

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 16, 2008/Chaitra 27, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

#### Loss of Lives of Children in Narmada Canal

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today morning about 41 children lost their lives and several others were injured in a most tragic incident when a bus carrying them fell in Narmada Canal at Bodeli near Vadodara, Gujarat.

I believe, the House joins me in expressing our profound grief over the tragic incident and mourns the loss of the precious lives.

We also convey our deepest sense of condolence, sympathies and sorrow to the members of the bereaved families.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have started the House today badly but let us hope that the Parliament functions today with your kind cooperation. Thank you.

Now, Q. 341—Shri G. Nizamuddin.

11.01 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Four Laning of National Highways during Tenth Plan

\*341. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN:  
SHRI ZORA SINGH MAAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of funds sought from the Planning Commission by his Ministry for converting various stretches of National Highways into four-lane highways during the Eleventh Five Year Plan and the amount actually allocated to the Ministry; and

(b) the total length of National Highways targeted for four-lane conversion during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the actual achievement, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The Ministry had proposed the fund requirement of Rs. 1,13,060.45 crore for the Central Sector Roads for the Eleventh Five Year Plan including funds for upgradation of National Highways (NHs) to four-lane standards. As against this, the outlay of Rs. 1,07,359 crore has been allocated for the Central Sector Roads.

(b) The physical targets pertaining to the four-laning during the Tenth Five Year Plan included the following:-

- (i) Completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP).
- (ii) Completion of North-South and East-West (NS-EW) corridors by 2007.
- (iii) Four/six-laning of 800 km of NHs which are not included under NHDP. However, this was subsequently revised to about 150 km during the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan. The actual physical target for four laning of such NHs was assessed as 164.59 km.

The State-wise details of progress of GQ and NS-EW corridors at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan are at Annexure-I.

The State-wise details of the targets and achievements for four/six laning of NHs which were not included under NHDP during the Tenth Five Year Plan are at Annexure-II.

**Annexure I**

*The State-wise details of progress of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and North South-East West (NS-EW) Corridors at the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan (as on 31.3.2007)*

Sl.No.	State	Length in km					
		GQ		NS*		EW*	
		Length	Completed	Length	Completed	Length	Completed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,016	1,016	771	39	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-	-	-	679	18.50
3.	Bihar	206	194	-	-	501	13
4.	Delhi	25	25	21	8.50	-	-
5.	Gujarat	485	485	-	-	634	337
6.	Haryana	152	152	183	131	-	-
7.	Himanchal Pradesh	-	-	11	-	-	-
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	399	14.50	-	-
9.	Jharkhand	192	185	-	-	-	-
10.	Karnataka	623	574	93	28.50	-	-
11.	Kerala	-	-	162	33.90	-	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	537	42	118	25
13.	Maharashtra	489	489	270	35	-	-
14.	Orissa	443	324	-	-	-	-
15.	Punjab	-	-	271	197	-	-
16.	Rajasthan	722	722	30	20	527	-
17.	Tamil Nadu	341	341	750	60	-	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	755	658	201	23	653	56
19.	West Bengal	397	391	-	-	331	47
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,846</b>	<b>5,556</b>	<b>3,699</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>3,443</b>	<b>497</b>

\*NE-EW corridors was to be completed by 2007.

**Annexure II**

*The State-wise details of the targets and achievements for four/six-laning of Non-NHDP stretches of NHs during the Tenth Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Target	Length in km
			Achievement
1.	Andhra Pradesh	51	47
2.	Chandigarh	2	1
3.	Delhi	2.5	0
4.	Gujarat	30.74	45.1
5.	Haryana	9	11.16
6.	Karnataka	2	2
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0	1.8
8.	Maharashtra	5.3	0.55
9.	Manipur	11.45	7.6
10.	Pudducherry	0	1.6
11.	Punjab	0	1
12.	Rajasthan	9.6	13.8
13.	Tamil Nadu	0	3.2
14.	Uttar Pradesh	30	15.5
15.	Uttarakhand	11	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>164.59</b>	<b>157.31</b>

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent some proposals for conversion of various stretches of the National Highways into four-lane National Highways in the Tenth Five Year Plan, and if so, the details of such proposals undertaken so far. I would also like to know whether some of the proposals have been rejected, and if so, the reasons therefor.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the proposals which we have taken into account are: Vijayawada-Rajahmundry; Tada-Nellore Bypass; Visakapatnam-Ankapalli-Rajahmundry...

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a long list, you sent it to him later.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is a very small one. They are: Vijayawada-Rajahmundry; Tada-Nellore Bypass; Visakapatnam-Ankapalli-Rajahmundry; Srikakulam-Visakapatnam; Nellore-Chilikaluripet; Icchapuram-Srikakulam; Vijaywada-Chilikaluripet; Hyderabad-Vijaywada; Cuddappah-Mydukur-Kurnool; Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai. These project have been included in NHDP-V and NHDP III.

SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Are there any proposals with the Government to encourage industry and promotion of exports by providing sufficient wide roads leading to industrial areas, ports, mining areas, power and tourism places?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as economically important places are concerned, we do take up projects under NHDP-III. As far as port connectivity is concerned, we are taking up projects wherever it is essential.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Zora Singh Maan-Not present.

Now, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry has received any proposal from Punjab for four-laning of highway and if so, the time by which the said project is likely to be completed.

Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has shown the target of completion of project for the last-year in Punjab during tenth five year plan as zero while on k.m. road, has already been constructed there. Is it not a mockery of Punjab.

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Punjab is the most important State as far as Government of India is concerned. We have taken up Panipat-Jalandhar; Ludhiana-Chandigarh; Ambala-Zirakpur; Amritsar-Wagha; Amritsar-Pathankot; Kurali-Kiratpur; Chandigarh-Kurali; Jalandhra-Amritsar; Ludhiana-Talwandi; Zirakpur-Parwanoo. These projects have been taken up in NHDP-III and NHDP-V.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan to convert the entire stretch of the National Highways in Kerala into four-lane National Highways. Also I would like to know whether there is any proposal to widen the National Highways into six lanes. If so, what is the required width of the road? Also I would like to know whether land acquisition for the project has started anywhere in Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: You Kindly say 'Yes' or No.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes, Sir. This Government will say 'yes' only, provided the State Government acquires the land on time without putting any pre-conditions or any such thing. Moreover, as far as Kerala is concerned, the cost of land is very high, it is unimaginable. That is why, I told the Chief Minister himself that whatever you are going to buy for your projects, that particular value can be taken into account by Government of India also. They should please try to accommodate us also in their fold.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State of Maharashtra gives maximum revenue in the country. Several proposals from Maharashtra State have been sent to the Central Government that include proposals for CRF, National Highways and BOT as well. Ajanta-Ellora under my constituency is very important from tourism point of view and there has been a long pending demand for four-laning of road from Sholapur to Dhulia. However, no progress has been made in this respect so far. Through you, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the names of proposals in respect of Maharashtra which are likely to be given priority as priority needs to be given to all the proposals of the State.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: If the hon. Member specifically mentions the name of the particular stretch or the National Highway Number, definitely I would help him. At the same time, if anything is needed, let him approach me. If the passenger car unit value is high, we would definitely go in for four-laning. If it is more than 15,000 or 20,000, we would definitely develop the particular road provided it is on the National Highways.

MR. SPEAKER: After civil aviation, roads are the most important areas.

#### India's Achievements in Space Programmes

\*342. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the broad achievements of the country under the Space Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the specific details of India's efforts so far to send a satellite to moon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The broad achievements of the Space programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan are:

- 20 major space missions were accomplished.
- Growth in communication Transponders capacity from 100 to 200 exceeding the 10th Plan target of 175,
- New vistas of applications based on space technology, benefiting common man, namely, Village Resource Centres, large scale expansion of Tele-education, Tele-medicine, establishment of Natural Resources Census and Disaster Management Support,
- Imaging capability enhanced from 5.8 metre resolution to better than 1 metre resolution.
- New technologies and facilities, such as, Indigenous cryo engine/stage, Air-breathing propulsion, Electric propulsion, Ku band communications, microwave remote sensing, Second Launch Pad, have been developed and qualified.
- For the first time a spacecraft has been launched into orbit and successfully brought back and recovered through SRE mission.

(b) Chandrayaan-1 is India's first instrumented mission to Moon to be launched by PSLV. The lift-off weight of Chandrayaan-1 will be 1304 kg and it will carry 11 scientific payloads, out of which five of them will be from India and six others from various scientific communities around the world. Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft will orbit around moon and during the 2 year mission period will provide high resolution remote sensing of the moon in a visible, near Infrared, low energy X-ray and high-energy X-ray regions. It will provide a three-dimensional atlas of the near and far side of the moon, chemical and mineralogical map of the entire lunar surface to study distribution of mineral and chemical elements.

Presently, Chandrayaan-1 mainframe system is ready for integration with various experimental payload packages. The experimental packages are being integrated on the spacecraft mainframe. After integration and initial testing, the spacecraft will be subjected to testing in the space simulation chamber and vibrational acoustic test facilities, starting from first week of May 2008. Deep space tracking network, which will control the satellite in its flight to Moon and orbiting around moon, is established by having 18m and 32m Antenna system. The sub-systems of PSLV are being integrated to make the vehicle ready for launch of Chandrayaan-1 by third quarter of 2008.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Space had recommended that the Department of Space should prepare a long term programme for a specific period and should implement it. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government have prepared any long term programme in view of the recommendations by the said Committee and, if so, the details there of and the extent to which the programme has been implemented?

