangladeshis living illegally in our country is required to be investigated. There might be a trouble due to this Bill. We will have to take care of this aspect lest they should start living in a highway in the forest of Assam. There should be people's representatives in the District Committee. Member of Lok Sabha should be its Chairman, so that he may take proper care of this aspect. There should be a committee of people's representatives. I thank you for providing me this opportunity to speak.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra) : Sir, participating in the debate over Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Bill, 2006 placed in this august House, I support it. A Joint Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo in which a number of environmentalists, professors and other experts offered their suggestions. All those suggestions have been elaborated and placed in this Bill. I would like to submit a few points about the tribals. One fourth area of Himachal Pradesh covering Pangi, Bhamaur and Lahual Spiti is inhabited by tribals. Two types of tribals are there in Himachal Pradesh. One is those who are permanently settled there and another is those who are nomadic which includes Gaddi, Gujjar and Bakarwal. They keep on migrating according to seasons. During summer season, they shift to the places of high elevation. Their life is always in danger. Mostly they go towards the higher elevation during summer season and towards foot hill areas of the Himalaya during the winter season. I would like to say that rights of all concerned are recorded in the Anderson Settlement that had reached at some point of time. The people who have been dwelling there as tribals for centuries are given all types of rights. The dwellers and the persons residing in the nearby area of the forests as mentioned in this Bill enjoy many forest rights. But if the traditional dwellers reside in the middle of the tribal area, then the point stands to be there. Even the people residing in the periphery of the forest enjoy all the forest rights. If it is not properly implemented, the purpose of the Bill will

stand to be defeated. So, the forest dwellers or whether the area is notified area or tribal area require to be properly defined. In Himachal Pradesh, non-tribals cannot purchase land in the tribal area whereas tribals can purchase land in the non-tribal area. The people residing in the tribal areas should be fully identified under the said Bill. As you have mentioned earlier, for being covered under the definition of tribals the people are required to have been residing continuously at least for three generations or 20-25 years in the forest area, but today major opening has happened there. In Lahaul Spiti, Pangi and Bharmaur even the lands are being purchased benami. People purchase land in the name of other people. Efforts are being made to construct big roads in the Tribal area. I want to submit that this right should be given only to the tribal people living there. No one from out side should be given rights to carry on benami transaction. This is required to be brooded over. Now-a-days hilly areas has undergone much exploration and hence people intend to reside in such areas. The sanctuary areas having the wild life should be explored. We must see that the tribal people of that area could not become victim of their reconstruction due to benami transaction in the name of eco-tourism and lead their whole life as a servant. So, this provision must be made in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when Forest Conservation Act was enacted in 1980, I was Forest Minister in Himachal Pradesh in 1982. The late Shri Rajiv Gandhi who was our Prime Minister was having great love for ecology and environment. In 1980, when this Bill was enacted a conference was held here and many Forest Ministers participated in it. They suggested that the roads in the forests should be opened, the schemes of water should be freed from Government control and the people should be given the land. At that time Rajiv Gandhi had said that it has been provided in the 1980's Conservation Act that no construction can take place without the permission of Government of India. Now a days large scale encroachments are taking place in forests. The people are avaricious for forest land. So, I would like to say that if you want to allot land to tribal people then it should be kept

at minimum level. You kept four hectares but four hectares of land cannot be found in hilly areas, if you will allot four hectares of land to one person in hilly areas then you will have to give at least 60 canal of land. There are deep forests there so you will have to allot them land by cutting trees. I urge that in tribal areas there are national Wild Life Sanctuaries and National Parks and there are rare species of animals and birds which are on the verge of extinction.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, there is no time left. You have taken more than the scheduled time.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR : Many habitats of animals and birds in Himachal Pradesh are on the verge of extinction and we are going to take our point to the concerned commission. So, I urge that this provision should be made in it that if there is no land then maximum number of people should be kept in buffer zones and core zones should be avoided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I deeply appreciate, but I am sorry that I have to cut you short.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at last I would like to say same thing about timber rights, the people of that area are given standing tree of five rupees as rights. The hon. High Court has banned it. The Court says that if you give timber rights in this way then one day there would be shortage of trees. So, I urge you that whatever amendments you will effect in it that should not be challenged in the court. If it will be challenged in court then it will be an encroachment on their rights. I thank you that you allowed me to speak.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support the Scheduled Tribes

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

With these words, I welcome this Bill.

and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006, as Reported by Joint Committee.

[Translation]

Sir, a historical injustice has been done to a large section of Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers since Independence. The international environmental groups have welcomed the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The Joint Parliament Committee, headed by Shri Kishore Chandra Deo, has given wonderful suggestions and so many suggestions have been incorporated in this Bill. That is why, I appreciate the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, Shri Kishore Chandra Deo.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sheohar) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. After a long gap of time this bill has been brought for the original inhabitants of this country, as these tribals and forest dwellers are original inhabitants of this country. For years, no legislation was framed to provide them any new facility. The UPA Government has brought this new bill after much deliberations. So while supporting this bill, would like to suggest a few points.

Since Independence, they are the neglected people. By this enactment, now we are providing and giving legal status to the tribals and also traditional forest dwellers. After Independence, after the reforms, after globalization, we have created wealth. There is no doubt about it. Every year, we are increasing the GDP. But the wealth should be percolated to the poorest of the poor.

The first point is that the people who are scheduled tribes or dwells in forests, no matter to which castes they belong, the should be given the status of forest dwellers and this legislation should give benefits to both of them. Because the people who are living in forests and in its culture for generations they should be given such rights.

Even today, if you go and see the tribal areas, there is no access to schools, no access to roads, there is no electricity and even the basic minimum services are not there. By this enactment, we have to give special attention to the Gram Sabhas in the Village Assembly. So, he have passed the Panchayat Extension Act in 1996, but we have to give main thrust on the Gram Sabhas. Whatever they want to do, they have to take the permission of the Gram Sabha, so we have to make it mandatory.

The second point is that though the Government are giving them certain rights through this legislation but they have already formed around 17 thousand Forest Defence committees across the country. The rights of these Defence committees should remain intact through this bill because the allegation that the forest dwellers destroy forests is not true. Rather, the forest dwellers take care of their forests. It is altogether a different matter that they lead their life on the trees of the same forest. The forest is not destroyed by them. They use such things which are biodegradable and lead their life. I think that they must have this right.

After passing of this enactment, it should be included in the Ninth Schedule also for speedy implementation, otherwise, somebody may go to the court and there may be litigation and all these things. So, this is also my suggestion.

The third point is that they do not hold the land they till in the forests and that should be given to them. My suggestion is that they should be given the title of the land through Government legislation and they have rights over that land.

Even the present Bill complies with commitments and principles of the UN Conventional Biological Diversity Forum on Forests. So, even in this Bill, we have complied with all the UN directions also.

The fourth point is that the people who are dwelling in forests have no basic facilities for living. The Government should make roads there, provide potable drinking water and telephone facility to them in the era of new technology.

For enhancing their education level the schools should be opened in the forests so that their level of education rises and they could do their work in a better way.

Sir, I would like to say one thing very clearly that the rights thus far being enjoyed by forest dwellers do not have legal backing. The Government is trying to provide this recognition through enacting a legislation but it requires some more thinking over it. The forest officials unnecessarily interfere in the rights of forest dwellers. I would like to thank this Government for giving a thought to introducing Panchayati Raj system in these areas through this legislation. I would like to suggest that if and when Panchayati Raj system is implemented there, then more and more rights should be given to them through it so that they could work in a better way.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY (Mangaldoi) : We welcome this Bill. Better late than never. Had the bill come much earlier many of the Forest Land in Assam could have been saved from encroachment by illegal infiltrators from Bangladesh. It is welcome that Tribals would be given settlement in forest villages. I also feel that 4(Four) hectares in hilly areas would not be enough for economic holding.

Regarding Traditional forest dwellers, I have apprehension though condition of 3 generations is laid down.

Sir, there are large encroachment in Assam in Forest Land and National Parks like Kajiraya Kajiaranga, Oranga and Manas. Encroachers are no other than Bangladeshi infiltrators.

It is alleged that encroachers have managed to obtain citizenship and PRC through back door means.

In this context, my suggestion is for stringent penal measures for false deposition. Fine of Rs.1000/- is too meager.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Many forest lands are allegedly settled illegally in the mean time. What action is incorporated in the bill for such forest land which are settled already. This point is also to be covered in the Bill and steps to be taken to recover the land from illegal settlers.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Sir, I have three points to make in this particular Bill.

The first and most important apprehension is that the Bill which was brought in 2005 in the name of 'Scheduled Tribes (Recognition) of Forest Rights Bill' got changed after the JPC Report, and the recognition of other traditional forest dwellers has also been taken into consideration.

Sir, as you know, I am talking in terms of the present demographic situation in the North-Eastern State of India. There is a heavy influx across the border. Even the Government of India, after their thorough assessment, have got to learn that in most of the forest villages, some suspected illegal migrants are residing. The Government of India and also the respective State Governments in the North-Eastern Region have also taking initiative to detect these illegal migrants. The point is that once this particular legislation is passed, I think, it would be a protection to those illegal migrants and, I think, they will get a constitutional safeguard. So, this apprehension should be removed. You have been particularly referring to three generations, and each generation of 25 years, and that has not been specifically spelt out and that has not been perfectly briefed. That is why, that particular point should be specifically made so that no illegal migrant can get the protection out of this Bill. That is number one.

Secondly, the tribals have got a historical background of living in forest villages, and also their livelihood is dependent on forest. We are not against those people in that locality getting the protection if they are residing for three generations together. But, Sir, at the time of issue of this certificate, 'competent authority' should be specifically spelt out. If the competent authority is not competent enough to issue the relevant document to today's Indian *bona fide* citizens, then, tomorrow other people will take advantage of it.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Sir, I thank you and I welcome the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006 brought by the Government. It is a historic decision of the Government as it would provide ownership rights to forest dwellers. The forest dwellers were leading the life of oppression and they were treated as criminals by the forest officers. The said Bill would provide freedom to them. I would also like to add that though ownership of forest land has been provided to all the forest dwellers and tribals not living in forest areas who earn their livelihood through farming, but there is a need to develop irrigation facilities. Projects for their benefit. Traditional agriculture is no more a profitable occupation, therefore, the Bill should provide for completion of irrigation projects.

I would also like to urge that the Court cases pending against forest dwellers should be immediately withdrawn. A provision should be incorporated in the Bill that the land forcibly acquired by evicting Forest dwellers by the forest officers during the last five years should be handed over back to them. A provision has been made for roads, electricity, schools and certain other things. Provision for canals has also been envisaged. But until and unless arrangements for irrigation are made agriculture production cannot be increased. Unemployed forest youth should be given rights for collection, storage and sale of forest produce so that their economic condition can be improved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Jhudipi land tract falls in our Vidharbha area. In fact, it is not a forest land, but it is stated to have been notified as forest land, therefore, Wild Life Act, 1980 is applicable to it. My submission is that said tract may be denotified and be treated as a pasture land for cows.

*SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE (Dhule) : Sir, I rise to speak in support of Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006. The objective of the Bill is to bring an end to the injustice being done with the tribals for centuries. In view of it the

said Bill becomes more significant. I am grateful to the UPA Chairman Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Kyndiah who have done this great job for lakhs of poor tribals. These people have been dwelling in forests for centuries. The Government kept them away from the access to the benefits of development. Their dwelling rights were not recognized. They were not provided facilities such as education, health services, roads etc. Now, after passing of said Bill such facilities would be made available to them. Therefore, the Bill becomes more important. These people were rehabilitated on forest land during British rule and they were displaced from their land for carrying out development work. But no attention has been paid towards them. This Bill should have been brought long back. Tribals or non-tribals were evicted from the land used by them for cultivation. Now. Through this bill they will again have the ownership of the said land. But, as per the provisions of National Tribal Policy, only those who have utilized forest land for farming between 1972 to 25 October, 1980 shall be granted the right to ownership of said land. Tribals using said land for agricultural purposes prior to 1972 shall have no such rights. Gram Sabhas have been granted rights to identify such people. The persons whose names have been left out from being identified can appeal to district Committee. Transparency should be kept in identification of outtees. Injustice should not be done with anyone. For ensuring it, their names should appear in the record of revenue department.