*[English]*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the Department of Space has embarked on a long-term Vision Statement over the next 25 years, which will encompass the entire activities of the Department of Space. That is under discussion right now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of the hon'ble Minister is not relevant to the question. China had started its space programme after India. However, during all these years India has lagged behind China in this regard. The Government will launch Chandrayaan-1 Mission in May, 2008. Through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to send man on moon in near future. If so, the time by which it is likely to be sent and, if not, the reason therefor.

*[English]*

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, there are three parts of his Question. The first is a comparison with China. I would like to inform the august House that in many areas of Space Technology, India is ahead of China, particularly, in the Remote Sensing Applications, in the quality of our imagery.

China is, indeed, ahead of us in the Launch Vehicle Technology. But in making of satellites also, we are definitely comparable to the best in the world.

Now, on his question about sending a man in space, serious studies are going on about sending a man in space. No final decision has been taken. But I would like to distinguish between sending a man in space and sending a man on the moon. The first step that we would take is to send a man in space. That decision has not yet been taken. It is under active consideration of the scientists and the Government. We have sanctioned about Rs. 95 crore last year to do a detailed project report for this project. Soon, it will come before the Government and we will assess the cost-benefit of sending a man in space.

About the Chandrayaan Project, it is in the right end; it would be launched sometimes in the third quarter of this year. It will send a satellite, which will circle moon; and we are very excited about the Chandrayaan Project.

MD. SALIM: Sir, while we are proud that there is commendable development in the field of space technology and space programme, particularly by the people attached to ISRO, the scientific community, we have also distinguished in launching satellites successfully. Our track record says this. I also wish success for the Chandrayaan-1. My specific question in this regard is this. While we launch our own satellites into the orbit, commercially we are doing it for other countries also private or Government. I want to know whether we have any protocol or consideration from the political point of view in regard to defence and security by taking up such things to launch satellites of other countries. In this particular respect, I want to know, whether the Government of India and ISRO, in the last year, have launched an Israeli spy satellite successfully and whether those consideration were taken into consideration by the highest authority of the Government of India.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, as I said, Indian space capabilities have come of age. We are a major space-faring nation and I would say, we are one of the five nations who have the advance capability in space technology. In order to get commercial benefits out of this technology, we have a commercial organization called ANTRIX which offers various products out of this space programme. One area where we have been looking for a long time is, as our launcher rockets become more sophisticated, particularly the PSLV and the GSLV, we have been considering the possibility of making commercial launches. India has, so far, sent eight foreign satellites with our own rockets very successfully. It is a fact that after the Italian satellite, Agile, which was

launched earlier, the Israeli satellite, which was a dedicated launch, only to launch those satellites was undertaken as a part of commercial contract. This was considered at the highest level of the Government and ISRO got a lot of money from both the Italian launch and the Israeli launch and we are going to be a major player now in the launch vehicle technology offering launch services to other countries.

If there is any thing more that is required, I will give them.

MD. SALIM: What about security and defence considerations?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: The Government has considered this. It is only a commercial contract to launch a satellite. Many countries have these kinds of satellites, which are radar-imaging satellites with five-metre resolution. Canada even offers the products out of the imaging satellites commercially. It is available on the Internet. So, our domain was only to launch a satellite.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, it is very really gratifying to note that the space programme has got world attention and already 20 major space missions have been accomplished by our country. I would like to extend the question relating to Chandrayan-1, as it has been stated that in the third quarter of this year the first scientific payload of 1,304 kg. will be lifted by Chandrayan-1 and it will carry eleven scientific payloads. As it has been stated in the answer, five of them will be from India and six others from various scientific communities around the world. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which are the six other scientific communities which are going to support us in this venture.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, Chandrayan-1 mission is a space exploration mission, moon exploration mission. It is a scientific mission to study the lunar landscape. Whenever such scientific missions are launched globally, each country offers opportunities to scientific payloads of other countries. India also has offered to carry certain satellites, scientific experiments of other countries on board Chandrayan-1 apart from our main equipment which will be carried. Six experiments from various countries, including the United States will be—they are mostly universities and laboratories—carried free. As we have done in the past, our experiments have flown in other satellites and we are now—because of our maturity—offering scientific cooperation with other countries to carry certain experimental payloads on Chandrayan-1.

SHRI VJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a fact that the Indian scientists have been recognized world over, but one of the constraints in our Space Programme, as we know from the ISRO and the reports, is that the best Indian scientists are still working abroad. I would like to ask the hon. Minister how we are going to lure them back into our country because our scientists working in NASA and other countries have big names. Is there a way out to lure them back to India?

MR. SPEAKER: It is not only the Government's job; I think, it is everybody's job.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, it is a fact that many good scientists from all our scientific establishments do go abroad. Some of the best brains coming out of our scientific institutions and universities go abroad, but I will not say that it is an alarmingly high rate. Many people are now choosing to stay in India because of the quality of work that Indian science system is offering to them. But Sir, it is a fact and therefore, in order to overcome the shortage of scientists, the Department of Space has launched last year a specific Indian Institute of Space Technology in Trivandrum. We have already recruited people, they will be specifically trained for space technologies and we make good the shortage of scientists that we are facing with our expanded Space Programme.

#### HIV/AIDS Affected Children

\*343. <sup>+</sup>ADV. SURESH KURUP:  
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has any effective programme to address the issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS affected Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such children affected by HIV/AIDS, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to address the constraints/problems being faced by the HIV/AIDS affected children particularly of OVC category in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

While it is estimated that India has 2.5 million persons living with HIV/AIDS, there is no data available regarding the number of infected and affected orphans and vulnerable children. In the absence of such data, there was no defined strategy interventions under National AIDS Control Programme-Phase II (NACP II, 1999-2006). Under NACP-III (2007-2012), two initiatives have been launched:-

Expanding access to Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) to infected children. Till 2006-07, there was an estimated 1800 children on ART taking adult drugs. With the launch of the pediatric fixed dose combination of ARV drugs, 32,803 children have so far been registered, of whom 9,478 children are on ART in the 147 ART Centres in the country. The State-wise details of children registered and under treatment is enclosed as annexure.

Mobilized US \$ 14 million from Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria Round-VI in 2007-08, for providing a package of services including medical care for opportunistic infections, psycho-social support, supplementary nutrition, education, etc. over a period of five years. The above mentioned interventions for infected and affected children including orphans, are at present being implemented in the 4 States of Manipur, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and maharashtra with the target of reaching 65,000 such children by 2012. Of this so far 5,500 children have been provided assistance. During the current year, it is expected that an additional 9,500 children would be covered.

**Annexure**

State	HIV+Children Identified	Children alive and on ART
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	5074	1638
Maharashtra	7390	2383
Andhra Pradesh	7774	1880
Karnataka	4389	1198
Manipur	1519	355
nagaland	272	45
Delhi	1060	329
Chandigarh	313	138

1	2	3
Rajasthan	573	205
Gujarat	1070	267
West Bengal	306	98
Uttar Pradesh	598	192
Goa	166	26
Kerala	462	148
Himachal Pradesh	84	47
Pondicherry	60	36
Bihar	313	66
Madhya Pradesh	279	140
Assam	51	14
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0
Mizoram	48	13
Punjab	360	102
Sikkim	0	0
Jharkhand	131	26
Haryana	167	29
Uttarakhand	52	21
Jammu and Kashmir	41	19
Orissa	166	19
Chhattisgarh	80	43
Tripura	0	0
Meghalaya	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>32803</b>	<b>9478</b>

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, for any focused action regarding HIV affected orphans and vulnerable children, the most important factor is that we should have a proper data regarding them, but unfortunately, the Government is not having data regarding HIV affected orphans and vulnerable children. So, whatever initiatives the Government has taken regarding children, these sections go out of that focus and out of that network. This is very

important because these children are potential carriers also. So, I would like to know what steps the Government are taking to prepare proper data regarding orphans so that we can give focused attention to this category in relation to HIV treatment and prevention.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Prior to 2005, there was not much data of the children affected and orphan children due to HIV/AIDS affected parents, but since 2005-06, we have been able to collect data. The problem for which we could not collect data was that children do not come to these Centres for testing or counselling since they are children and they have to be driven by the elders. Since about 2005-06, we have been able to collect data. In my answer, it is already stated that 32,803 children have been registered with these ART Centres, out of which 9,478 children are on drug therapy.

As it is, in the National AIDS Control Programme III, which we have launched last year, we are focusing on children and also, we have allocated a part of the money to rehabilitate the orphan children as also for their education, for the psycho-social support, for their nutritional status and also for imparting skills to their mothers so that some employment could be generated so that children could be taken care of. Again, it is not only a health issue, but a social issue as well. So, the Department of Social Justice as well as the Health Ministry is working in tandem to take care of these children.

ADV. SURESH KURUP: Sir, we all know that the HIV affected children face social boycott everywhere. They are not admitted into the schools. They are asked to go out of the schools in which they are studying. They are not given proper treatment by the medical personnel. So, I would like to know what steps Government are initiating to sensitise the public, especially the teachers in the schools and also the medical personnel, regarding this factor.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I also accept all that the hon. Member has said. The first National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) was started in 1992; the second NACP was started in 1999; and the third NACP was started in 2007. We had gone through a lot under these programmes for awareness creation not only among the affected persons, but the general public as well. Here, I would like to state that the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS also has been doing a very good work in

creating awareness. We are trying to have Legislative Forum, Panchayat Forum, etc. We have brought a lot of Panchayat Members as well to Delhi, and we are making brand ambassadors also. -

We have gone to about 1,15,000 schools, taking the children into account, and we have started Red Ribbon Clubs in these schools and colleges to create massive awareness. But there have been some very unfortunate incidents where the innocent children have been shied away from schools, especially, in progressive States like Kerala and Maharashtra. Some of them were turned away from employment and some of them were turned away by learned doctors themselves. Now, we have created awareness in order to take care of these issues, but there have been isolated incidents like this. Therefore, we are trying to bring in a law so that they will not be discriminated against at work places, education places as well as treatment places. We have been working on this Act for the last 1½ years. We have had a lot of deliberations and discussions. The Lawyers Collective Forum has been given the responsibility, and they have gone to different parts of the country. Currently, it is in the process stage, and it is in the Law Ministry. In due course—hopefully, within this year—we will be having an Act after going through all the processes in the Parliament against discrimination in work places, in treatment places and in employment places.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I would like to know this, through you. Is there any special plan of the Health Ministry to have special residential orphan homes for the innocent victims of HIV/AIDS who are very large in numbers throughout the country?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We have concept called the Community Care Centre for HIV affected patients—who are in their last stage—for their palliative care. These Community Care Centres are given to NGOs to run and take care of the patients in their last stages. As regards taking care of orphaned children in special homes, currently we do not have a proposal. But under the NACP-III, we have taken cognizance of this problem. Once the positive mother is treated, the child could be negative. We are giving Prevention of Parent-to-Child Transmission of HIV from 2002-2003, and we have been able to save a lot of children from becoming affected by HIV/AIDS even though the mother is positive. But unfortunately, the mother dies in a few years, and the child is orphaned and the family also abandons the child. It is a very huge problem that we are facing, namely,

discrimination in the society. The relatives of the parents also discard the children. We are going to have programmes focused on these orphaned children under the NACP-III.

I have already mentioned that, today, we are supporting for their psycho-social support, educational support, nutritional support as well as in the future, we will take care of this. Further, we will have programmes for the orphaned children in NACP-III.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, throughout the country, nearly 35,000 children are affected with HIV/AIDS. In rural areas, particularly in taluk and district areas there are no Anti Retroviral Treatment (ART) centres in the Government hospitals. The private hospitals in those areas also do not admit these kinds of children. Will the Government open ART centres in all taluk and district headquarters, and Government hospitals to protect the interest of HIV infected children?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, today, we have 147 centres all over the country, and we have it in all the States. It is not an easy task to start one centre as we need dedicated staff; we need trained personnel, especially, MDs, nurses, etc. We need to have the logistics of drugs; and we need to have CD-4 count, so that the patients can come and get themselves checked up once in six months, and according to the count, tablets are given and ART is started. In fact, we have increased the numbers. We started a policy when we took over. In fact, there were only eight centres in 2004.

Today, we have 147 centres. We are going to expand it in due course to nearly 250 centres. Also, we have a concept called 'Link ART Centre' a sub centre where only medicines are being dispensed; we are trying to distribute that. According to the severity of the affected regions, we are focussing. We are not going to have a pan-distribution all over the country.

Sir, we have categorized districts as 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'. We have nearly 156 'A' districts where the prevalence, HIV affected people, among the general population is more than one per cent. Category 'B' districts are those where the prevalence of STD patients is more than five per cent. We are focussing on those districts, irrespective

of States being categorized as high-prevalent States or low prevalent States.

I am sure, Sir, in due course, the entire country will be covered, according to the priority of the affected districts and the affected regions.

*[Translation]*

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally it has been observed that there is a large number of AIDS affected people in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka etc under the circumstances will the hon'ble Minister lay the names of the districts under category 'A' and 'B' on the Table of the House. At the same time in second part of my question I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up special care units at district levels especially in above four States. I would also like to know as what do the Government propose in this regard.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question relates to children and he has already answered the part.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, for taking care of the problem, I have already said that 156 districts in the country have been categorized as 'A' districts.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already said that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: High focus is concentrated in these high prevalent districts in these four States, that is, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. To take care of the problem, we have now targeted interventions. Targeted interventions are focused interventions on high-risk groups, like commercial sex workers, truck drivers, migrant labourers, health personnel, etc; all these are focused groups. We ask the local NGOs who are associated with these high-risk groups to do targeted intervention so that the prevention method is there. In Maharashtra and in all the high prevalent districts, there have been targeted interventions. Today, there are approximately 720 to 730 targeted interventions. We are trying to upscale it so that each district has focused targeted intervention so that it does not get out of hand.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I would like to congratulate the Minister for taking a good number of initiatives to control HIV/AIDS. It has actually brought down the incidence from 5.2 million to 2.5 million. In the Annexure-II, it has been mentioned that there are 32,803 HIV affected children in our country, but only 9,478 that is, nearly one-third, are getting ART treatment. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the difficulties faced by the Government in giving ART treatment to these children and what are the steps taken by the Government to get 100 per cent coverage in giving ART treatment to these children.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, when it is said that there are 32,803 registered children, it does not mean that there are only these many number of children who are affected by HIV. These many number of children has come to our facility for them to be tested. There are more children and subsequently when they come, we take them in. When we say that there are 7,478 children put on ART treatment, it does not mean that all these children need that therapy today.

We have to have a CD-4 count of less than 400 to start this therapy. The difference between HIV and AIDS is that a person can be HIV affected without needing a therapy for anywhere between 2 to 10 years or even 15 years also, according to the immunity level; subsequently only after the HIV affected person becomes an AIDS patient, after the CD-4 count, the therapy is needed. All these children do not need that. All these registered children, when they need that, definitely, we will provide the therapy free of cost. We have the first line therapy. We have started early this year the second line therapy of ART, which is a very expensive therapy. We have started two centres in the high prevalent States, that is, one in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu. We are trying to subsequently expand these centres, even though it is a very costly affair.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 344—Shri K.J.S.P. Reddy—Not Present

Dr. Gill, you have to wait for another opportunity.

Q. 345—Shri Jual Oram—Not present.

Shri Anandrao Vithoba Adsul.

### Iron-Ore Mining on Forest Land

\*345. † SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to allow the use of forest land for Iron-ore mining project;

(b) if so, the number of such proposals pending with the Union Government in this regard, State-wise along with the norms prescribed for granting such clearance;

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted any study to assess the adverse impact of Iron-ore mining projects on the forest land; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to check the adverse impact on environment and forests due to mining of iron-ore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

(a) and (b) The Central Government accords approval for diversion of forest land for, *inter-alia*, extraction of iron-ore under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At present, 29 proposals including those of prospecting of iron-ore in forest areas are pending with the Union Government involving about 9786 ha of forest land in seven states of the country. Details of these proposals are given in the enclosed annexure. Though the mining of minerals is an area specific activity, the diversion of minimum and unavoidable forest land for non-forestry purposes with appropriate Compensatory Afforestation is the guiding principle for considering approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(c) and (d) Environmental impact Assessment (EIA) for individual projects are invariably conducted to assess the adverse impact on environment and ecology of the project area, which are taken into consideration while according approval for such mining projects. However, no such comprehensive study to assess the adverse impact of iron-ore mining projects on the forest land in the country has been undertaken by the Union Government.

**Annexure**

State	No. of cases
Andhra Pradesh	2
Chhattisgarh	6
Goa	2
Jharkhand	3
Karnataka	3
Orissa	11
Tamil Nadu	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, as the economy has grown there is heavy pressure on the forest land and a major part of the prime forest land was converted for mining during the recent past. It was observed that surface extraction and solid waste disposal are more responsible for affecting the environmental parameters like soils, land forms, ground water, surface water and flora. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to what steps are taken by the Government to maintain the ecological balance and increase economic growth?

MR. SPEAKER: Does this arise out of this question?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Yes. Why not?

MR. SPEAKER: My question is 'why' and you are answering in 'why not'.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: I am prepared to answer the part of question related to forest.

The Forest Conservation Act is not prohibitory it is regulatory. Under the Forest Conservation Act, diversion of lands is permissible with certain conditions. Regarding the main question, 1,400 projects pertaining to mining of various ferrous and nonferrous metals have been accorded approval by the Central Government involving approximately 1,12,708 hectares of forest land.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: In spite of enforcement of all the Acts and Rules, the country is lagging much behind in restoration of land, hydrology and ground water position, and resettlement of project-affected

people. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to what are the steps taken to address those aspects.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Under the Ministry of Environment, certain conditions are imposed for control of air pollution, water pollution and sound pollution. Site-specific environment amelioration conditions are also imposed while granting environmental clearance for industrial projects in the past.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister with regard to illegal iron ore mining activity that is taking place in forest lands. How many such cases has the Government identified so far and what action has the Government taken against those illegal mines in the forest areas in various States? The Minister stated that in Orissa there are only 29 such cases. This figure is much less compared to the actual activity of illegal mining going on in forest areas in Orissa. When the forest land is leased out for iron ore mining or any other mining there is a compulsory provision for compensatory plantation. How many companies have done it and how many companies have not done it? Can the Government give me a detailed list?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: The question relates to iron ore mining. In all there are 29 cases pending out of which 23 have already been sent to the Central Empowered Committee and only six are remaining with us.

MR. SPEAKER: Are there many other cases? That was the question.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: No report has been received. If the hon. Member gives us the details, we are ready to take action... (*Interruptions*) It is in the Concurrent List.

MR. SPEAKER: He is very much accommodating. He wants particulars from you. Give it to him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: There is a provision and practice of assessing the adverse impact of a project on the environment prior to giving approval. However, environmental degradation continues to take place after the approval is given. The Government has admitted that no such comprehensive study to assess the adverse impact of iron ore mining projects is till now undertaken.

We know about the infirmities with regard to the National Mineral Policy, the latest one. May I know from

the Government whether the Government would make it mandatory that not only prior approval study but also post-implementation study within a time-frame, for giving approval for that purpose?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Mining license is given by the State government only. We are giving permission for mining under the Forest Act. Mining comes under the State subject and they are giving the permission for mining. Regarding the comprehensive study, we have clearly stated in the reply that no such comprehensive study to assess the adverse impact of iron ore mining projects on the forest land in the country has been undertaken by the Government in our Department. That is all I have to say...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: When do you propose to do that?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken note of it.