Apart from schedule tribes, a large number of other people also have either been dwelling upon forest land or in its vicinity. They should be bestowed with such rights. Sub-Plans have been implemented for development of tribals and funds are provided by the Central Government for carrying out development works in tribal dominant areas. A list of villages under tribal sub-plan has been prepared at Tehsil level. Only such villages, whose name appear in the said list can avail the TSP benefits. My submission is that the villages covered under said Bill should be included in the list so that they can avail the said benefits. I am thankful for having given me an opportunity to speak.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Bill brought for providing rights to the tribals living on forest land for centuries. But there is a need to pay attention to certain other things. The recommendations of JPC should be implemented. I hail from Sagar Parliamentary Constituency. The tribals of villages under Noradehi forest reserves, in Sagar, Damoh and Narsinghpur districts are so much sacred as they will have to vacate their forest villages. The people living in Pipla, Kushyari, Rampura are more scared. Recently, I had been to Mohtri Patna, Ankikhera village. Tribals living in these village narrated their plight that they will have to leave and go from their villages where they have been living for centuries. Therefore, the people living in villages in sanctuary areas should and be displaced only after their rehabilitation process is complete. The forest officers do not carry out work in sanctuary area even after release of funds out of MPLAD Scheme. People in said 10 kms. area are leading miserable life. A primary pass quack is working as a doctor in Veesai Bharai village. People living in almost a dozen villages around Jheel Jhinora, including Simaria solely depend upon him.

In view of it, I urge the Government to provide drinking water, education, health services and roads in said villages on priority basis.

*SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the Recognition of Forest Rights Bill, 2006 on behalf of my Republican Party of India.

The Scheduled Tribe people are getting their rights through this bill. The tribal people have been demanding such legislation for centuries. The UPA Government has taken a good decision. The mention of Scheduled Tribes was essential in this bill. It would be helpful to the people residing in the forest area. It is certainly a good step.

This legislation will give opportunity to the tribals to make their economic development. Cultivable land in the forest should be distributed among the tribal people. The forest wealth should be utilised for the development of these people. It is a welcome amendment being made in the Forest Conservation Act, 1989. It will be helpful in completing the development works.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Today is very important day in the life of Shri Kyndiah as he gets an opportunity to get this bill passed.

*Jahan Mangal Hota hai, Use Jangal kahae hain/
Jahan Dangal Honi Nahin Hain, Use Bhi Jangal Kahte Hain".

The people residing on hills, should be brought down and rehabilitated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. I wish to compliment all sections of this House. We had a very constructive debate on this important Bill where 34 hon. Members participated.

Now, the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my half-an-hour.

MR. SPEAKER : It would be taken up today.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me speak for a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : You can lay your speech, it would be included in the debate.

*SHRI RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I rise to express my views on the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2006.

Sir, the forest dwellers are given the treatment as per the legislation passed during the British period, this attitude should change, so that scheduled tribe society may also experience the joy of freedom and are able to make their development. In view of this, I hope that this amendment bill would prove to be helpful in the direction of ensuring the due rights to backward tribals and forest dwellers.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ramkrishna Kusmaria]

Sir, there is a provision in the Bill to equip the Gram Sabha with necessary rights to ensure justice to the deserving forest dwellers on the basis of facts.

However, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that due to Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and Forest (Protection) Act, 1980 and Biodiversity Act, 2002, the forest officials perpetrate atrocities on poor forest dwellers.

Khajuraho Parliamentary constituency in Bundelkhand, Damoh Parliamentary constituency, and Panna National Park, Nauradehi Sanctuary located in Sagar Parliamentary Constituency have become synonyms of terror. The land belonging to ten villages like Pelkaun, Kheryani, and Dhodhan etc. under Panna National Park, where tribals live has been usurped. Animal husbandry has come to a stand still. The development work under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme are not being undertaken. The crops are ruined. Transport system is in shambles. No construction of roads is taking place. The marriage processions are not allowed. There is no bus facility. They are neither being rehabilitated at other places nor given compensation, nor allowed to stay there. The children are deprived of the basic needs whereas the officers of National Park are terrorising the people by misusing their powers.

Illegal diamond mining is going on unabated and felling of trees for stealing the costly wood has been on the rise. The hunting of wild animals is also going on but the entry of common men and even those of poor tribals in the forest is prohibited.

Sir, there is a dispute between the forest department and the revenue department. While making reference to the Forest Act 1980, the Forest Department extends the limit of forest land by more than one kilometer and indicators are put over there, which has ruined many villages.

Every year, the limit of forest department is extended. This tendency should be checked. The areas should be determined properly. Alongwith it, bank loan facility should

be made available to the tribals so that they may grow and could come in the main stream. Therefore, Sir, I support this bill and would like that issues raised over here should be resolved.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my thanks to many hon. Members of this House for participating in the debate and presenting their views and comments, which were very valuable in all aspects.

Now, I share with the hon. Members and I would like to thank them again for a broad consensus that has emerged out of the discussion. We have a reason to be happy for this good trend. I think, it is for the first time that we have such a wonderful debate on the question of forest dwelling tribals and communities. From the whole discussion that we have today, one thing is clear that there is a feeling that the forest dwelling tribals and other communities have not received their due share of attention; and that has been brought here in a forceful manner.

As we all know that the single factor, that is, with multi-dimensional effects, that prompted the UPA Government to bring this Bill, is the realization of the miserable plight of the forest dwelling community, particularly, the tribal people.

One hon. Member made a point about the tribals living in the forests having no access to any kind of basic minimum services. It is also true that the number of forest dwelling tribals whose land rights were largely denied for ages, for generations or since time immemorial and have not been recorded; as a result of which they were treated as encroachers and they were thrown out. They were the victims. Tribals living in forests suffer from a sense of fear psychosis. They are living with a sense of uncertainty that any time they might be evacuated. They are both psychologically and physically alienated. They are in the state of desperation.

They are in a state of desperation. There is no welfare scheme. There is no fair price shop. There is nothing at all.

I am happy that today in this very House a mention was made about Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who is the architect of the Tribal Policy in the early 1950s. Even in 1945 when he came to Shillong—and I met him there—he spoke eloquently about the need to bring tribal people into the main stream of the country. He was the author of the Tribal Panchsheel. It is very appropriate that he made a mention of this. One of the Panchsheel is—if you go through this, you will be surprised—"the recognition of tribal rights in land and forests." He spoke about his desires. Today we discussed about tribals' livelihood; you feel happy that something is being done. He was the first person to have a clear view, clear vision of India as it should be. Today, it has truly reflected in the speeches of the hon. Members.

He said it at that time that the Tribals must grow according to their own genius and pace. This is important. I must at the same time recall—which I must—the speech of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when we talk about the relationship of the tribal people and the forests. Some apprehension has been raised about the tribals denuding the forests. I refer to the speech of late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made at the time of a Rally at Nandurbar, Pune, Maharashtra on 31st March, 1989. He said:

"Ever since I became the Prime Minister, I have also devoted attention to the Adivasis like Panditji and Indiraji. If we want to save India, if we want to eradicate poverty, it is necessary for us to protect our environment in every way. It is often thought that it is the poor, the Adivasis, who cut down the forests and every now and then, the Government comes down on them with a heavy hand. But the Adivasis have been living in close proximity to the forests for thousands of years and the forests have not been destroyed, they have not disappeared."

I can tell you as the Minister of Tribal Affairs that I have got the details with me. Wherever there are tribals, there are forests. It is the highest. I got the facts before me. . . .*(Interruptions)* You are welcome. You have every right to know. I have listened to you. The point I wish to say is that it has been proved by statistics collected by the

Forest Ministry that wherever there are tribals, there are dense forests in those places. There are 187 tribal districts.

I must at this stage express my grateful thanks to the Chairperson of the UPA, Soniaji, who, at a very initial stage of conceiving the very idea to make this Bill, contributed enormously for evolving a clear concept and contours of this proposed law. She has been indeed a source of continuing inspiration for me and for us. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : For the Left Parties also.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Raebareli) : It goes without saying. . . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : I must, at the same time, express my grateful thanks to the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji. In January, 2005 he mandated my Ministry to prepare this Bill despite opposition. He made a statement just after we introduced the Bill on 13th December, 2005. He said that 'by this Bill the dispossessed tribals would become again possessed'. That was beautiful. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Now the tribals are living in the forests. They will have their rights. They will have titles on that. They are the original people who settled in this country. Let us make it very very clear. They are the original forest - dwellers. I know it for a fact. I am a tribal myself. I know. We have stayed for thousands of years in that part of the country where I stayed, I lived. So, I speak with conviction.

Therefore, today, as Pandit Nehru wrote to Indiraji once – he said: "My dear, it is good to read history; but it is better to make history". I think today this House will make history. . . .*(Interruptions)* Let us make history together, from this side, that side and all sides. Let us come together. This House is paramount.

I would now like to make one point here. I have been happy over that so many views have been expressed. I think, we must recognize, once for all, that the forest people are integral to the very revival, survival and sustainability of the forests' eco-system. I want to emphasise that point.

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

It will strengthen the conservation regime. It will strengthen the biodiversity. You mark my words. It will happen. I am an old man. But you mark my words. It will happen by this Bill.

But more important is that history is being made. It is not a question of giving them land rights. It will go a long way. The tribals would be happy. The tribals will sing a song and will say – we are liberated today. They will be liberated from the bondage of being always at the mercy of others.

That is important today. I am very happy today. A lot of time you have spoken about livelihood and food security of the forest-dwelling communities. They must be given their rights – not in letter but in spirit – and they must be the owners of the minor forest produce and to decide for themselves. It will happen through this Bill. They must be given their rights. Until now they are not given that. The tribal people were going everywhere in the country. They are working as coolies appointed by some Corporation, rich owners, rich people. We want, through this Bill, to make them respectable owners of the minor forest produce.

Another most important point is that this has something to do with the North-East area. We must respect the traditions, the customs and the cultures of the tribals including those who are also living as tribals and allow them to grow, in the words of Pandit Nehru, 'according to their genius and talent'. This is important. Regarding this Bill, I must express my thanks to the Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Members who have spent a lot of time touring the country, meeting a number of NGOs and given us wonderful recommendations, which are in line with the National Common Minimum Programme. Therefore, the inclusion of other traditional forest dwelling communities has taken place. It has taken place because of one fact that I have myself personally witnessed. You have to remember this. After the Constitution was adopted, there were many tribals in the country. In fact, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1945 described my community as a microscopic minority. He was a master of English language

and he used these words 'microscopic minority'. He went around the country that way. At that time, this small minority community was only 3.5 lakh and today we have about 14 lakh people in my community.

MR. SPEAKER : But with great contribution to the country.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Sir, it is.

At that time, the word 'schedule' was not there. The word 'scheduled' came much later only after the Constitution was adopted. There are many more small tribal communities which are not scheduled, but they live in the forests. That is one part of it. The second part of it is those who were brought by the colonial rulers as coolies and they worked as construction workers, timber cutters etc. and stayed on. They became a part of that culture of the tribal people. They imbibed that culture. They lived like forest dwellers.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to more important things and share my experience. I have been to different parts of this country, but at one place, I met a young tribal girl of 20 or 22 years. I asked her a question: "Did you ever cut a tree?" She said: "No. I have never cut a tree." When I asked why, she replied that trees were her *maan-baap*. That goes a long way in protecting forests.

In fact, I myself having known the tribal people and the forest people for long, I can say that the tribals and other forest dwelling communities are perhaps the most effective conservationists because they live in the forest, they live by the produce of the forest and they therefore live for the forest. They look after the forests. That is why, I say that today I am very happy that the JPC has submitted a Report accepting the ground reality that there are so many tribal communities which are not recognised and are not scheduled.

There is an important point. There has been a talk about the cut off date. I must confess that it is true that in my original Bill, we put 1980 as the cut off date, but

I also realised that in-between 1980 and 2005 when I introduced the Bill, there is a new generation which has come up. What to do with the new generation? So, we must make amends in our thinking and take the ground reality into consideration. That is why, today we have put the cut off date as 13.12.2005.

Another point which has been discussed today is, empowering the Panchayats, giving power to the people. India is a great country. The power lies with the people at the ground level. I may mention Soniaji again. In one of her speeches she said like this. There are so many Indias; Indias of bustling economy where Sensex is going up; India of want, and of poor people, the poorest of the poor. I would like to say this. We are focusing our attention today to India, to that India where people are voiceless; to that part of the segment of the population who have no idea what the civilization is; to that part of India in which they need to be delivered; to that part of India which is always in constant fear. Fear is the greatest enemy. In fact, one of the greatest Presidents of America once said that the only thing that you have to fear is fear itself. I think, this is very important.

Today, by this Bill, we will remove fear and when fear does not conquer, righteousness will prevail. So, we have to empower the people. Let the Panchayati Raj Institutions at every level do its work. Let them do their work and at the ground level, there will be an Advisory Body for us, which would recommend the names and a chart of names for jobs. But we need to also strengthen the system of governance. We need to have sub-divisional level; we need to have district level where when you work out the right, it has to be cleared by a Collector who has the quasi-judicial powers. That would be done correctly. If the Governance is upset, then everything will be upset. Today, we are having a system of Governance in the Panchayats and alongwith the Panchayats, we will come to a very good decision.

Now, let me turn to very important thing. I consider it very important because we have been dealing with the welfare of the tribals. I believe that unless and until we

can penetrate that wall of obstruction, where we can enter into the forests, the tribals cannot taste the fruits of civilization. Let them taste the fruits of civilization. People who are living in forest have at least the minimum of healthcare; the minimum of fair price shops because they need to get something. They need to be given access to taste the fruits of civilization. That is why, I say that we are making history because this will open up other new opportunities.

17.54 hrs.

[SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH *in the Chair*]

Some Members have raised certain questions about the North-East. I am aware of the sensitivity of the North-Eastern Region. I am also aware that the North-Eastern Region is not just homogenous. It has eight States, which has its own problems and personalities. Each State has its own style of functioning and problems. But I can tell this one that we are sensitive to whatever has been expressed today. If there is a need for more consultation and more interactions, I am willing to do so at any time in order to assuage any kind of misconception about this Bill. Wide consultations took place.

But, today, if there is a sense of need, that we need to discuss further, we will do so. I am not saying, 'No'. You cannot expect us to do it right now. The point in question is whether we had enough consultations. You might not have but the JPC might have had. There are Members from Northeast also – one each from Manipur and Tripura – in that Committee.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :
These Members only cannot represent the sentiments of the people of entire Northeastern region. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : You might have not heard when I said that Northeast is not a homogenous region. There are eight States and each State has its own problems. I know about Meghalaya, since I belong to Meghalaya. We have our own problems. You know about Assam and Bodoland better. So, we need to consult and discuss it with

[Shri P.R. Kyndiah]

each other. There are other Members from the Northeast. We will discuss. I am not saying that we will not discuss. I am not saying 'yes' also because this is a Bill which has been conceived and concretized after a lot of discussion. It has taken almost two years to bring this Bill. Therefore, today let us do things in a right way. Let us not do anything which will spoil the feeling of comradeship that has come about.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :

There is no question of stalling the Bill. We all support it but we are objecting to the kind of provisions that are going to affect the overall interest of the Northeastern people. What is the harm in deleting those particular provisions? Already CPM, BJP, Congress, AGP and some other Parties have already agreed to my proposed amendments. . . .
(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You can say all this after the Minister's speech is over.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : We have taken care of the District Councils. There are ten autonomous District Councils in the Sixth Schedule. The hon. Member has one in his own place. If you go through the provisions of the Bill carefully, you will find that there is a provision for the autonomous District Council. . . .*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You can say anything you want after the Minister's speech is over.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : A mention has been made about shifting cultivation in the Northeast and other places also. This is important. I know that shifting cultivation in Northeast has become a kind of cultural style of farming. We are taking care of that. We have taken special care of that in clause 3 1(1). It is encompassing. They play a

very important role. Shifting cultivation is a part of their culture, a part of their practice and tradition and it will remain.

Another hon. Member has raised a question about the National Policy on Relief and Rehabilitation. This will be dealt with in totality by the Rural Development Ministry. If you go through the draft of the National Tribal Policy, it is also written there. We will take care of whatever is required to be done by my Ministry. I am happy that this has been raised.

Another issue has been raised about the Ministry of Environment and Forests and its relationship with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

18.00 hrs.

The work of determining the wild life sanctuaries critical habitats fall under the jurisdiction of MoF. So, we are working as a team. Any problem that my crop up, you can be rest assured that we will do it in a very smooth manner.

I would like to say one more thing about North-East. I share the views of the Members about the seriousness of the problem of influx of illegal immigrants. This has to be dealt with very strongly. I am sensitive to that. This Government is sensitive to that. We would deal with that very strongly and we will leave no stone unturned. I understand the feeling of the Members of the North-East, as I do come from there.

I think a point has been raised about the transportation of forest produce to outside areas. Of course, we have used the word 'dispose of' but the word 'dispose of' also means that you can carry on. But if it does not satisfy, we can always do it in the rules. There is no problem in that.

Now I do not want to go into the details. I would only say that there have been many wonderful suggestions to which I can assure you that we will take care of them and whatever I can do from my Ministry, I will do it in the rules.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill to recognise and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded; to provide for a framework for recording the forest rights so vested and the nature of evidence required for such recognition and vesting in respect of forest land, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 Definitions

Amendments made:

Page 2, for lines 9 to 16 *substitute* '(b) "critical wildlife habitat" means such areas of National Parks and Sanctuaries where it has been specifically and clearly established, case by case, on the basis of scientific and objective criteria, that such areas are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation as may be determined and notified by the Central Government in the Ministry of Environment and Forests after open process of consultation by an Expert Committee, which includes experts from the locality appointed by that Government wherein a representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs shall also be included, in determining such areas according to the procedural requirements arising from sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 4;'. (1)

Page 2, for lines 17 to 20, *substitute* '(c) "forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes" means the members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for *bona fide* livelihood needs and includes the Scheduled Tribe pastoralist communities;'. (2)

Page 2, lines 21 and 22, for "recorded or notified as forest and includes unclassified forests," *substitute*

"falling within any forest area and includes unclassified forests,". (3)

Page 2, *omit* lines 35 to 38. (4)

Page 3, lines 3 and 4, *omit* "fuel wood and the like, stones, slates and boulders and products from water bodies including fish, weeds". (5)

Page 3, line 11, for "meaning as in" *substitute* "meaning as assigned to it in clause (o) of section 2 of". (6)

Page 3, for lines 13 to 37, *substitute*—

'(o) "other traditional forest dweller" means any member or community who has for at least three generations prior to the 13th day of December, 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forests or forests land for *bona fide* livelihood needs.

Explanation:— For the purpose of this clause, "generation" means a period comprising of twenty five years;". (7)

Page 3, lines 40 and 41, for "regardless of whether the area involved is a Scheduled Area or not," *substitute* "or". (8)

Page 3, *after* line 41, *insert* "(ii) any area referred to as a village in any State law relating to Panchayats other than the Scheduled Areas; or". (9)

Page 4, line 1, for "(ii)" *substitute* "(iii)". (10)

Page 4, line 3, for "(iii)", *substitute* "(iv)". (11)

(Shri P.R. Kyndiah)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh) : Madam Chairman, first of all hon'ble Minister should move all the amend-

[Shri Jual Oram]

ments. If the hon'ble Minister want to speak, he may give speech. After that we will move over amendments.

Clause 3 **Forest Rights of
forest dwelling
Scheduled Tribes
and other tradi-
tional Forest
dwellers**

[English]

Amendments made:

Page 4, lines 16 and 17, omit "that occur in forest land". (12)

Page 4, line 18, omit "transport". (13)

Page 4, line 30, after "rights of settlement" insert "and conversion". (14)

Page 4, for lines 33 to 36, substitute "(i) right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use;". (15)

Page 5, line 9 and 10, after "entitlement to rehabilitation" insert "prior to the 13th day of December, 2005". (16)

Page 5, omit lines 11 to 19. (17)

Page 5, line 20, for "(4)" substitute "(2)". (18)

Page 5, line 22, for "per project" substitute "per hectare". (19)

Page 6, omit lines 5 to 7. (20)

(Shri P.R. Kyndiah)

SHRI JUAL ORAM : I beg to move:

"Page 5, line 8, after "(a) to (k)" insert "including the right relating to the symbolic annual hunting tradition observed since time immemorial". (49)

[Translation]

Madam Chairman, I move my amendment mentioned

at serial number 4 in the list. In the section (L) of the clause 3 of this Bill, it has been stated that:

[English]

"...in other traditional customary rights enjoyed by the forest dwellers, the Scheduled tribes which are not mentioned in clause a to k exceeding the traditional rights of hunting, or tracing or extracting a part of the body of any species of wild animals".

[Translation]

My amendment is that the above may be replaced by the following:

[English]

"including right relating to the symbolic and annual hunting tradition observed since times immemorial."

[Translation]

Madam, the hon'ble Minister knows that the customary laws applicable in his region are different from those of the other areas. Among the tribals, the customary laws are very strong and the said laws have a very significant role there. In his region, land is not owned by the men, instead the women own the land. We are not supporting hunting but we go for traditional hunting once a year and if someone does not participate in it we expel him from the caste. This, they cannot deny, this is our customary right. Similarly, once in every 12 years women go for hunting. They are infringing upon our rights by creating such a provision.

[English]

That you cannot deny to us and thereby you are debarring us from practicing our customary law.

[Translation]

It should not be done. That's why I have moved the amendment. Secondly, the hon'ble Minister while speaking at the consideration stage. . . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, one cannot discuss now what has been discussed during the

consideration stage. He should restrict himself to the amendment only.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM : At that time, I did not rise to speak. The hon'ble Minister has not given replies to many a point. I am stressing upon my amendment, he should acknowledge it. He is the tribal Minister and it took 50 years for his party to create a tribal Ministry. He should be aware of the said customary law of the tribals.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Oramji, you have placed your amendment.

[English]

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Madam, I would not like to say anything else. I am only saying with humility that the hon. Member has mentioned about symbolic annual hunting.

Madam, I do not understand what he means by 'symbolic'. . . .(Interruptions) My point is, any kind of hunting in tribal areas is driven by tradition and culture.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I will now put amendment No. 49, moved by Shri Jual Oram, to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4	Recognition of, and vesting of, forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers
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Amendments made:

Page 6, lines 26 to 28, omit "and with the consent of all the rights holders and in consultation with

independent ecological and social scientists familiar with the area". (21)

Page 6, for lines 31 to 37, substitute "(c) the State Government has concluded that other reasonable options, such as, co-existence are not available;". (22)

Page 6, line 41, for "National Relief and Rehabilitation Policy of the Central Government" substitute "relevant laws and the policy of the Central Government". (23)

Page 7, for lines 1 to 3, substitute "(e) the free informed consent of the Gram Sabhas in the areas concerned to the proposed resettlement and to the package has been obtained in writing;". (24)

Page 7, omit lines 10 and 11. (25)

Page 7, line 28, after "occupation" insert "and shall in no case exceed an area of four hectares". (26)

Page 7, omit lines 29 to 35. (27)

Page 7, line 36, for "(9)" substitute "(7)". (28)

Page 7, line 40, for "(10)" substitute "(8)". (29)

(Shri P.R. Kyndiah)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I beg to move:

"Page 7, line 13, after "any State", insert ", other than North-Eastern States," (42)

"Page 7, after line 16, insert, -

"Provided that in respect of the North-Eastern States, the provisions of this sub-section shall apply from the 25th day of October, 1980." (43)

The provisions enshrined under sub-clause (o) of Section 2 should not be applied in relation to the North-Eastern Region with special mention to the Sixth Schedule areas in the best interests of indigenous scheduled tribes and other indigenous people of the North-East. I strongly move my amendment.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I put the amendments moved by Shri Bwiswmuthiary to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Duties of folders of Forest rights and responsibilities of Government

Amendments made:

Page 8, line 1, for "(1) The" substitute "The holders of any forest right,". (30)

Page 8, omit lines 12 to 34. (31)

(Shri P.R. Kyndiah)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I beg to move:

"Page 8, line 2, after "village level institutions in areas" insert "and the Bodoland Territorial District Council and the Autonomous District Councils in relation to the Sixth Schedule areas in North Eastern States,". (44)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 44 to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 Authorities to vest forest rights in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers and procedure thereof

Amendments made:

Pages 8, for lines 37 to 43, substitute

"6. (1) The Gram Sabha shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both that may be given to the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers within the local limits of its jurisdiction under this Act by receiving claims, consolidating and verifying them and preparing a map delineating the area of each recommended claim in such manner as may be prescribed for exercise of such rights and the Gram Sabha shall, then, pass a resolution to that effect and thereafter forward a copy of the same to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.