Shri Ramdas Athawale, if you have any relevant question, you may ask.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Provided the Minister gives the relevant answer...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, permission of the Department of Forests, the Government of India is required to be sought for mining of minerals in forest areas or at any other place. In this regard, there is a need to amend the extant Forest Act so that Department of Forest could accord permission at the earliest to the companies or individuals intending to carry out mining on the land. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to what action is being taken by the Government to ensure that permission is granted by the Department of Forests for mining on its land at the earliest.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You completed your question. Please take your seat. It seems to be relevant.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: We will take steps to give permission very quickly.

MR. SPEAKER: I admire your brevity, Mr. Regupathy.

Q. 346—Shri Harilal Madhavji Bhai Patel—not present

Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad—not present

Today is not Monday!

Q. 347—Shrimati Bhavana P. Gawali—not present.

Shri Sanjay Dhotre.

#### **Highways Connecting Neighbouring Countries**

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\*347. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO  
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Highways connecting neighbouring countries as on date; and

(b) the details of agreements signed with the neighbouring countries for the projects already taken up/likely to be taken up for road connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) A number of roads including National Highways connect neighbouring countries. However, this Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. The details of the National Highways extending upto the International Borders are given in Annexure-I.

(b) No Agreements have been signed with the neighbouring countries exclusively for development of the National Highway connectivities mentioned above. However, the details of the Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) signed for construction of roads on Indo-Nepal border and with Myanmar are given in Annexure-II. Further, the Asian Highways (AH) Network extends to 32 countries, which also includes the neighbouring countries of India. The Government of India has signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement on AH Network in April, 2004.

**Annexure I***National Highways extending upto the International Borders*

Name of the State	International Borders	National Highway No.	Description
1	2	3	4
West Bengal	Bangladesh	NH-35	The highway connecting Barasat and Bangaon and proceeding to the border between India and Bangladesh.
Uttar Pradesh	Nepal	NH-28C	The highway starting from its junction with NH-28 near Barabanki connecting Baharaich and terminating at Nepalgunj in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
		NH-29	The highway connecting Varanasi-Ghazipur- Gorakhpur- Pharenda and terminating at Sonauli in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
Assam/Nagaland/ Manipur	Myanmar	NH-39	The highway connecting Numaligarh-Imphal-Palel and proceeding to the border between India and Myanmar.
Assam	Bhutan	NH-152	The highway starting from its junction near Patacharkuchi on NH 31-C connecting Hajua and terminating at Indo-Bhutan border.
Assam/ Arunachal Pradesh	Myanmar	NH-153	The highway starting from Ledo on NH-38 in the State of Assam and terminating at Indo-Myanmar Border (Stillwell Road) in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.
Assam	Bangladesh	NH-151	The highway starting from its junction at Karimgunj on NH-44 and connecting Phirkand, Akbarpur and terminating at Sutarkhandi on Indo-Bangladesh Border in Assam.
Meghalaya	Bangladesh	NH-40	The highway connecting Jorabat and Shillong and proceeding to the Border between India and Bangladesh near Dawki and connecting Amlarem and terminating at junction with NH-44 near Jowai.
Bihar	Nepal	NH-28 A	The highway starting from its junction near Pipra with the NH-28 and connecting Sagauli and Raxaul and proceeding to the Border between India and Nepal.
	Nepal	NH-77	The highway starting from its junction near Hajipur on NH-19 and connecting Muzaffarpur (NH-28) Sitamarhi and Sonbarsa in Bihar.
	Nepal	NH-57 A	The highway starting from the junction of NH-57 near Forbesganj and terminating at Jogbani in the State of Bihar.

1	2	3	4
	Nepal	NH-104	The highway starting from its junction near Chakia on NH-28 and connecting Narhar Pakari bridge-Madhuban-Shivhar-Sitamarhi-Haridkhi-Umagaon-Jaynagar-Khutauna and terminating at its junction near Narahia on NH-57 in Bihar. The NH-104 touches the Nepal Border near Gopalpur.
Punjab	Pakistan	NH-1	The highway connecting Delhi-Ambala-Jalandhar and Amritsar and proceeding to the border between India and Pakistan.
		NH-10	The highway connecting Delhi and Fazilka and proceeding to the border between India and Pakistan.
		NH-95	The highway starting from its junction near Kharar on NH-21 and connecting Samrala-Ludhiana-Jagraon and terminating near Ferozpur in the State of Punjab.

### *Annexure II*

#### *The details of the Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed with neighbouring countries*

Sl.No.	Country with which Agreement/ MOU signed	Details of Road Projects	Status of Agreement/MOU
1.	Nepal	13 km long Mahendranagar (Nepal) to Tanakpur (India) Link Road	Agreement signed
2.	Nepal	Terai Roads Project in Nepal; preparation of DPR only for strengthening of 41 roads (about 660 km) and 2 bridges in Terai area of Nepal near the Indo-Nepal border	Agreement signed
3.	Nepal	Raxaul-Birgunj, Jogbani-Biratnagar, Sanauli-Bhairahawa, Nepalganj Road-Nepalganj	MOU signed between Government of India and Government of Nepal in August 2005 for development of Integrated Check Posts on four major check posts; this includes development of mentioned link roads between two sides apart from other infrastructure for customs and passenger transit.
4.	Myanmar	Upgradation of 160 km long Tamu-Kalewa-Kalemyo (TKK) road in Myanmar across Manipur	Government of India (GOI) upgraded the road in 1997. Under a MOU signed between the GOI and the Government of Myanmar, GOI took up the responsibility of maintenance of the TKK road for six years.
5.	Myanmar	Development of road from kaletwa in Myanmar upto India Myanmar border and the 117 km long road within India from the Myanmar border to Nalkawn upto NH-54 in Mizoram	Framework Agreement and two Protocols on the 'Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project' have been signed between GOI and Government of Myanmar. The Project envisages connectivity between Indian Ports on the eastern seaboard and North Eastern Region of India via Myanmar. It involves the development of Sittwe port and riverine transport on Kaladan river in Myanmar and the development of roads connectivity mentioned.

*[translation]*

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the Asian Highways Network is connected with above 32 countries. I would like to ask him whether these 32 countries have signed an agreement for the purpose. It is so, because if they do not do so, this project cannot be completed.

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Recently, we have signed an agreement for the purpose of developing the roads which are connecting 32 countries. At the same time, I would like to say that development of roads will have to be taken up by the respective countries only, not by us.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know.

*[English]*

From the hon. Minister about the progress made till date in this regard.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As is well known, it is in the initial stage. Recently, we have signed an agreement. Moreover, DPR is taken up on particular roads where roads are touching various countries.

SHRI KIREN RIJU: My question is a very pointed one on National Highway-153 because this is related to a very historic road, the Stillwell Road. Hon. Prime Minister has also launched the Look East Policy. This road is going to be the lifeline of the Look East Policy because it is going to connect India and Myanmar, right up to Kunmi in southern China. What steps are being taken by the Ministry so that this road starting from Ledo is initiated at the earliest?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this particular National Highway-Ledo to Myanmar-is receiving the attention of the Government of India for upgradation. Framework agreement and two protocols on-Kaladan multi-modal transport project has been signed between the Government of India and Myanmar. The project envisages

connectivity between Indian Ports on the Eastern seaboard and North-Eastern region of India *via* Myanmar. It involves the Sittwe port and riverine transport on Kaladan river in Myanmar and the development of road connectivity mentioned.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 348—Shri Ananta Nayak—Not Present.

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao—Not present

Q. 349—Shri Baleshwar Yadav—Not present.

Perhaps everybody has thought that there will be no Session today!

Q. 350. Shri Santosh Gangwar.

*[Translation]*

#### **Re-cycling of E-waste**

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\*350. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the Guideline Document for Environmentally Sound Re-cycling of E-waste;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the imported E-wastes are used only for direct re-use and not for recycling or for final disposal?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir. The Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste have been formulated and the approved guidelines are placed on the Ministry's and CPCB's website [www.envfor.nic.in](http://www.envfor.nic.in) and [www.cpcb.nic.in](http://www.cpcb.nic.in) respectively.

(b) The Guideline provides the approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste which include details such as e-waste composition and recycle potential of items of economic value, identification of possible hazards contents in e-waste. The recycle, re-use and recovery options, treatment and disposal options and the environmentally sound e-waste treatment technologies etc.

(c) As per the provisions of the Hazardous Waste [Management & Handling] Rules, 1989 and amendments thereof, Waste Electrical and Electronic Assemblies are covered under category B 1110 in List B of Schedule-3 (Part A) to these Rules which is applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes. Waste under this category is permitted for import only for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask my question at this point. It is very important from the point of view of environment.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Although you are not in your seat, I am permitting you to ask supplementary because you are at least present.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, I can go to my seat.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is all right.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have quantified the pollution caused due to e-waste. If so, what will be its details in the next four-five years? In this regard, the Government have stated that they have put it on website. I think that hardly two percent people have access to website in this country while each and every person will be affected by pollution. I would like to know whether the Government have prepared any future plan in this regard. I would also like to know whether apart from the website any other alternative arrangements have also been made to provide information to common people in this regard.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, guidelines have been issued by the Ministry on 28 March, 2004 in this

regard and it has been made available on the website and it is being circulated to the State Governments, State Pollution Boards, Committees and the industries at large. It is a kind of reference document. I agree with the hon'ble Member that the volume of electronic waste is increasing with the development in the country. As per the estimate of the year 2005, nearly one and half lakh tonnes of e-waste was generated and by the year 2012, volume of e-waste is likely to be increased to eight lakh tonnes. In this situation, we have introduced environment friendly treatment method for the disposal of e-waste in public domain so that it is disposed of efficiently and at the same time it does not adversely affect health and environment.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country has not been able to understand the pollution caused by plastic so far while the hon'ble Minister is talking about pollution which is spreading due to many factors including a variety of electronic items. I feel that this is a vast area and things mentioned on Government papers cannot be brought into effect completely. The hon'ble Minister can understand it very well. I would like to know whether the Government have prepared any plan to seek the help of private companies. Non Governmental Organizations or Agencies working in the field because pollution is fast increasing. Small children will also be affected on account of this increasing pollution. Government schemes are only on papers and you know well that the use of plastic is being publicised among the common people.