(2) Any person aggrieved by the resolution of the Gram Sabha may prefer a petition to the Sub-Divisional Level Committee constituted under subsection (3) and the Sub-Divisional Level Committee shall consider and dispose of such petition:

Provided that every such petition shall be preferred within sixty days from the date of passing of the resolution by the Gram Sabha:

Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case.

(3) The State Government shall constitute a Sub-Divisional Level Committee to examine the resolution passed by the Gram Sabha and prepare the record of forest rights and forward it through the Sub-Divisional Officer to the District Level Committee for a final decision.

(4) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee may prefer a petition to the District Level Committee within sixty days from the date of decision of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee and the District Level Committee shall consider and dispose of such petition:

Provided that no petition shall be preferred directly before the District Level Committee against the resolution of the Gram Sabha unless the same has been preferred before and considered by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee:

Provided further that no such petition shall be disposed of against the aggrieved person, unless he has been given a reasonable opportunity to present his case.

(5) The State Government shall constitute a District Level Committee to consider and finally approve the record of forest rights prepared by the Sub-Divisional Level Committee.

(6) The decision of the District Level Committee on the record of forest rights shall be final and binding.

(7) The State Government shall constitute a State Level Monitoring Committee to monitor the process of recognition and vesting of forest rights and to submit to the nodal agency such returns and reports as may be called for by that agency.

(8) The Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee shall consist of officers of the departments of Revenue, Forest and Tribal Affairs of the State Government and three members of the Panchayati Raj Institution at the appropriate level, appointed by the respective Panchayati Raj Institutions, of whom two shall be the Scheduled Tribe members and at least one shall be a woman, as may be prescribed.

(9) The composition and functions of the Sub-Divisional Level Committee, the District Level Committee and the State Level Monitoring Committee and the

procedure to be followed by them in the discharge of their functions shall be such as may be prescribed."

(32)

Page 9, omit lines 1 to 35.

(33)

Page 10, omit lines 1 to 39.

(34)

Page 11, omit lines 1 to 41.

(35)

(Shri P.R. Kyndiah)

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM : I beg to move:

"That in the amendment proposed by Shri P.R. Kyndiah and printed as S. No. 32 in List No.1 of Amendments in sub-section (1) of Section 6,—

after "effect"

insert "indicating the list of the land holders who shall be the beneficiaries under the Act".

(47)

"That in the amendment proposed by Shri P.R. Kyndiah and printed as S.No.32 in List No. 1 of Amendments in sub-section (8) of Section 6,—

after "Panchayati Raj Institutions,"

insert "with adequate representation to Gram Sabha".

(48)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : I beg to move:

Page 11, *after* line 41, *insert* "(13) With respect to the North-Eastern States, the reference in this section to 'Gram Sabha' shall mean the Bodoland Territorial Council and all Autonomous District Councils constituted under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and the Autonomous Councils under the State Acts."

(45)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I shall put the amendments moved by Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam and Shri S.K. Bwiswmuthiary to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

MADAM CHAIRMAN : There are two amendments to clause 1.

Shri S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Yes. I beg to move:

Page 1, lines 5 and 6, *omit* "and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers". (40)

Page 1, *after* line 7, *insert*—

"(3) The provisions relating to 'traditional forest dwellers' shall not apply to the North-Eastern States, particularly Autonomous Territorial Districts and Autonomous Districts under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution and Autonomous Councils

constituted under the State Acts." (41)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I shall put amendment numbers 40 and 41 moved by Shri Bwiswmuthiary to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The Minister may now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : Sir, in strong protest, I walk out of the House.

18.21½ hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary left the House.)

18.22 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

AND

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 117 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill, 2006, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2006."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 2006."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Prohibition of Child Marriage Bill 2006 and the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2006.

18.23 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Low Budget Hotels

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Half-an-hour Discussion. Shri P.S. Ghadavi.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Madam, I am really thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise discussion on points arisen out of answer given by the hon. Minister of Tourism on Starred Question No. 123 of which answer was given on 30.11.2006.

First of all, I would like to compliment the hon. minister and her Department for taking good steps for promotion of tourism in our country.

Madam, the original S.Q. No. 123 put up by Shri Prabhu Nath Singh and Shri K.S. Rao was about the middle class tourists who are experiencing difficulties in locating economy class accommodation at places/cities of tourist interests.

In reply to S.Q. 123, the hon. Minister has conceded to the fact that due to paucity of hotel rooms in the budget category, common tourists may some time face difficulty in finding accommodation in this category.

In our country, as the hon. Minister has replied, there is a shortage of 1,50,000 hotel rooms in respect of all the categories. The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture in its 104th Report had also expressed its concern about the shortage of hotel accommodation in all the categories, particularly in the budget hotels which do not augur well. The committee had, therefore, recommended in its 104th Report that the Department of Tourism has to take steps to ensure that more budget hotels are set up by making sites available by the Central Government. Lands should be made available for these types of hotels in order to maintain the country's competitiveness as a tourist destination and facilitate identification of hotel sites.

In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many sites have been made available or identified till now on Central Government land. What steps or measures have been taken by the Department of Tourism in this regard for the construction of such budget hotels? This is my first question to the hon. Ministers.

Second, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing. Nowadays, domestic, rural as well as foreign tourism are increasing day by day. We know that the number of domestic tourists and rural tourists is increasing day by day. Domestic and rural tourists also form a very important part of the tourism industry. It is a fact that tourism is the only industry which generates employment. That can benefit more poor people like the rickshaw-pullers, taxi operators and traders. We all know about that. Even the common man from lower and lower-middle class has a desire, the poor persons naturally have a desire to go for pilgrimage. Therefore, tourism increases. They want to go to the place of their belief provided they get the required facilities for their stay in such places.

In this connection, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to one important aspect. These types of tourists naturally tour in groups. They go in one or two buses. If they go by buses in groups, naturally they cannot afford to go to hotels. For them, in the past, according to our culture, we had the tradition of having dharamshalas. Nowadays, those who tour in groups want dormitory type of accommodation with good lavatory and bathing facilities. They also want reasonably priced food.

It is good that Government has got one scheme for giving subsidy to some hotels. For the one-star hotel, they give Rs. 25 lakh. For two star, Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh for a three-star hotel. So, the Department has got the scheme to give this subsidy to hotels. But how many people in our country can afford to stay in such hotels? Only 10 per cent of the people stay in hotels, that means Rs. 10 crore person can afford to stay in the star hotels. You are giving incentive. For this type of persons it is a good thing. Will the Department consider giving incentives

to the social institutions which can go in for dormitory type of accommodation? Here, I can cite one instance. In Delhi, there is one Gujarati Samaj. There may be some other Samajas also. It is having dormitory type of accommodation with good air-condition facility. A particular Samaj has got a particular facility for their Samaj, but what about the other people? What about the women tourists? Will the hon. Minister consider all these things? There should be facilities for group tourism. In all, according to this information, there are 550 million tourists. Out of that, about 150 are the urban tourists are urban tourists. But 400 million tourists are rural tourists. If those rural tourists go from one place to another, what type of facility is being given to them?

My third question is that infrastructure status should be given to the tourism industry. What steps are being taken by the Government in this regard?

The Government is giving incentives to some hotels like one-star hotels, two-star and three star hotels etc. Is the Government going to put any cap or control on tourists or not? I am asking this because after taking the subsidy, they charge whatever they like. What is being done about such control?

There are places of interest in many remote areas of our country. For example, in my constituency there is Rann of Kutch which is a unique place in the whole world. Then, there are places like Dholavira and other places. What kinds of facilities are being provided by the Central Government to the tourists who visit such places? This is very important because this is concerning the middle class people of India. They are talking about *Aam Aadmi*.

[*Translation*]

People who were talking about protecting the interests of the common man, are speaking about two, three and five star hotels.

[*English*]

That is all right. You do it. I do not mind.

[*Translation*]

But please state whether any arrangements will be made for providing accommodation to the common man in public lodgings or dormitories.

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : In this Half-an-Hour Discussion, according to the ballot, only four Members can speak. Now, I call Shri Shailendra Kumar and I request him to please ask only questions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam, please allow me to present some of my views during this Half-an-hour discussion.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : A total of five, members are to speak in this regard, now there are four more members to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I will put my questions after saying a few words about low budget hotels about which a discussion has been initiated by the hon'ble Member, Shri P.S. Gadhave. The Ministry of tourism has allotted land to the State Government and the Indian railways and to the other land owning agencies and in order to promote accommodation and infrastructure it has given 25 lakh rupees for one star hotels, 50 lakh rupees for two star hotels and 75 lakh rupees for three star hotels and has declared a grant of 10 percent in original debts for budget and low budget hotels as part of the conditions of assistance. In it, as encouragement to guest house. . . . (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shailendraji, I had told you only to ask the question, you have got the details. The Hon'ble Minister has also to reply to the question now.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : I am coming to that point. Commonwealth games are going to be held in the year 2010. It has been stated that a shortage of fifty thousand rooms has been felt. They have given contract to more than 20 companies for constructing economy hotels for the

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

railways and for constructing hotels named Rail Ratna in five cities. Out of the economy hotels under the name 'Rail Ratna' which are to be built in forty cities about which a decision has been made, a provision has been made by them to construct 4 five-star hotels under Taj Group. Similarly, he has announced construction of such hotels by the D.D.A. also. He has made this declaration keeping in view the Commonwealth games. But in order to make it a reality how much encouragement and time is being devoted by him? Till date, not even a beginning has been made, then how will they accommodate all the foreign sports persons and guests who will come down to participate in the games? For this purpose, they will have to act quickly. I would like to ask whether they have thought about any effective measures for this purpose?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Madam Chairman, "maya se maya mile karkar lambe haath. Tulsei hai Gareeb ki Puchche nanhin koi baat."

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Is this your question?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, I am saying this because talks are going on about the five-star hotels and the Government is providing assistance for budgetary hotels also, as we are in dire need of foreign exchange. We are providing every amenities to the foreign tourists, but what type of concrete steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that all these natural and low cost facilities are also made available to the domestic tourists? Till date, they did everything for them by merely constructing heritage hotels and budgetary hotels. Land also are being located for this purpose. But as it has just now been stated that hordes of people travel from one place to another for pilgrimage as well. For such pilgrims, earlier we had an arrangement of free of cost public lodging (Dharmehalas). What are the measures being taken by the Government to augment the facilities of those traditional rest houses and for ensuring their development so that domestic tourists also get encouragement. Whether the Government have got any special schemes to encourage domestic tourists?

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri C.K. Chandrappan – Not present.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Thank you Madam.

Madam, unlike the past, the number of domestic tourists, visiting tourist destinations in India, has increased to a great extent these days. The reason being the increase in the income level and emergence of high income middle class. In the National Tourism Policy 2002, there was a great thrust on the promotion of domestic tourists. So, more and more initiatives were taken for the development of integrated tourism projects.

Madam, the Indian Tourism Development Corporation was set up in 1966 with the objective of undertaking progressive development and expansion of tourism infrastructure in the country, thereby promoting India as a tourist destination. Formerly, ITDC was operating many star hotels with a view to catering international tourists. But unfortunately, due to the disinvestment policy during the reign of NDA, most of those star hotels were sold to the private parties.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : Madam, in view of the emergence of more and more domestic tourists and also in view of the emergence of more domestic tourist destinations, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what measures are being undertaken in this regard.

As my colleague, the former speaker, pointed out, there is a lack of accommodation for tourists in this country. Shri Shailendra Kumar pointed out that in 2010 Commonwealth Games are going to be held in this country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the measures taken by the Tourism Ministry for building up of these low-budgeted hotels or low-budgeted accommodation.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister, when the Tourism Ministry sanctions various projects to the State Governments, especially, the circuitous projects, whether

the construction of building up of low-budgeted hotels is incorporated or not. If the State Governments give some proposal for construction of low-budgeted hotels, would the Ministry sanction those projects?

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Minister, please.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Madam, Mr. Panda may be allowed to ask one or two supplementaries. . .
(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : According to the Ballot, there are only four Members.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Madam, Ballot is not there for the supplementaries. . .(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : No please. Now the hon. Minister will reply.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Madam, he has been giving notices daily and sitting here to put his supplementaries. By this time, he would have put his supplementaries. . .
(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister reply, please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur) : Madam, we have been discriminated against. For the last two days, we have been giving notices to speak on this . . .(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : As I said, the rules do not permit. According the Ballot, one plus four Members can ask questions.

(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : No, please take your seats.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal) : Madam, because we are backward, we are looked down upon . . .(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : Madam, we protest this and are staging a walk out.

18.40 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Brahmananda Panda and some other hon. Members left the House*)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) : Madam Chairman, it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction that the initiator of this discussion, Shri Gadhavi, did feel it worthwhile to congratulate the Ministry of Tourism for the initiatives and for the schemes they have taken up. It is also true that we waited for three days for this half-an-hour discussion. It only goes to show that the profile of the Ministry of Tourism or the profile for tourism is going up. It is also true that more and more people—and also the Government—are recognizing tourism as a great economic driver. Probably it creates the maximum number of jobs both direct and indirect. It also is among the Ministries which creates and mobilizes the maximum amount of resources necessary for all-round development.

It is also true that tourism is contributing about 5.86 per cent to the GDP. Having said all this, having recognized that economy of the country is today on an upbeat, the number of people coming to India is also going up, domestic tourists' traveling has increased. People are traveling more and more to different destinations for leisure and pilgrimage. All this has put a tremendous pressure on accommodation available, accommodation of all kinds. The hon. Member — and other hon. Members also — is quite right that according to the estimates and some surveys done, reports that we have received from our Resident Tourist Offices, we are short of almost 1,50,000 rooms; 1,00,000 rooms particularly in the budget category that means Yatri Niwases, one-star hotels, two-star hotels, three-star hotels and four-star hotels. Considering that,

*Not recorded.

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we would like the domestic tourists to get greater emphasis.

While concluding his point, he unfortunately made a comment – from where I would like to state – that the UPA Government which came on the promise of the *aam aadmi* is only looking to five-star hotels. What I am going to respond in answer to his question should convince him is that it is still the *aam aadmi* and the common man and the domestic tourist which is on our agenda as number one.

To fulfil this category of 1,00,000 rooms, we realize that the Government should not be running hotels as such. This was also probably when you were in office you sold off all the hotels. After becoming the Minister of Tourism, only a few low-budget hotels were left with the ITDC, not even 16 I think, two-star hotels and three-star hotels. It is because those hotels were not running, thinking that they are also going to be sold off, the first decision we took that we need hotels in budget category. So, the ITDC was asked to put those 16-odd hotels which are with ITDC and as joint-ventures with State Governments, in the proper condition of the star-age which they have occupied so that after that it can be decided whether they will be outsourced for running or ITDC will run. But we wanted to put those hotels back on the rails and start earning profit. I would like to tell the hon. Members that most of the Hotels, with the exception of two, are back on the rails and are earning profit including the ITDC whose profit has gone upto over 130 per cent whatever that would be.

Land being a State subject, I was asked how much land has been given for budget hotels by State Governments.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : I asked about for Central Government land.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : I will tell you the whole thing. Land is basically a State subject. It is only in Delhi that the Delhi Government does not have the hold over land.

So, the Central land is very limited, probably only to Delhi. Since land is a State subject and our desire is to promote tourism in the budget category to all the States in the country, to all pilgrimage spots, and to all places of cultural interest and tourist interest, my predecessor and then myself continued, we wrote to all the State Governments to make land available. I do not want to go into all the details of the letters but we insisted that instead of providing land especially in the budget category through open auctions – then the prices would go up very high – we should think in terms of equity sharing, leasing, long-term leases, joint ventures or whatsoever so as to keep the price of land low. We have got response from some State Governments but not too many.

As far as Delhi is concerned, DDA has specially, keeping in mind the 2010 Games, given us a lot of details. We have also seen that in the case of land which is auctioned by DDA, the prices are skyrocketed. No private player who bids for land at those high prices is willing to put up the budget hotels. It is not economically viable. Sometimes, the auctions have gone unattended. So, as a trial, we have written to the Ministry of Urban Development that they could consider giving us some, maybe three pieces of land for construction of budget hotels, and the Ministry of Tourism would take it from the Ministry of Urban Development at a reasonable price, which is the Government price, and then, through ITDC, which is a public sector undertaking, lease it on long-term holding to people who will build only budget hotels. This is a trial suggestion which has been proposed, and I have good reasons to believe that we will be able to undertake this proposal in Delhi itself. . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : What about the Union Territories? . . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : You are talking of Pondicherry, Daman and Diu, and Andman and Nicobar Islands. We have received a reply from Daman and Diu. A lot of demand is there but there are some restrictions. There are areas in this country which are environmentally very sensitive. So, we have to get clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These things take a

long time. With a lot of emphasis and with a lot of push, we are trying to push these things.

DDA has made some proposals, keeping in mind the 2010 games. They have auctioned 10 sites for 1831 rooms. If you want all the details, it will take a long time. The Haryana Government has offered 8,000 rooms. The UP Government has identified 25 sites for three-star and four and five star hotels. In addition to this, the Railways came forward very positively. Hundred sites for budget hotels have been identified by the Ministry of Railways. I am very glad to announce in this House that the Ministry of Railways are coming up as a big partner for tourism, and they have already put up tenders for 20 hotels near the railway stations and other places where budget hotels can be put up.

I think, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, mentioned that Taj group is going into it. It is true. I will tell you that a lot of private players who till now built only luxury and five-star hotels are into this whole proposal of ours and this country's push for budget hotels, and are also bidding for these budget hotels. Even though they are budget hotels, we would like to give quality rooms to our domestic tourists and those who want to stay in the budget hotels. There are Taj and other groups who are absolutely. . . .

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, earlier there used to be rest houses and dharamshalas for the travelers.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

You please say something about that. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : I have noted it down. The concept of dharamshala exists even today but, the country is passing through a phase of transition. You are also aware that hopes and aspirations of people are also changing with changing time. We are also talking about

Yatri Niwas. One star hotels are operating on the concept of dharamshalas. We are talking about dormitory, where six members of a family can lodge in a big room. Our intention is that the common tourists who visit Ajmer Sharif, Vaishno Devi, Goa or Harmandar Sahib or any other place for pilgrimage should get a dormitory in every hotel instead of Yatri Niwas or Dharamshala.

Sir, the Government of Gujarat has also announced certain proposals. Though, they have not given information to us in this regard, but they propose to provide free electricity to the private players who build budget hotels in the State and also waive off their corporation tax. The State Governments of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are also working on the same line.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Madam, The Government of Rajasthan is most keen to promote tourism in the state.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : The Rajasthan Government is promoting heritage hotels. We are taking up the issue with them also. Besides that, our Ministry has taken a very important initiative and that is launching of 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'. Earlier also, various states have been running similar schemes. But people used to create problem.

[English]

It was used to be a problematic thing.

[Translation]

There were many hiccups in granting permission. I would like to tell you that we have tried to streamline it and have set up a Committee. There is a proposal to appoint a Police Inspector on the Committee. There are two arrangements of accommodation – One for silver card and other for gold card. Very simple conditions have been laid down for this. The owner of a house having one to five rooms can register himself under the 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'. One condition is that the landlord or landlady will have to stay in that house. We want that the domestic or foreign visitors may get an opportunity to stay with an

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Indian family, so that we may be able to acquaint them with our culture and traditions. We hope that we will be able to make available 10,000 rooms in near future. We are trying to make all information in this regard available on our website. At present all this information is available on our website.

[English]

You are able to get a room at reasonable price in a family. Gradually, by the 2010 Games, we are hoping to put this in a commercial way with no charge to those people who are having rooms to rent out. But the whole exercise will be either underwritten by hotels or other organizations, which can pay and will keep the rents low.

[Translation]

I think that middle class families will also benefit by 'Bed and Breakfast Scheme'. Those families whose children are studying in a foreign country or in any other city of India may let a couple of rooms on rent if they have vacant rooms in their house and thus augment their income. This scheme will prove economically beneficial for those housewives who want to stay at home because of household responsibilities.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : This scheme is very beneficial for women.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : Thank you. Madam Chairman. I am talking about housewives. If through this scheme, we are able to make women financially independent to some extent, it would be a great success. Besides, all of you are aware that my Ministry gives 10 percent subsidy on building two and three star hotels in small cities, not in big cities. Its upper limit is Rs. 75 lakh.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Madam, I would like to submit that the tariff of subsidised hotels should be controlled by the Government. The room rent should be fixed with the Government's dictate.

[English]

They are charging exorbitantly. Would there be a control on tariff?

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : She has already said that the hotel which will charge minimum rent would be give preference.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI : In present circumstances, it is not possible to fix tariff with Government's dictate. But we are making efforts, as I said earlier, we are trying to make the room available upto Rs. 1000. There are some norms, which would be circulated at the time of promotion of our scheme. We will definitely propose rents; when silver and gold categories are being discussed, it is apparent that rents of different categories would be proposed. Besides that I would like to tell you that I have written many letters to the Ministry of Finance during the last 6-8 months. In view of the need for one lakh, 50 thousand rooms, I had proposed it for hotels, but it was not possible and they refused. Now with utmost seriousness and emphasis.

[English]

I am pushing it with the Finance Ministry that for those people who build budget hotels, one, two and three star hotels, starting now and having them finished before the Games of 2010, that the Finance Ministry should consider giving them tax incentive by declaring them infrastructure and giving them tax incentives. That is what I am pushing.

[Translation]

If the House fully supports me, I am sure that the Minister of Finance will agree with my proposal.

In the end, I would like to say that in view of the promotion of tourism, we are making efforts for public private partnership in this sector. The Government will not be able to intervene in it. As far as possible we are trying to help the Government through private partnership and I am sure that the House will continue to show this kind

of interest, and we will continue to progress and be successful.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The hon'ble Minister has given a very good reply.

18.57 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS -
Withdrawn

(I) Steps for balanced and equitable development
of all parts of the country

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Item No. 28—Further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.

Shri Mani Charenamei - Not present.

Now, Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen to speak.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla) : Madam, I think the Mover of the Resolution, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal must talk about it first. He has to move the Resolution.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The Resolution was moved by Mr. Sarbananda Sonowal, and we are continuing the discussion.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Madam Chairperson, I rise to support this Resolution in its letter and spirit.

In order to quote a few points before this august House, I will very pointedly mention the unbalanced development which leads to unhappiness in the distant areas of different States of the country, and ultimately it shakes the peace of those areas. I will mention about Jammu and Kashmir straight.

Madam, in my parliamentary constituency, Baramulla, we have certain areas closer to the Line of Actual Control, those areas are waiting for the last 58 years for development of infrastructure, and for the roads, so that

they can be connected for the whole year with the rest of the world. I may talk about the Gurez Valley. We were just now discussing about tourism. That Gurez is one of the wonderful areas on this earth and can be said that this is a heaven within the heaven but for more than six months that area gets cut off because the road is not available, and the infrastructural development in those areas, in piecemeal, ultimately makes those people to wait for the support to come from the welfare State.

I do not know what will happen to those areas if the pace of development in such areas continues at this rate? Ultimately, there is unhappiness of the people and they would sometimes like to give vent to their anger. Unfortunately, occasionally it takes a violent turn.

19.00 hrs.

I would ask and request the Government of India to take a view about the areas of North-East, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. I will say the category States and the distant areas within these States which are egregiously poor areas and are waiting for the infrastructural development in the new era of economic development in this country which is very well-known, though we are moving faster towards the third wave of civilization. We have still the Kalahandis and other places which are waiting for development.

My point is that. Hon. Member Shri Sonowal has done a favour to these areas by moving this Resolution. I support this Resolution and I would request the Government of India that it should come out with a mechanism, with the assurance of the Constitution of India that we have a development scheme for faster development of those areas, so that they come to the level of the rest of the country.

I will mention about non-lapsable pool of resources which have been granted to the North-Eastern States. I have been asking for the last eight years that Jammu and Kashmir State, having the same season and security situation, must be included in 'non-lapsable pool of resources' after the allocation is enhanced from 10 per cent

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

to 15 per cent. But we always get a deaf ear of the Government. We have to keep on waiting for the packages to come and then people all over the country say that this State (Jammu and Kashmir) is a drain on our resources. I want that we should have a respectful and a stable way of development process for such areas like Jammu and Kashmir and North-East.