Therefore, a system or process should be developed so that common man may be easily able to understand about its disposal.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon'ble Member that the e-waste will further increase in the coming days. As there will be progress electronic items and domestic appliances will increase, then their use and waste will also increase. We are trying optimum recycling and reuse of waste by issuing guidelines, handling and management rules so that minimum waste is generated. The Government are trying to do it through rules and guidelines. The public participation is being given more thrust. We are trying to assign different responsibilities to different people as to what would be the responsibilities of producer of electronic items, what would be the responsibility of those who transport, store, collect and sell.

We are evolving such a process so that people may be able to understand it and it may be handled in a proper way and its bad effects do not affect the society and the environment. Efforts are being made in this regard. Rules and guidelines have been framed, because it is a new field. We are still trying to make amendments in the extant rules. We have notified and sought objections so that it may not be treated as waste, every thing is not a waste. Efforts should be made to reuse it. We are telling people involved in recycling to get themselves registered. The recycling units should take environment clearance. The State Boards and Committees should monitor them from time to time. Our guidelines are that there should be minimum waste. Efforts are being made to fulfill, whatever, has been asked in main rules and therefore, I understand that there is a need to create awareness among general public in this regard. We will put all our efforts in place to handle this problem.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has replied that it is a hazardous waste and import is only allowed in category under this. Direct reuse and recycling or final disposal is not allowed.

Sir, the foreign governments, and foreign companies allow all their hazardous waste to get transported to India, they export it and we import it, but no clear cut guidelines in regard to its final disposal, or whether its recycling or reuse is possible, has been framed. I would like to ask the Government whether they will try to give full information in this regard by putting advertisements in newspapers, TV or radio.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, the question is about disposal of e-waste. As far as import of e-waste is concerned, direct import is not allowed. If it has direct use, then it would be imported. It will not be imported for recycling and dumping, our rules and guidelines say this.

As far as hazardous waste is concerned, its direct use and recycling is allowed, as copper can be reused by melting. Therefore, it is not right to consider everything as waste, doing rounds worldwide an opinion is that everything cannot be considered as waste. The maximum, extract maximum material use maximum circuits use that can be made, it should be done. I would like to assure Malhotra ji that the law and rules do not give this kind

of permission in regard to electronic items. Some items have been allowed in the category of hazardous waste, full vigilance is being kept over it. He has given a very good suggestion that more and more information in this regard should be given to public. We will think over it.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, recently there were Press reports that America had imported large quantities of e-waste through the Cochin port and it has become a very serious issue. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of this fact or not. The Government has said that e-waste would only be used for purposes of re-cycling. But here is a case where e-waste was imported in large quantities causing a grave threat and danger to human lives. What steps has the Government taken in this matter after getting the Report from the Cochin Corporation? What did they do with it? Was it done with your knowledge or without your knowledge?

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: As I said in my reply, the rules and guidelines are clear that e-waste is imported only for direct use and not for recycling and dumping purposes. The hon. Member has brought a specific incident to my knowledge. I will send a reply to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good!

#### **Rail, Road and Waterways Connectivity of Ports**

+  
\*351. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a maritime policy to ensure rail, road and inland waterways connectivity of ports in the country;

(b) if so, the broad details of the policy; and

(c) the action plan of the Government to implement the policy?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of House.

**Statement**

(a) to (c) The Maritime Policy is under finalisation. However, a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) constituted under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission, as per the decision taken in the meeting of the Committee on Infrastructure (CoI) has made recommendations regarding the Rail, Road connectivity of Major Ports. The major recommendations are:

- (i) Each Major Port should preferably have at least four-lane road connectivity as well as double line rail connectivity.
- (ii) All those projects for rail/road connectivity projects where the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is less than the minimum prescribed would be considered on a case to case basis. Budgetary assistance as well as assistance under Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme should be considered for projects with relatively low IRR depending on its importance.

Further, to develop inland waterways, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has prepared an action plan for making three national waterways viz. (i) the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia. (ii) The Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri. (iii) The West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmadal and Champakara Canals, fully functional which, inter-alia, envisages provisions of navigational channel of 2 mtr. depth, navigational aid for 24 hour navigation and the judicious mix of fixed and floating terminals.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as everybody is aware that eastern, western and southern boundaries of India are surrounded by sea and even after 60 years of independence, the country has not got the desired benefit of water transport routes. The most part of Gujarat coast is surrounded by sea but neither railways and road nor inland waterways connectivity have been provided to Gujarat ports. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the details of work completed to provide road, rail and inland water connectivity to Gujarat ports during last three years?

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, as far as Kandla Port is concerned, Bhildi-Samdhari Gauge Conversion is for 223

kilometres and the project cost is Rs. 290 crores. Earthwork and bridge works on Samdhari-Bhimmal is being executed by NWR. And FLS is completed for the full section. This is the position in the Kandla Port of Gujarat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the names of schemes the Government propose to implement for providing rail, road and inland waterway connectivity to the Gujarat ports.

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far port connectivity is concerned, roads are built to all the 12 major ports. Delay may occur here and there. Already, we are having a development scheme to connect all the major ports including some of the minor ports with the major National Highways, maybe with GQ or North-South-East- West Corridor.

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has replied that a Committee of Secretaries constituted under the chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission has made recommendations regarding the rail, road connectivity of major ports. The Saurashtra region of Gujarat is surrounded by sea and more ports can be set up over there and the increasing work load on Mumbai port may be reduced. Proper use of ports can be made by providing rail and road connectivity over there, but due to shortage of maritime experts and IAS officers, the Maritime Board has not formulated a good policy in this regard due to which proper utilization of these ports has not been made so far. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister clearly that work load on Mumbai port is increasing and no work has been done in Peepavav, whereas substantially very good work can be undertaken over there...*(Interruptions)*. I am saying this only.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question. Otherwise, I will disallow you.

*...Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a time to deliver speech. Shri V.K. Thummar today, work load is increasing at Mumbai Port. What work the Government are doing in regard to Peepavav.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has anticipated your question and he wants to answer you.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The powers of the Maritime Board is part and parcel of the State Government. But this supplementary does not arise out of this particular Question.

MR. SPEAKER: This is what I also thought.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The supplementary of the hon. Member is not within the ambit of the Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may call him one day and have a discussion with him.

*...(Interruptions)..."*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is not being recorded. Please co-operate.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Today, Question hour is going on very smoothly. Therefore please cooperate.

*[English]*

Shri Thummar, the hon. Minister will call you, meet you and discuss with you this matter.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister Gujarat has a very large coastline and many parts are going to be set up over there. Many big ships of the world are brought there for breaking but no railway line exists over

there. The steel extracted from it is transported by road to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. I would like to know whether the Government are formulating a policy to construct six lane road over there.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: These are suggestions for action. These questions are about individual projects.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As far as the National Highways is concerned, if a particular road demands four-laning or six-laning, whether it exceeds 15,000 PCU or 25,000 PCU, it has to be within the parameters. If a particular State has got any survey report as per the passenger car unit passing through the particular road, let them pass it on to me. If it exceeds 15,000 or 25,000 or 30,000 PCU, definitely we will take up the matter. What is the problem? There is no problem at all as far as the Government of India is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Sujan Chakraborty. Please be brief and put pointed question. Time is not there.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Maritime Policy is under finalisation. The Kolkata Port is one of the oldest ports in the country and its performance is now improving to a great extent. Business-wise also, the percentage of growth is now the highest in the last few years. Since the Kolkata Port is within the Kolkata mega city, the Ministry itself proposed a bypass for better connectivity which in another way would help the connectivity for Haldia also. The consultants, in the meantime, have finalised the alignment and the DPR is also under way.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister when the Government is going to finalise this connectivity or rather when the Government is going to start the work on the connectivity.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: We will be finalising the connectivity shortly.

At the same time, I have taken up the initiative to develop Diamond Harbour which is nearer to Haldia, which my friends have not expected. I am going ahead with these projects and these projects will be taken up as quickly as possible...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, no further clarifications.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: When the hon. Minister visited Kerala he promised to take up National Waterways Scheme which is connecting Port of Cochin with the Malabar region... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are individual questions.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: What is the progress of that national Waterways project, especially the Kottapuram-Kasargod sector?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have visited the Kerala State many times. This particular proposal of connecting the Cochin Port through the National Waterways... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, no further clarifications, either understood or not understood!

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this particular waterways is very important as far as the Cochin Port is concerned. I only proposed this particular project when I went there... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then it will be done. Minister wants it. Thank you.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: But the Kerala Government will have to help me. A lot of fishermen are there. I welcome the fishermen activities. At the same time, the social problems, which I have flagged off to the hon. Chief Minister and to some of my friends, have to be taken into consideration to see that they are quickly settled... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No other interventions will be noted.

...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: There are some issues like allowing us to dredge the particular channel for free flow of vessels... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I must give a chance to Shri V. Narayanasamy.

Q. 352. Shri G. Karunakara Reddy—Not present.

Shri V. Narayanasamy, you are in the same boat as Dr. M.S. Gill.

\*Not recorded.