The constraint of season in our States – the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir – is there. We have only five months of working season at our disposal. So, the non-lapsable pool is the only answer for such areas. We have to recast and reshape the functioning of that concept also so that these States get benefit out of it.

I will not talk about the federal system which Shri Sonowal has mentioned in his Resolution. That is a very big subject. We will try in the next Session to bring a full-fledged Motion about it under the rules of this august House so that this is discussed; because cooperative federalism for this country plays a very important role now and we have a lot many important things to speak in this regard.

I support this Resolution and the concept of strengthening of the federalism in this country as it is put in the Resolution. With these words I support this Resolution. I hope that the Government of India will take positive steps to look after the development of the distant areas of the category States so that they are put on the rails back on equality with other developed areas.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister will reply now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN) : Madam Chairperson, hon. Member, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal has raised a very important and critical issue with which our Government has been very much concerned, that is balanced and equitable development. Although efforts have been made through the Five-Year Plans to address the problem, imbalances in regional development continue

owing to varied factors such as differences in resource endowment, historical and geographical development and availability of infrastructure facilities.

I am thankful to the hon. Members of Parliament who have so actively participated in this debate on a subject which is of crucial importance to our Government at this point of time. Hon. Members will agree with me that planning and development of an area and allocation of funds are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government, on its part, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through weightage in the formula used for distribution of Central assistance, special area programmes and various poverty alleviation and other schemes.

As mentioned by hon. Member Shri B. Mahtab, the formula for distribution of Central assistance is one of the most important mechanisms to address this problem. As per this formula, 30 per cent of the total assistance is earmarked for Special Category States. The remaining 70 per cent is distributed among non-Special Category States according to a set of criteria according to which 60 per cent of this share is allocated in proportion of the population of the States as per 1971 Census, 25 percentage weightage is assigned to *per capita* income, 7.5 per cent to performance and the balance 7.5 per cent is earmarked for special problems. Out of the 25 per cent assistance allocated on the basis of *per capita* income, 20 per cent is allocated exclusively to the poorest States whose *per capita* income is below the national average. The hon. Members will, therefore, appreciate that the principles underlying the distribution of Central assistance take care of regional disparities. As mentioned by hon. Members Shri Prasanna Acharya and Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, there have been requests for modification of this formula. But you will agree with me and appreciate that in the absence of a consensus among the States, it is not possible to make any change in this area.

I would, therefore, like to clarify that the Planning Commission takes into account the requirements of various States while approving their Plans, including the State of

Jammu and Kashmir about which the hon. Member spoke just now. Generally, all State Plan projects are prepared by the States themselves. The Annual Plan exercise is aimed at ensuring maximum effectiveness of the schemes and sharing opinions on the best practices and trying to find solutions to the problems which each State is facing. In fact, Planning Commission has also requested the State Governments to prepare District Plans through the involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, keeping in view exactly the concerns which Shri Sonowal has expressed so eloquently, so that the hopes and aspirations of people living in backward areas are met.

As you are all aware, special emphasis is being laid on the development of backward areas during the Tenth Plan. The *Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana* was initiated for putting in place schemes for backward areas which would help reduce imbalances and speed up development. Under this programme, till 31st March, 2006, an amount of Rs. 950 crore had been released for the Special Plan for the KBK districts, Rs. 1,417 crore for the Special Plan for Bihar and Rs. 2,854 crore for the Backward Districts Initiative which covered 147 districts. This programme has now been replaced by the Backward Regions Grant Fund so that the Panchayati Raj Institutions from the village to the district level are involved in the planning and implementation of schemes as enshrined in our Constitution.

As pointed out by hon. Member, Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh, the UPA Government is trying to ensure that Panchayati Raj Institutions are involved in planning and implementation of all schemes. Hence, this change has been made in the programme for backward areas. This programme has also been expanded and now 250 districts will be covered. In addition, the Special Plan for Bihar and Special Plan for Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput, which is known as KBK districts of Orissa will also be funded under this scheme. Hon. Member, Shrimati Archana Nayak has raised the issue of fund flow to the KBK districts. I would like to clarify that the total allocation for the KBK districts is being protected. Under the RSVY in the Tenth Plan, the KBK districts are receiving an amount of Rs. 250 crore

per annum. The same amount will be – I emphasise 'will be' – made available to these districts under the Backward Region Grant Fund during the Eleventh Plan period.

Many of the hon. Members, including Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan, Shri Kiren Rijju and Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak, spoke about the backwardness of their areas. Our Government plans to address these problems through various flagship schemes which have been designed to address the problems of employment, poverty and gaps in physical and social infrastructure.

As you are aware, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has been enacted in September, 2005. The Act guarantees 100 days of employment in a financial year to any rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. The Act will be applicable to areas notified by the Central Government and will cover the whole country within five years. In the first phase, the NREGS has been launched on 2nd February, 2006. Till October, 2006, three crore fifty one lakh applications for registration had been received, and three crore eleven lakh job cards have already been issued.

In addition, there are various other programmes for rural development in operation such as the Swamajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Sampurna Grameen, Rozgar Yojana, Indira Aawas Yojana, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme, etc., As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, Members of Parliament are members of the District Rural Development Agencies; governing bodies. In addition, Members of Parliament have a role in the vigilance and monitoring committees of the programmes of the Ministry.

Chaudhary Lai Singhji has expressed concern regarding the primary school education. The Central Government is addressing this concern through the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* which has been initiated for universalisation of elementary education. This scheme addresses the needs of about 20 crore children in 12.31

[Shri M.V. Rajasekharan]

lakh habitations, 9.73 lakh existing primary and upper primary schools and non-formal education centres, including Education Guarantee Schemes and Alternative Innovative Education Centres. The scheme is focused on decentralized, participative and consultative planning. Community ownership of the school system is the key element; and has a major role in planning, implementation and monitoring.

Let me give you a few achievements under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. Up to March 31, 2006 a total of 1.03 lakh school buildings were constructed, 3.26 lakh additional class rooms were added, 5.87 lakh new teachers were appointed and free text books were given to over 5.02 crore school children in the country.

Further, in order to increase retention in school, the mid-day meal scheme has been universalized at the primary level targeting 12 crore children in the country. Cooked mid-day meals will now be provided in all Government and Government-aided schools and a lot of centres, particulars, *EGS/AIGS* centres, and also during summer vacations in drought affected areas.

The National Rural Health Mission (2005-2012) seeks to provide effective healthcare to rural population throughout the country with the focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure.

... *(Interruptions)* Many Members have raised a lot of issues. Is it not the duty of the Minister to reply to them.

... *(Interruptions)*

The key components of the Scheme include a female health activist in each village in the high focus States; a village health plan prepared through a local team, including the Health and Sanitation Committees of the Panchayat; strengthening of rural hospitals for effective curative care; integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare programmes for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary healthcare.

The Mission aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health like sanitation, hygiene, nutrition and safe drinking water through a district plan for health.

As far as water is concerned, it is a State subject and planning, funding, execution, operation and maintenance of water resources schemes, that is Irrigation (major, medium and minor), Command Area Development, Flood Control, Water supply and Sanitation are primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Planning Commission has devolved the powers to the States for the clearance of irrigation projects in the case of intra-State rivers. However, projects on inter-state rivers are to be cleared by the Centre to ensure that utilization is within allocations made in Tribunal Awards, Inter-State agreements. The Central Government is also assisting the States in the following areas viz completion of major, medium and minor irrigation projects and creation of irrigation potential; restoring the water bodies directly linked to agriculture; bridging the gap between the irrigation potential created and utilized through Command Area Development and protection of flood prone areas in the country.

Further, the Centre is assisting the States for the completion of major and medium irrigation projects through the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme since 1996-97. The programme which was entirely a loan from Centre in the beginning has been modified, as the Members are aware, and now is under the Normal Central Assistance pattern with a grant and loan component from 2004-05. About 178 projects have been included under the programme throughout the country, out of which 46 have been reported completed. An amount of Rs. 19,437 crore has been released till March, 2006 to the States under this Programme.

Providing potable drinking water to all villages is one of the monitorable targets of the Tenth Plan. The NCMP has stated that providing drinking water to all sections in urban and rural areas and augmenting the availability of drinking water sources is an issue of top most priority of the UPA Government. The allocation for the Accelerated

Rural Water Supply Programme through which the Centre is assisting the States is being continuously stepped up and for 2006-07 it is Rs. 5200 crore against Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06.

Regarding the presence of fluoride in the drinking water in Nalgonda raised by Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, it is informed that under the Bharat Nirman programme, out of the 2.17 lakh habitations affected by water quality in the country, priority is being given to arsenic, fluoride and salinity affected habitations in the country.

The rural sanitation coverage in the country is about 32 per cent. To help the States to achieve rural sanitation coverage, the Centre is assisting the States through the Total Sanitation Campaign Programme. Under this, hon. Members would be very happy to know that 540 districts have been included so far for assistance. The allocation for this programme has been stepped up from Rs.700 crore in 2005-06 to Rs. 800 crore in 2006-07. Villages are encouraged to attain full sanitation coverage and are given "Nirmal Gram Puraskar" awards annually.

As rightly pointed out by the hon. Members, India will shine when all the backward areas get adequate basic minimum facilities. To unlock the potential of rural India, the Government has launched a time bound business plan named Bharat Nirman to be implemented from 2005-09.

The six components included under Bharat Nirman are irrigation, drinking water, electrification, roads, housing and rural telephones. Physical targets include creation of 10 million hectares of additional irrigation capacity; construction of all weather roads to every habitation with over 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas). Our friends particularly from Jammu and Kashmir and North-Eastern States would indeed be happy to know about this. It also includes providing electricity to the remaining 1,25,000 villages; construction of 60 lakh houses; providing drinking water to 55,067 uncovered habitations by 2009 (All habitations with failed sources

and water quality problems will be covered); and connecting the remaining 66,822 villages by telephones by 2007.

The Committee on Rural Infrastructure chaired by the hon. Prime Minister is monitoring the Bharat Nirman Programme. The Committee has met thrice during the year 2005-06.

The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana was launched in March 2005 for providing rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification in order to attain the goal of providing electricity to all households in five years as set by the National Common Minimum Programme. The other important scheme in the power sector is the Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme which was initiated in March 2003 to accelerate distribution sector reforms. The main objectives of the programme are to reduce technical and commercial losses, bring about commercial viability in the power sector, reduce outages and interruptions and increase consumer satisfaction. A Task Force has been set up to re-structure the programme so that performance can be improved and the targets achieved. These are the things which have been achieved by the UPA Government. We should be proud about this. The whole nation should be proud about this. In addition, there are various smaller schemes for the development of nonconventional energy programmes such as the Solar Photovoltaic Demonstration Programme, National Project on Bio-gas Development, Small Hydro Power Programme, etc.

Similarly, there are a number of schemes in other sectors such as agriculture and allied activities, industries and village and small scale industries, transport and road construction etc. to help in the development of these sectors. You will be happy to know that the outlays for the three Departments under the Ministry of Agriculture have been substantially increased - for example the outlay of the "Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been stepped up from Rs. 2650 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4800 crore in 2006-07. These increases in outlays will undoubtedly provide a boost to the rural economy. Further,

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we have the largest Public Distribution System in the world. This covers about 400 million people below poverty line (BPL) and a large number of people above poverty line (APL), spread across all parts of the country. Food grains are given to the BPL households at less than 50 per cent of the economic cost and the APL at less than 70 per cent of the economic cost through a network of about half a million fair price shops. This is one of the biggest networks in the world.

Shri Lakshman Singhji has raised the issue of interlinking of rivers. The National Common Minimum Programme has stated that this will be pursued in a fully consultative manner and a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the linking of the rivers of the country will be made starting with southbound rivers. Also linking of the sub basins of the rivers in States like Bihar will also be explored. I am sure our friends from Bihar would indeed be happy now.

The initial thrust towards the inter-linking of rivers was given by the signing of MoU on 25.08.05 for preparation of DPR of the Ken Betwa Link by the participating States of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. For the execution of other proposed links obtaining the consensus of the States is in progress. The Government of Bihar also identified some intra State links for further studies by National Water Development Agency.

As far as the Constitution is concerned, there is an elaborate distribution of Governmental powers – legislative, administrative and financial – between the Union and the States. As we all know, legislative power has been classified into three lists – Union, State and Concurrent. Normally, the executive powers of the Union and the States are co-extensive with their legislative powers. However, with respect to matters in the Concurrent List, the executive power remains with the States unless the Constitution or the Parliament, by law, expressly provides otherwise (articles 73 and 162).

The Constitution makes a distribution of the powers of taxation between the Union and the States. The fields

of taxation have been enumerated either in the Union List or in the State List. There is no subject of taxation in the Concurrent List. The Constitution recognizes that the financial resources of the States may not be adequate for discharging their onerous responsibilities. It, therefore, envisages certain tax revenues raised by the Union to be shared with the States. It provides not only for their distribution between the Union and the States but also *inter se* among the States on the recommendations of the Finance Commission (articles 268 and 281). These provisions have stood the test of time and have enough flexibility for reconciling such conflicts of interests as may arise from time to time between the Union and the constituent units. Further, in keeping with its commitment in the Common Minimum Programme, Government has resolved to set up a Commission on Centre-State relations.

The hon. Members will thus agree with me that the Central Government is making all out efforts for redressing regional imbalances. You will also agree with me that the Constitution is not an obstacle in the path of development of any State or region. . . .(Interruptions) Please do not be so impatient and listen to what the UPA Government has achieved in this short span of time.

Hon. Member Shri Kirip Chaliha has rightly said that instead of constitutional changes, emphasis should be on economic measures with a time-bound framework for implementation to ensure that different regions remain united and progress equally. The landmark 73rd and 74th amendment Acts need to be operationalised in letter and spirit so that the Panchayati Raj Institutions are empowered as per the Constitutional provisions – its planning, implementation and monitoring at the grassroots level which will help the benefits of development to reach each village. In view of the efforts made by the Government, I would request the hon. Member, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to withdraw the Resolution.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh) : Sir, my intention of bringing forward this Resolution was to draw the attention of the Central Government and this august House for having a fresh look at the constitutional

provisions. I think, keeping in view the various inequalities existing in various parts of the countries, particularly the remote areas in different States, the present constitutional provisions are not going to work and are not enough to give justice to the people living in the countryside.

So, we will have to consider the present situation in the country. A sense of alienation and a sense of resentment are also developing. That is why, we should give a fresh look into the present set-up of the Constitution. We are all the time claiming that we are federal but in the real sense, there is no federalism in the country. Still the Union is the more powerful than the States. You know that economic planning has been used as an instrument of Central control. The major sources of revenue assessed continue to be monopolized by the Central Government. Instead of reducing regional disparities through planned economic development and vetted financial support, in reality, such disparities are being aggravated. Some States of the country such as Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa which are rich in mineral resources continue to be the poorest regions of the country. Unless we give a serious thought to it, balanced development is not possible in the country.

In regions like the North-East and States like Jammu and Kashmir, there are many extremist groups. Of course, the Government is taking a very positive view to have a peace dialogue with them. But how to bring back those people into the mainstream? This particular set-up is not sufficient to accommodate their grievances and demands. Unless we have a new set-up, and federalism in the true sense, it is not possible to convince those people to come to the mainstream. That is why, I have a humble submission to make.

I have to specially mention one point here. Citizenship is a vital issue in a Federal Constitution Article II of the present Constitution which fully authorizes the Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizen and all other matters relating to citizenship. In this regard, it is felt that a total modification of the articles dealing with citizenship is urgently necessary

to accommodate dual citizenship in the Constitution in accordance with federal principles. It is also an important part to be considered.

Then, I will come to equal representation from every State to remove inequalities. If we make everybody equal, then some format must be made so that there will be equal representation of people with a sense of equality. This point has to be considered.

Then there is protection of cultural rights of genuine minorities in the States. Article 347 considers greater interest of indigenous people of Assam, the power of the President under this article in relation to the official language should be made subject to the recommendation of the State Legislature. We have many articles on this subject like article 248, article 249, article 251, article 254, article 257, article 258, article 244 A with para 21 of the Sixth Schedule, fiscal relationship between the States and the Union, articles 273, 275, 280, 280A, 352, 355, 356, 163(2) and 368. These are all important articles which have to be relooked into so that true federalism can be set up in the country.

Since the time is short, I do not want to prolong my speech. I only want to submit to the hon. Minister that we have got the State List and the Central List here which will speak out the details of our intention to bring about this particular resolution in this august House. This particular distinct piece of written submission will speak out my mind-set as to why we actually desire to have true federalism in this country. Everywhere, people are demanding that they want true federalism in the country.

To keep the country together, we have to remove the imbalances and minimize the differences. There are big States and there are small States. Small States feel insecure in the presence of big States. So, these differences should be minimized so that the country can move together. We have to accommodate the people's views and resentments. That is why I submit that if we could sincerely consider all these people's views, resentments and grievances, we can have balanced growth. Let India prosper together. It should not be that a part of the country

[Shri Sarbananda Sonowal]

prospers while the other parts feel neglected. If we do that we cannot keep India together.

Now, we have been receiving a lot of threat across the border. We are also receiving threats from different agencies. So, that is why India is still under a tremendous security problem. Unless we move together in a proper and disciplined system, it is not possible to keep one billion people together. I believe that this august House will consider all these points.

I am still a strong advocate of the concept that the Centre should keep only four subjects with it, defence, communication, external affairs and currency. Let other powers be enjoyed by the States. Let the States grow on their own. So, these are the four subjects the Centre should keep and the rest be given to the States. Let States grow up with their own available resources. Let them cultivate their own wisdom and intelligentsia.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Sonowal, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : I sincerely request the hon. Minister to assure at least that whatever I have spoken will be taken into consideration.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : Madam Chairman, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that the Constitution of the Indian Union as it exists today is one of the best Constitution in the world. Indian Constitution has stood the test of the time to meet the challenges. I assure that there won't be any discrimination under the Indian Constitution. I hope the hon. Member will withdraw his Resolution.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : Madam Chairman, the hon. Minister should assure the House that the Government will try to put in all possible measures to strengthen the federalism in the country.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Sonowal, are you withdrawing?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL : The hon. Minister should react to this.

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) : Madam Chairman, the thrust of the Resolution is that imbalances should be removed and steps should be taken for removal of regional imbalances. The hon. Minister has spelt out the steps that the Government has taken. Let us see how it works.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN : The focus is on development to take care of the regional imbalances. That is why I listed all the programmes. I hope now the hon. Member would withdraw his Resolution.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

19.39 hrs.

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION—
Under Consideration**

**Formulation and Implementation of Comprehensive
food and nutrition security scheme**

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up item no. 29.

[Translation]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra) : Madam, I move that:

"This House resolves that the Government should formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country".

Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak. I resolve that this Government should formulate and implement a comprehensive food and nutrition security scheme aiming at total eradication of hunger from the country. The subject which is being deliberated upon in the House is related to the poorest section of the country. All the hon'ble Members will agree with me that food, clothing and shelter are the primary necessities for human beings. But what is most needed is to get two square meals. As it has been stated—Bhukhe Bhajan na hoi Gopala, which connotes that in order to survive, food is the prime necessity and there is a similar saying in Punjab also which goes like this—"Pet na Padi Rotiyaan te Sabhi Gallan Khotiyaan".

Madam Chairman, as per a report of the United Nations, out of the world's total population of 700 crore, around 85 crore people are the victims of malnutrition. Of these, 22 crore people live in India who are the victims of malnutrition. The maximum number of deaths in developing nations are caused not by AIDS or any other disease but due to malnutrition. According to the world renowned economist, Shri Amartya Sen if we want to control hunger, we need sufficient funds, firm political will and proper policies. Today, in our country there is no dearth of food grains. But owing to defective distribution system and ignorance even today there are crores of people who are victims of malnutrition. National family and Health Survey number three. . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Jindal Sahab, you have introduced it, subsequently you will get 2-3 hours to express your views. You may take up it in the budget session, instead of today. Your Bill will remain as it is.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH) : Madam, I have a submission to make. Now, it is getting a bit late today. Today, the List of Business was very crowded. So, if the House desires, we can cut this

Private Members' Business and this Resolution can be continued in the next Session. So, now, if the House so desires, we can take up the Zero Hour.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : I think the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Shri Naveen Jindal, you can continue your speech next time.

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN : What is the opinion of the House about zero hour, should it be taken up?

MANY HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes Madam, Zero Hour be taken up now.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail) : Madam Chairman, I would like to raise a very important matter in this House. In most of the educational institutions across the country, from primary to higher education level, be it Government or non-Government educational institute, fee is being collected in an arbitrary manner. I am not talking about the Government schools, State Governments regularly take initiatives in this regard. In our Uttar Pradesh, fees of the university were very high and the State Government has curtailed it a bit. My request to the House is that Fees are being collected in an arbitrary manner, be it in the name of construction of buildings, development or in the name of installing central a.c., various such fees are collected from the guardians of the students. It has also been noticed that sometimes in these educational institutions six months' or one year's fees are collected in a lump sum. There are so many families in our country whose financial condition does not permit them to pay all the fees at one go. Therefore, in order to ban this practice, the Government should constitute an expert committee so that the said committee can make an assessment about what should be the fee structure of the Governmental and non-Governmental educational institutions from primary level to higher education levels. My demand is that in order to ensure the said evaluation, a Committee should be constituted..

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to give an assurance to the House in this regard and constitute a Committee so that whenever the new academic session commences, the said Committee can make an assessment of the fees to be collected by the primary, secondary schools, inter, degree colleges and universities. The Government should take steps to ensure this.

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dhanwad South) : Madam, this is relating to support price for sugarcane and special package for the Sangur Sugar Factory in Haveri District of Karnataka.

Sugarcane was being purchased at Rs.1200 per metric tonne last year in Karnataka. This year, the price is only Rs. 900 per metric tonne. The sugar factory owners are not prepared to pay more in Karnataka. In fact, the price has to be fixed after calculating all the expenditure on inputs like water, manure, fertilizer, pesticides, labour etc. It should be done scientifically.

Strangely, in Maharashtra, the mill-owners are purchasing sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 1500 per metric tonne as the Mills get Central financial assistance. This has led to agitation in Haveri, Belgaum, Bagalkot and Bijapura districts and in other places. There are demonstrations asking for remunerative prices for sugarcane. The sugarcane growers are demanding support price. So far, there is no response from the Centre in this regard.

I, therefore, urge upon the Centre to look into the matter seriously and to come to the rescue of the farmers – the sugarcane growers – by intervening in this matter to help them to get at least Rs.1400 per metric tonne of sugarcane. I hope and trust, the Centre will take immediate steps before it is too late.

The Sangur Sugar Factory belongs to my Parliamentary constituency in Haveri District, Karnataka. The farmers have grown about three-and-a-half lakh tones of sugarcane

in that area. Last year, Sri Renuka Sugars Limited has paid Rs.1200 per metric tonne alongwith Rs. 80 for cutting of sugarcane from the field. There is an agreement between Sri Renuka Sugars and the Sangur Sugar Factory to pay Rs.3 crore to the factory every year and to run it for three years. This year, there is a breach of contract by Sri Renuka Sugars and they have not paid the salary of 680 employees since June 2006. They have not paid Rs. 3 crore to the Sangur Sugar Factory as agreed and not started the factory.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : What are you demanding now?

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR : I only demand that this factory should be started immediately and a special package should be given by the Centre. Therefore, the farmers have not come forward for crushing of sugarcane. The sugarcane growers have become more upset. Under such circumstances, the special package may please be given to the Sangur Sugar Factory to start the same immediately so as to save the farmers' life. It has become very difficult for the sugarcane growers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to interfere in the matter and give special package for such sick industries. For the Sangur Sugar Factory, relief may also please be given immediately.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : Madam, I had raised a question in the current Session asking whether the Government would consider the setting up of a new Spices Procurement and Trading Company. Why I had raised this issue was due to the steep fall in prices of spices like cardamom, pepper, vanilla etc. in this country. The answer that I got was "no" from the hon. Minister of Commerce. The National Agriculture Commission, headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has made several recommendations. One of the recommendations is that the Government should ensure that the farmer gets a profit or a net income on the agricultural products which he produces. In the case of spices, what was actually happening in Kerala was this. For example, cardamom, when it was fetching only Rs. 100-150 there, in the Capital in Delhi and also in other

metropolitan cities, per kilogram cardamom used to fetch around Rs. 700-800 and even Rs. 1000. So, there is a reasonable price available. The price realization is reasonably possible even in this country. The problem is that middlemen are cornering the bulk of the amount that should have gone to the farmers. So, what should be done is that the Government should come out with a procurement and trading company to procure the products from the farmers at a fair price so that the farmers get a net income for their toil. It has to open up retail outlets in all the metropolitan cities and major towns and cities in the country. Through this, we can save the farmers and we can help the spice-growing farmers. So, a special Spices Procurement and Trading Company has to be set up which can be done through the help of the Spices Board which is already operating. So, the Commerce Ministry, Government of India should come out with this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : You can say it a few words only. Please make your demand.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE : That is my demand. I request the Government to consider this again so that it will be of great benefit to the farmers especially the spice-growing farmers of this country.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Madam Chairman, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance regarding the most backward region of this country, that is, the KBK Region. The KBK Region, which is the size of the State of Kerala, is amongst the most backward regions in the country with a very high concentration of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and people below the poverty line. So, a special industrial incentive policy should be announced by the Government of India for the development of industrial infrastructure and industries in this region.