Q. 353—Shirmati Maneka Gandhi

#### Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

\*353. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the working and effectiveness of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau;

(b) if so, the details of the evaluation; and

(c) the number of criminals apprehended in each State as a result of the inputs provided by this Bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau was established in 2007 as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006. The Crime Bureau is in the early stage of its functioning and therefore no formal evaluation has been done on the working and effectiveness of the Bureau. However, the functioning of the Bureau is reviewed regularly by the Ministry.

(c) The number of persons apprehended/arrested based on the inputs provided by the Bureau in State/UTs during the year 2007 and 2008 is at Annexure.

#### Annexure

*Number of persons apprehended/arrested based on the inputs provided by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in State/UTs during the year 2007 and 2008.*

State/UT	No of persons apprehended
Haryana	8
Himachal Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	54
West Bengal	20
Delhi	10

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Hon. Minister, as someone has done 500 raids every year, could you please

tell me how many raids has the Wildlife Bureau done on its own and who are the people that were apprehended?

12.00 hrs.

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: In the reply itself we have clearly stated that it was constituted only in June, 2007. Now in five States, 93 persons have been apprehended... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. We have done eight questions today. I am deeply obliged to all sections of the House for their cooperation. It shows that we can work very efficiently, to the satisfaction of the people. Today those who have been watching us directly here are going back at least after one hour, not after two minutes.

Thank you very much. I am deeply obliged.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Training Schemes for Commonwealth Games

\*344. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes for "Preparation of Indian Teams for Commonwealth Games, 2010";

(b) the details of the names of sports/disciplines which form the focus of the Scheme; and

(c) the number of sports-persons identified in each discipline for intensive training/coaching?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) To improve the performance of the Indian contingent in the Commonwealth Games, 2010, extensive discussions have been held with all stakeholders and a Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 775.00 crore (2008-09 to 2010-11) has been drawn up for providing training to elite sportspersons in all the disciplines of the Commonwealth Games, 2010. It has been envisaged under the Scheme, which is in the process of final approval, that 3 to 4 times the number of athletes, who actually represent the country in each discipline, would be taken up for comprehensive and intensive training for these Games. The schedule of training, exposure, competition etc. would

cover a period of 320 days in a year and foreign coaches would be engaged wherever required. Scientific support facilities in the nature of Scientific/medical equipments would be provided during their training in India along with the services of physical trainers, physiotherapists, masseurs, sports science experts, etc. Psychological support through experts would be provided for sports where high levels of concentration are critical for improving performance. Appropriate food supplements would be provided for athletes of power sports and those sports which entail vigorous physical exercise. The physical infrastructure at the centers of Sports Authority of India including hostels, training facilities, equipment and scientific back up arrangements would be upgraded to provide state of art facilities to cater to the requirement of these athletes for their training/coaching in India.

(b) The Scheme will cover all the competition sports disciplines included in the Commonwealth Games to be held at Delhi during 3rd to 14th October, 2010. These disciplines will be Archery, Athletics, Aquatics, Badminton, Boxing (M), Cycling, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball (W), Rugby 7s(M), Shooting, Squash, Table Tennis, Tennis, Wt. Lifting, Elite Athletes with Disability (Athletics, Powerlifting, Table Tennis and Swimming).

(c) A statement indicating the number of sports-persons to be provided training for each discipline of Commonwealth Games 2010, is enclosed.

### **Statement**

#### *Number of Sportspersons to be Trained in Each Discipline of Commonwealth Games, 2010.*

Sl.No.	Discipline	No. of sportspersons to be selected for training	
		Men	Women
1	2	3	4
1.	Archery	32	32
2.	Athletics	100	100
3.	Aquatics	60	45
4.	Badminton	20	20
5.	Boxing	44	0
6.	Cycling	75	42

1	2	3	4
7.	Gymnastics	24	36
8.	Hockey	48	48
9.	Lawn Bowls	15	15
10.	Net Ball	0	36
11.	Rugby 7S	36	0
12.	Shooting	100	50
13.	Squash	15	15
14.	Table Tennis	20	20
15.	Tennis	20	20
16.	Weightlifting	32	28
17.	Wrestling	56	28
18.	EAD*	36	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>733</b>	<b>553</b>

\*EAD: Elite Athletes with Disability

#### **Development of Minor Ports for Coastal Cargo**

\*346. SHRI HARILAL MADHAVJI BHAI PATEL:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANBHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has identified certain minor ports for handling coastal cargo in various States, including the State of Gujarat during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Seven minor ports, including Magdalla in Gujarat, were identified for development under the National Maritime Development Programme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. But, since no funds could be allocated for this purpose in the Eleventh Plan, development of these minor ports may be taken up by the State Government themselves.

#### **Setting up of More AIIMS-like Hospitals**

\*348. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes more AIIMS-like hospitals in addition to six such hospitals already sanctioned as reported in the 'Times of India', dated March, 22, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where these hospitals are likely to be set up;

(c) whether the Union Government has also planned to upgrade five existing hospitals in Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the proposed AIIMS-like hospitals are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) In view of the shortage of tertiary health care facilities, as also the need to meet the requirements of trained medical manpower, it is proposed to further expand the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. This is presently being conceptualized.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fake Certificates in Civil Services Examination**

\*349. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of candidates in the Civil Services Examination who were found guilty of producing fake caste certificates in the last five years; and

(b) the action taken against those candidates and the remedial measures proposed to avoid the occurrence of such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The CBI has registered a case on 4.07.2005 against two

candidates under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and, after investigation, filed a charge sheet in a competent court in Delhi.

However, one of the candidates filed a writ petition in the Hon'ble High Court of Gauhati against the charge sheet filed by the CBI and the show cause notice issued by the State Government on the advice of the CBI. The Hon'ble High Court has directed, on 14.12.2007, that the CBI or its officers shall not proceed further with the charge sheet and the State Government concerned shall not proceed further with the show cause notice and the memorandum issued by the State Government at the instance of the CBI pursuant to the charge sheet.

The Department of Personnel and Training has issued, from time to time, instructions requiring the appointing authorities to verify the caste of SC/ST/OBC candidates at the time of initial appointment. Accordingly, the appointing authorities have to get the concerned district authorities to certify the veracity of the caste/community certificate produced by the candidates.

*[English]*

#### **Allocation of Assistance to States**

\*352. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rationale for gravating up the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for apportioning normal central assistance for the Plan among the States;

(b) the criteria now being followed in the Eleventh Plan;

(c) whether some States are not in agreement with this new criteria; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Gadgil-Mukherjee formula for apportioning Normal Central Assistance for the Plan among the States continues to be applicable. However, the Eleventh Five Year Plan document, as endorsed by the National Development Council at its 54th meeting held on 19.12.2007, had stated that:

- (i) Given the progressivity in the formula for distribution of share of Central taxes under the award of the Twelfth Finance Commission;
- (ii) Central Government ceasing to provide the loan component of the Normal Central Assistance from 2005-06, in terms of the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission; and
- (iii) The need to reexamine the entire gamut of issues arising from the present classification of expenditure, including the Plan and Non-plan distinction;

there does not seem to be any reason any more for continuing two different formulae for apportionment of share of Central taxes and Normal Central Assistance amongst the States.

(b) For the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, the first 2 years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Gadgil Mukherjee formula has been used for apportioning Normal Central Assistance for the Plan.

(c) No new criteria have been decided for apportionment of Normal Central Assistance.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of Hospitals/CHCs/PHCs**

\*354. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) proposed to be set up in the country particularly in Chhattisgarh during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) the names of the places where these hospitals/CHCs/PHCs are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Primary health care services in rural areas are provided to all including women through a network of a three tier infrastructure system based on the following population norms:-

Centre	Population Norms	
	Hilly/Tribal Area	Plain Area
Sub Centre	3000	5000
Primary Health Centre	20000	30000
Community Health Centre	80000	120000

As on March, 2007, there are a total of 145272 Sub-centres, 22370 PHCs and 4045 CHCs functioning in the country with a shortfall of 20855 Sub-centres, 4833 PHCs and 2525 CHCs across the country. There are a total of 4692 Sub-Centres, 518 PHCs and 118 CHCs functioning in the State of Chhattisgarh with a shortfall of 141 PHCs and 46 CHCs while the SCs are in surplus.

New SCs, PHCs and CHCs are established by the State Government as per their requirement. The funds are provided under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for establishment of these health centres by the Central Government.

#### **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar**

\*355. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHOT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work of Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project being undertaken by India in Myanmar is progressing as per the schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the target date fixed for completion of the said project;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in completion of the project; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport in Myanmar envisages to connect Mizoram State of North Eastern region with Kolkata/Haldia to Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine route up the Kaladan river upto

Kaletwa and from there by road to Mizoram. It provides an alternate route for transport of goods to North-East India. The Framework Agreement on the project, Protocol on Transit Facilitation and Protocol on the Maintenance and Administration of the project were signed on 2nd April, 2008 between the Government of Myanmar and the Government of India. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has been appointed as the Project Development Consultant (PDC). Approximately 63 months will be required to complete the work henceforth.

*[English]*

#### **Compensation for the Damage Caused by the Wild Elephants**

\*356. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation for relocation of people from the forest area and for the crops destroyed and the persons killed by wild animals especially by elephants has been increased under the Elephant Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the share of the Union Government vis-a-vis the State Governments in the regard;

(c) the details of the mayhem caused by the wild elephants in various parts of the country, particularly in West Bengal in the last three years; and

(d) the amount of compensation paid by the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The rate for relocation of families under the Project Elephant has not been increased. As far as rates for compensation for crop damages and for persons killed by wild elephants are concerned, these are fixed and notified by the respective State governments from time to time. Under the Project Elephant Scheme, States receive hundred percent assistance.