The Government of India have, time and again, in the past announced special incentive packages for the development of industries in backward regions and Special Category States. This include the North East Industrial Policy of December, 1997, the Sikkim Industrial Policy of December, 2002, the Jammu and Kashmir

Industrial Policy of June, 2002 and Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh Industrial Policy of January, 2003.

I would request the Union Government that incentives may be provided on the lines of the North East Industrial Policy. The specific industrial incentives which we seek are 100 per cent for setting up growth centres and industrial infrastructure development centres. The infrastructure development centres set up in the KBK Region may be declared as a totally tax-free zone for at least 10 years. Capital investment subsidy amounting to 15 per cent of the investment in plant and machinery may be provided upto a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh per unit. Then, the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana may be relaxed in terms of upper age limit for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes upto the age of 45 years and 40 years for general category persons of that specific region instead of 35 years. In addition to that, the subsidy component amounting to 15 per cent of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000 per beneficiary instead of Rs. 7,500 may be provided.

The hon. Prime Minister had visited Orissa and he was appraised about these demands during his last visit to Orissa. So, I would urge upon the Union Government to take action on these demands at the earliest.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) : Madam Chairman, I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance regarding the need to provide assistance for the educational institutions for mentally challenged children.

The magnitude of the problem of mentally challenged children is more severe than our expectation. India holds the largest number of mentally challenged children in the world. Mentally challenged children account for 3 per cent of the population and, in fact, the largest number of mentally challenged children in the country is in Kerala.

Madam, 8th December was declared and celebrated as the 'Day of Mentally Challenged Children'. Apart from the celebration, the Government and the entire society need to give special attention to the care of these children,

[Dr. K.S. Manoj]

their education and their occupational rehabilitation. There is a need to establish more number of Special Schools for their education and training. There are 14 such institutions in my district Alleppey, including one residential institution out of which 13 are run by voluntary organizations. But the assistance given to such institutions by the Government is very meagre and namesake. Only two such institutions in a district is given Grant-in-Aid by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Due to this stipulation, many deserving institutions are denied Central assistance.

So, I would urge upon the Government, especially the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, to take necessary steps to provide financial assistance and other support to these special educational institutions considering the gravity of the situation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Madam Chairman, many many thanks. I am glad that I am raising this issue when you are in the Chair, though there are a lesser number of Members present here now. I am going to talk about a very important matter today. The issue of surrogate mothers has come to the fore in the whole world. Lending of wombs has become a subject of discussion all over the world. Today globalisation is fast taking India into its grip and hiring or renting out wombs is no exception. This matter needs to be seriously contemplated, that's why I am raising it here. If we look at other countries, we find that, for example in South Korea, after holding discussions with athletes and philosophers, they have framed some rules regarding the number of times a woman can lend her womb. The rules thus framed permit a woman to lend her womb three to five times. Our situation here is entirely different. Here the concept of motherhood is linked with sentiments. Here the family relations are much stronger. Even anaemia is a big issue for women here. It is possible that the womb can also be hired through the payment of money. Such figment of imagination is doing

the rounds and somewhere or other this is also being put into practice. There can be different kinds of social and economic consequences of the said practice. That's why I am raising this point and speaking in detail because the practice of pre-natal tests had started very much earlier. There was a bonafide intention behind it and an amendment was made with the aim to prevent the birth of a child with any deformity or any deficiency. If we can find out any disability of the child at the womb stage itself, we can rectify it. Taking into consideration all these facts, pre-natal tests were commenced, but, today, we see the adverse repercussions of it in India in the manner and speed foeticides are taking place here. That's why, today, I am raising this issue at this time because a discussion on surrogate mothers has initiated and somewhere or other this practice may have come into practice also.

Therefore, I urge the Government to formulate a law or regularize these things by holding a composite dialogue in this regard with religious leaders, scholars of ethics, social workers, legal experts but deliberations regarding this subject should begin in the country in a right way and the Government should mull over it. My submission is that we should have deliberations in this regard before some adverse consequences of the said practice come to the fore.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat) : Madam, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning the freedom fighters. The people, who laid down their lives and sacrificed everything for the sake of freedom of the country are in a pitiable condition. They are being neglected economically, socially and from all other aspects. Though most of the freedom fighters have passed away, I have come across a number of them. The freedom fighters who met me wanted me to bring the matter of their pension to the notice of the Government. They demanded that the pension being disbursed to them should automatically be transferred to their children in case of death of the pensioner so that the children of pension-drawing-freedom-fighters do not have to run from pillar to post for transfer of pension in their name. Secondly, they

also want a package, as is being provided to the other categories. In view of their prevailing condition, they should be provided a package. So far as reservation in job is concerned, though there are a few freedom fighters left yet the Government could not provide reservation to their children in job.

20.00 hrs.

Madam, they have been given reservation in the category of ex-servicemen, whereas, freedom fighters demand that they should be placed in a separate category. With a view to honour them the Government should declare their families as national families so that they feel proud of and they can inculcate a sense of national lineage. By just seeing them every one should be able to identify that they belong to the freedom fighter's family.

Madam, the hon'ble Minister Shri Handique is sitting here. I would like to convey to him that I have been raising the issue of "one rank one pension" for ex-servicemen in the House. . . .(Interruptions')

MADAM CHAIRMAN : Sangwanji, please take your seat. Do not mix freedom fighters with ex-servicemen. Freedom fighters are not covered under the category of ex-servicemen.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Madam Chairman, this issue is related to freedom fighters also. I had spoken to the hon'ble Minister in this regard and he had given an assurance. I would like to bring it to his notice that "one-rank-one-pension" has been implemented, but only in case of senior level officers and not for juniors. I would like to urge the Government to implement it for juniors also.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri) : Madam Chairman, today, tea producing countries across the world are going to observe the International Tea Day to draw the attention of the Government and the citizens on the impact of tea trade workers, small tea growers, consumers and industry.

The pathetic condition of tea industry in India perhaps needs no elaboration. A number of tea gardens have either been closed perpetually or have been abandoned by the owners. As a result, the production of tea has gone down drastically in the last few years, and thousands and thousands of workers have become jobless.

It is needless to say that women of this sector are the worst sufferers because they constitute more than 50 per cent of the total workforce.

Madam, through you, I demand a Master Plan from the Government of India so that the tea industry can get a boost; closed and abandoned tea gardens are opened; and through aggressive marketing India tea can find its place in the international market.

I also demand tea should be sold hundred per cent through tea auction centre. I would like to request the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, to take appropriate action so that newly set up tea auction centres could run and operate smoothly.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Madam Chairman, I would like to raise a very important issue concerning my Parliamentary constituency. Sir, several sponge iron-ore plants have been set up in my constituency Chandrapur. The raw material such as iron-ore and coal is supplied to these plants by NMDC, the Ministry of Coal/CIL. But, even after repeated requests the raw material is not being supplied to these plants and that's why they are on the verge of closure. Thousands of people employed in these plants will be rendered jobless, if the plants are closed and they will have to face financial hardships.

Madam, NMDC exports huge quantity of iron-ore and it does not supply iron ore to the small industries, nor the CIL allocates coal to them, as they are more interested in its exports. Through you, I would like to urge the Central Government that NMDC should first supply the raw material to small domestic industries and the CIL should

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

allot coal to them so that these industries can be saved from getting closed.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Through you, I would urge the Central Government to include Rajasthani language, spoken by crores of people, in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Rajasthan Legislative Assembly had passed a resolution to this effect 2-3 years back and forwarded it to the Union Home Ministry.

Rajasthani, spoken by crores of people has a 2500 years old history. It is a rich language with good literature, written over a period hundreds of years. It is being taught as a separate subject at the Board level and there is a separate Department of Rajasthani language at the University level. Therefore, in order to keep alive the literature of Rajasthan, its culture, its folk-songs and the Rajasthani-dance, I urge upon the Central Government, through you, to include Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar) : Madam Chairman, on the one hand, lakhs of people in our country are forced to stay under open sky during scorching heat, severe cold and even during rain as they have no dwelling units, whereas, on the other hand, WCL in Chhindwada District in Madhya Pradesh propose to demolish the quarters constructed for its officers and employees in colliery area between Rawanwada to Damua, in a stretch of 70 km. on both sides of the road, as the collieries have been closed. Demolition of these quarters will result in loss of crores of rupees to the Government. The local district panchayat and local bodies are ready to allot these quarters to the needy persons and/or utilize them for social activities. But the officers are silent on this issue. School buildings and other ITI buildings constructed with a cost of lakhs of rupees in the Pench colliery area are also being demolished.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to allot the quarters in the colonies of WCL to the needy persons through the local panchayat.

SHRIMATI USHA VERMA (Hardoi) : I would like to raise a very important issue in public interest. Recently, anti child labour law was implemented. Under the provision of the said law, it is illegal to get any job done by a child. It is a welcome step and I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister for the said law. However, there is a very important issue linked to it which cannot be neglected. It is the dependence of the families on such employed children. Lakhs of families earn their livelihood through their children as their parents are not in a position to do any work. Such families earn their bread through the wages of such children. Since, the parents of said children are not in a position to work, how their families will survive, how the sick members will be able to get treatment and who will arrange money for the marriage of their sisters? These are very important social and economic problems of this country. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to ponder over this aspect very seriously.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very serious episode. Kachal is one of the islands located in Andaman Nicobar. It was predominantly a tribal island. The Tsunami swept away half of its population. Now, I have come to know that the tribals over there have nothing to eat. Neither they get any thing there nor they have boats to ferry. Even after repeated requests, the administration has not done anything. Therefore, I feel that it is a very serious issue. The hon'ble Minister is present here. It would be appropriate for him to bring this matter to the notice of the Government immediately. Otherwise, it may create a lot of problems on the island which may be difficult to tackle later on. Since it is related to the tribals, therefore, I have made raised it through you. Action may please be taken in this regard urgently.

[English]

DR. R. SENTHIL (Dharmapuri) : Madam Chairperson, thank you very much for permitting me to raise this very important issue in the House.

LIC has been a major public sector organization providing life insurance cover to a large number of people in this country. Today, it has emerged as a major player in the field of insurance despite keen competition from private sector agencies both within and outside India. The present stature of LIC is that it has been built up brick by brick by the toil and moid of its field workers. In fact, in its formative and nascent stages, it was the field worker who carried the message of life insurance to the width and breadth of this country. Today, about 14 lakh LIC field agents have brought strength and vitality to this organization. They should be recognized in the vital organic link between the people and LIC.

Unfortunately, the LIC has not recognized this in a situation of fierce competition from the MNCs. Besides, being an act of non-gratitude, the LIC is committing a strategic mistake by ignoring these erstwhile pillars of LIC.

These agents are very much disturb/ed by the Informal Consultative Committee's circular dated 5th May, 2006. Their demands such as (1) introduction of senior agency system as suggested by the R.N. Malhotra Committee,

(2) incentives for direct agents, (3) amendments to Agents Regulation Act, 1972, Sections 16 and 19, (4) pension and welfare fund, (5) increase in gratuity at par with regular employees, (6) appropriate remuneration, are genuine and basic needs.

Therefore, I urge upon the Ministry of Finance to acknowledge them duly by conferring all legitimate benefits and arrange for a tripartite meeting with these poor souls and give them a chance to present their case. Thank you.

DR. K.S. MANOJ : I also associate with what Dr. Senthil has said.

MADAM CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on 18th December, 2006 at 11 a.m.

20.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 18, 2006/
Agrahayana 27, 1928 (Saka).*

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