(c) The Ministry has received reports of problems created by wild elephants in different parts of the country. The details of the persons killed and extent of crop damaged by the wild elephants in West Bengal for the last three years are as follows:

Year	No of persons killed	Crop damaged (In ha)
2004-05	72	2089.38
2005-06	85	3764.24
2006-07	63	3049.95

(d) The Ministry has provided following amounts to the State of West Bengal in last three years for compensation under the Project Elephant Scheme:

Year	Amount (In Rs. Lakh)
2005-06	27.00
2006-07	40.00
2007-08	55.00

#### **External Affairs Minister's Visit to USA**

\*357. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the External Affairs Minister visited the United States of America recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of agreements signed during his visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The External Affairs Minister visited Washington, USA during 24-25 March 2008. He met his counterpart, US Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice and called on the US President Mr. George W Bush. In these meetings, the Minister discussed all aspects of Indo-US relations including economic ties, defence cooperation, civil nuclear agreement as well as regional and global issues. Both sides reiterated their commitment to strengthening Indo-US relations. EAM invited Secretary Rice to visit India at a mutually convenient date. She has accepted the invitation.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during the visit.

#### **Launch of Astrosat Satellite**

\*358. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India proposes to launch its first astronomy satellite called ASTROSAT;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the project;

(c) the time by which the satellite is likely to be launched; and

(d) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ASTROSAT mission is a multi-wavelength astronomical observatory to study variability of a large number of galactic and extragalactic objects including neutron stars, black holes, active Galactic Nuclei etc. The scientific experiments on the spacecraft are xenon-filled proportional counters, CZT array with coded mask aperture, imaging telescope, Scanning x-ray Sky Monitor and a twin UV/Vis imaging telescope.

Present Status:

Preliminary Design Reviews completed for Payloads and Bus Systems. The Spacecraft and hardware for satellite are under various stages of realization.

(c) ASTROSAT mission is planned to be launched in 2009.

(d) Astrosat provides an opportunity to make astronomical observations without obstruction caused by Earth atmosphere. These observations help to understand evolution of universe, galaxy, stellar & planetary systems and also study origin of life & intelligence.

[*Translation*]

#### **Illegal Exploitation and Smuggling of Medicinal Herbs**

359. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of medicinal herbs found in abundance in the forests of the country;

(b) whether illegal exploitation and smuggling of rare medicinal herbs/plants of Uttarakhand forests have come to the notice of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures being taken by the Union Government for the conservation and proliferation of rare medicinal herbs in the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to include medicinal herbs/plants within the ambit of the afforestation scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) As per the report received from the Botanical Survey of India, there are more than 8000 medicinal plants listed in different classical and modern texts on medical plants. Some of the common medicinal herbs are as under Brahmi, Babul gum, Bail, Satawar, Neem, Tesu/Gul Palash, Dalchini, Bhringraj, Amla Jatropa, Nagkesar, Jaiphal, Ratanjot, Isabgol, Reetha, Kuth (Bitter), Chiraita, Jamun, Arjun, Bahera, Harad (Choti), Harad (Pili), etc.

(b) and (c) As per the report received from Uttarakhand Forest Department no specific instances involving exploitation and smuggling of rare medicinal herbs have come to notice. The measures taken by Union Government for the conservation and proliferation of rare medical herbs are as under\_

- Operationalizing the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Project entitled 'National Programme on Promoting Conservation of Medicinal Plants & Traditional Knowledge for Enhancing Health & Livelihood Security' which is to be implemented in nine States, namely, Karnatka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. The project is being coordinated by Foundation for Revitalization of Local health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore.
- UNDP-GEF project, "Mainstreaming Conservation and sustainable use of Medicinal Plant Diversity in three Indian States" has been approved and

signed by MoEF recently. The three States covered under the project are Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand. The National Medicinal Plant Board, Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); State Medicinal Plant Boards; and FRLHT, Bangalore are executing partners in this project. the main objective of the project is to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants with particular reference to globally significant medicinal plants.

- Recognizing and supporting a Centre of Excellence on 'Medicinal Plants & Traditional Knowledge' at FRLHT, Bangalore.
- Implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme which include models such as 'Mixed Plantation of Trees having Minor Forest Produce and Medicinal Value' and Regeneration of Perennial Herbs and Shrubs of Medicinal Value that relate to promotion of medicinal plants through afforestation and regeneration.
- Conserving and protecting medicinal plants through enforcement of the Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the rules under these Acts.

(d) and (e) The existing National Afforestation Programme has different plantation models, of which two models i.e. "Mixed Plantation of trees having Minor Forest produce and medicinal value" and "Regeneration of perennial herbs and shrubs of medicinal value" are aimed at regenerating medicinal plants. As on 31.03.2008, a total of 1.58 lakh ha. are has been approved under the two said models.

#### **Pollution by Imported Scrap/Waste**

360. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imported scrap/waste is spreading pollution in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to know the impact of imported scrap/waste on the environment;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) Import/export of hazardous wastes into the country is subject to the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended in 2003. No hazardous waste is allowed to be imported into the country for dumping and disposal and the import/export of hazardous waste is allowed only for reuse/recycling in an environmentally sound manner. Further, all the recyclers/refiners of non-ferrous metal wastes or used oil/waste oil are required to register themselves with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) except those having units with captive recycling facilities.

There is no information on the impact of the imported scrap/waste spreading large scale pollution in the country and no study in this regard has been conducted.

*[English]*

#### **Complaints Against Drug Controller General's Office**

3366. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against the functioning of Drug Controller General's office;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In recent times, Government has received complaints from one "Transparency India, Chennai" against the functioning of Drug Controller General (India)'s office.

(c) The matter is being examined.

#### **Revenue Earned by RPOS**

3367. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) in the country during the last three years, year-wise, RPOs-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to boost efficiency and eliminate delays in issuance of passports of the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The figures of revenue earned by all Regional Passport Offices/ Passport Offices in the country during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The measures taken by the Government to boost efficiency and eliminate delays in issuance of passports to the applicants are as follows:

- Submission of weekly pendency reports by passport offices for review by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- During the inspection of Passport Offices by various officers of the Ministry, special emphasis is given to the issue of pendency.
- Pendency clearance drives are undertaken from time to time, including periodic Passport Adalats to address public grievances.
- The Passport Offices have been asked to have close liaison with the police authorities and to have periodic meetings to expedite police verification.
- As for incomplete applications received mostly through District Passport Cells, efforts are being made to eliminate the same by briefing the staff of District Passport Cells on passport guidelines from time to time.
- All Passport Offices have 'on line' registration facility.
- Further, with the objective to deliver passport related services to the citizens in a timely, transparent, more accessible and reliable manner, the Government have decided to implement the Passport Seva Project. The

project is expected to result in the issue of passports within 3 days in cases not requiring police verification or those requiring post-issuance

police verification; and in cases, which require pre-police verification, within 3 days after the completion of the verification process.

**Statement**

*The revenue earned by the Passport Offices during the last three financial years:*

(Rupees in Crores)

S.No.	Name of RPO/PO	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ahmedabad	29.21	30.66	34.52
2.	Bangalore	19.47	23.85	31.15
3.	Bareilly	4.82	5.17	6.66
4.	Bhopal	5.90	7.13	8.91
5.	Bhubaneswar	3.02	3.61	4.43
6.	Chandigarh	23.37	27.96	29.14
7.	Chennai	28.02	30.97	36.25
8.	Cochin	20.39	21.84	26.70
9.	Delhi	34.66	29.62	31.13
10.	Ghaziabad	5.70	5.93	8.46
11.	Guwahati	2.50	3.09	3.92
12.	Hyderabad	29.89	38.70	45.15
13.	Jaipur	12.91	15.36	19.41
14.	Jalandhar	18.44	20.14	23.53
15.	Jammu	1.51	1.52	2.07
16.	Kolkata	20.10	23.47	13.60
17.	Kozhikode	20.53	28.69	39.21
18.	Lucknow	17.18	16.86	25.39
19.	Madurai-Opened December 2007	-	-	-
20.	Malappuram-Opened August 2006***	-	-	-
21.	Mumbai	37.94	46.31	52.98

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Nagpur	3.03	3.80	4.92
23.	Panaji	2.95	3.04	3.11
24.	Patna	6.89	9.02	10.48
25.	Pune*	-	-	-
26.	Raipur-Opened December 2007	-	-	-
27.	Ranchi	2.36	3.02	2.83
28.	Shimla-Opened March 2007#	-	-	-
29.	Srinagar	1.11	1.15	1.61
30.	Surat**	-	-	-
31.	Thane*	-	-	-
32.	Tiruchirappalli	26.98	30.10	32.92
33.	Thiruvananthapuram	15.41	16.17	19.05
34.	Vishakhapatnam	7.66	7.99	10.33
Total		401.95	455.71	527.86

Source: Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

\* Revenue earned by Passport Offices at Pune and Thane is included in the figures of revenue earned by Passport Office, Mumbai.

\*\* Revenue earned by Passport Office at Surat is included in the figures of revenue earned by Passport Office, Ahmedabad.

\*\*\* Revenue earned by Passport Office, Malappuram, is included in the figures of revenue earned by Passport Office, Kozhikode.

# Revenue earned by Passport Office, Shimla, is included in the figures of revenue earned by regional Passport Office, Chandigarh.

[*Translation*]

**Programmes for Development of Youth**

3368. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Programmes/Schemes for development and empowerment of youth and adolescent

undertaken by the Government during the last three years till date along with cost incurred thereto; and

(b) the targets and achievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) The details of programme/schemes for development and empowerment of youth and adolescent along with financial targets and achievements during last three years is enclosed as statement.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		(Target (BE))	Achievement	(Target (BE))	Achievement	(Target (BE))	Achievement
1.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)	54.74	54.85	66.02	55.02	78.42	21.94*
2.	National Service Scheme (NSS)	22.85	30.85	33.41	35.90	54.55	47.84
3.	National Service Volunteer Scheme	6.00	5.90	10.00	6.61	15.00	9.50
4.	Rashtriya Sadbhavana Yojana	9.00	4.60	7.00	5.50	9.00	6.00
5.	Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training	10.00	5.60	7.00	3.55	4.00	3.57
6.	Financial Assistance for Promotion of National Integration	4.95	5.32	9.00	4.85	11.50	9.07
7.	Financial Assistance for Promotion of Adventure	3.20	2.72	3.20	2.47	3.60	3.70
8.	Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	8.65	8.65
9.	Youth Hostels	5.00	4.78	5.00	2.50	2.00	2.27
10.	Scouting & Guiding	1.35	1.35	1.00	1.00	1.80	1.58
11.	Scheme of Financial Assistance for Development and Empowerment of Adolescents	10.00	6.24	9.00	2.25	11.00	10.75

\*Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan had an unspent amount of Rs. 63.51 crores lying with them over the years. In 2007-08 permission was granted to utilize the unspent balance, thus no grant was released to them under the Plan Head.

*[English]***CGHS Facility to PIB Accredited Journalists**

3369. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has discontinued the CGHS facility extended to the PIB accredited journalists

and their families since 2007;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations from the journalists have been received by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No Sir. However, CGHS facilities have been extended to PIB accredited Journalists on 'recovery of cost' basis. The cost to be recovered has been enhanced for the last few years and the journalists are reluctant to pay the arrears at the enhanced rates. Representations have been received from journalists. However, it is difficult for the Government to reduce the cost payable by the journalists while continuing to charge other similarly situated categories of beneficiaries at the enhanced rates.

**Joint Forest Management Committee  
and Their Mandate**

3370. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Joint Forest Management Committees constituted in the country, State-wise including Karnataka;

(b) whether there is any plan to entrust them with the work pertaining to protection, management and development of forests;

(c) if so, the details of the same; and

(d) the extent to which the success has been achieved in this regard in the country, particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Based on the reports received from State/UT Governments, the number of Joint forest Management Committees (JFMCs) constituted in the country upto March 2006 is 1,06,482. The State wise details are given in the enclosed statement. The number of JFMCs reported in Karnataka is 6575 as on March, 2008.

(b) and (c) Joint forest Management aims to involve local communities in regeneration, protection and management of forest areas. The extent to which the local communities are involved is as per the details in respective State Resolutions in this regard. The Government order no. FEE 50 FAP 2000 dated 19.6.2002 by Karnataka Government envisages partnership of JFM Committees in planning, protection, conservation and development of degraded forest areas and other

Government waste lands. The said order further envisages that JFM Committees shall play important role in enriching the forests by preventing encroachment, forests fires, illicit cutting, smuggling of forest produce, poaching of wild animals and regulating grazing and such other functions which are needed to develop forest resources.

Accordingly, village micro-plans are prepared and JFM Committees are entrusted with the work of protection, management and development of Joint managed forests.

(d) In Karnataka, during the year 2002-03 to 2006-07, plantations in 52405 ha. have been raised through JFMCs under National Afforestation Programme scheme. The afforestation work done under JFM areas is yielding good results in Karnataka State.

**Statement**

S.No.	State	Number of JFMCs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8498
2.	Bihar	615
3.	Chhattisgarh	7820
4.	Gujarat	2124
5.	Goa	26
6.	Haryana	1075
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1749
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	4861
9.	Jharkhand	10903
10.	Karnataka	2254
11.	Kerala	561
12.	Madhya Pradesh	14428
13.	Maharashtra	11799
14.	Orissa	9905
15.	Punjab	1378
16.	Rajasthan	4691
17.	Tamil Nadu	2642

1	2	3
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2096
19.	Uttarakhand	12089
20.	West Bengal	4107
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	362
22.	Assam	700
23.	Manipur	283
24.	Meghalaya	73
25.	Mizoram	505
26.	Nagaland	335
27.	Sikkim	204
28.	Tripura	399
Total		1,06,482

#### Mplad Funds

3371. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds from MPLAD Scheme can be released for providing computer to schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any delay in providing computers to schools under the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per the Guidelines on MPLADS, funds can be released, under the Scheme, for purchase of computers for Government as well as Government aided educational institutions.

(c) and (d) No instances of delay in providing computers to schools have come to the notice of this Ministry.

#### Shipping-Line Between India, Brazil and South Africa

3372. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for a shipping-line between India, Brazil and South Africa is under consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of agreement signed in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which new sea-link will bolster the tri-lateral trade among the countries?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No Sir, there is no proposal for a shipping-line between India, Brazil and South Africa under consideration of the Union Government. However, a trilateral Agreement among India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) on Merchant Shipping and other Maritime transport related matters was signed during the first IBSA Summit held in Brazil on 13th September, 2006. Also a bilateral agreement between India and South Africa on Merchant Shipping and other Maritime transport related matters was signed on 23rd March, 2006 at Cape Town, South Africa. The three countries shall encourage and facilitate the development of maritime relationship between their shipping organisations and enterprises and also cooperate very closely in the task of enhancing and stimulating the steady growth of maritime traffic among their countries; exchange and training of staff and students; exchange of information necessary for accelerating and facilitating the flow of commercial goods at sea and at port and encourage the fleets, strive to eliminate obstructions and other conditions tending to prevent the development of mutual maritime cooperation and encourage and/or facilitate their private sector to collaborate with each other in the field of maritime transportation and other related maritime matters.

*[Translation]*

#### Funds for Development of Forests

3373. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds released by the Union Government to State Governments particularly to State Government of Bihar for the development of forests during the last three years;

(b) the works undertaken by the State Government of Bihar using the aforesaid funds;

(c) whether there is a delay in releasing the funds by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
(a) The National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and fringe areas, through a two tier institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies at

the district level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. The State-wise details of funds released by the National Afforestation and Eco-development Board to the FDAs, including Bihar, during the last three years, are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Ten FDA projects have been approved in Bihar State. The FDAs have undertaken Afforestation as well as related activities like soil and moisture conservation, fencing, Entry Point Activities, monitoring and Evaluation, utilizing the fund.

(c) and (d) Funds are released to FDA projects on receipt of appropriate proposals alongwith satisfactory utilization of the funds released earlier and other requisite documents like progress report, audit report etc. The release is further subject to availability of fund with National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board during the financial year.

**Statement**

S.No.	State	Funds released in Rs. lakhs under National Afforestation Programme		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Provisions)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.08	11.06	9.97
2.	Chhattisgarh	17.63	13.05	42.69
3.	Gujarat	12.05	17.52	30.93
4.	Haryana	4.35	9.20	12.93
5.	Himachal Pradesh	9.08	11.56	7.43
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.28	5.83	8.13
7.	Karnataka	23.03	23.54	31.02
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12.61	15.83	13.84
9.	Maharashtra	14.69	15.93	29.92
10.	Orissa	12.05	14.07	19.01
11.	Punjab	3.97	3.36	5.88
12.	Rajasthan	7.26	5.62	2.50
13.	Tamil Nadu	20.92	17.22	9.46

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	17.04	11.88	36.77
15.	Uttarakhand	13.10	11.52	12.39
16.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Jharkhand	7.85	19.03	24.56
18.	Bihar	3.42	4.94	6.92
19.	Kerala	4.99	12.75	8.81
20.	West Bengal	5.92	7.00	7.23
	<b>Total (Other States)</b>	<b>202.32</b>	<b>230.92</b>	<b>320.38</b>
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.89	2.93	4.85
22.	Assam	5.50	13.60	8.58
23.	Manipur	6.30	7.78	12.37
24.	Nagaland	5.37	7.22	7.75
25.	Sikkim	6.23	7.41	11.28
26.	Tripura	4.27	4.37	5.02
27.	Mizoram	10.06	13.09	16.75
28.	Meghalaya	5.18	5.44	5.94
	<b>Total (NE States)</b>	<b>45.80</b>	<b>61.83</b>	<b>72.55</b>
	<b>G. Total</b>	<b>248.12</b>	<b>292.75</b>	<b>392.93</b>

[English]

#### **Eleventh Plan Allocation for NEC**

3374. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) total allocation of funds for North Eastern Council (N.E.C.) for the Eleventh Plan period;

(b) the funds proposed to be utilized for communication and infrastructure development during the Plan period; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to bring N.E.C. more transparent and accountable to the people of the NER?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Planning Commission have communicated only an indicative allocation of Rs. 7394 crores for the Eleventh Plan for the North Eastern Council. The actionable plan allocation for NEC for 11th Plan year-wise will depend upon the GBS support provided during each financial year.

(b) In view of only the indicative allocation for Eleventh Plan, the funds proposed to be utilized for communication and infrastructure cannot be finalized. However, the major thrust of NEC activities has always been on the development of infrastructure and communication in the North East.

(c) The NEC's budgetary plan is finalized through interactive discussions with the State Governments, which is also approved by the Council comprising all Governors and Chief Ministers of the North Eastern State under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister to the Development of the North-Eastern Region (DoNER). NEC projects are taken up for the socio-economic development of the Region keeping in view the mandate of the NEC Amendment Act, 2002. To make NEC more transparent and accountable to the people of the Region, the evaluation and monitoring framework is being strengthened by involving reputed institutes and organizations.

#### **Construction of Barrage by China on Sutlej River**

3375. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has constructed a barrage on river Sutlej without taking India into confidence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Chinese Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government have seen reports suggesting that China has constructed a small bund on the river Sutlej in Western Tibet for power generation to meet the requirements of the locality.

India and China have an Expert Level Mechanism on trans-border rivers to discuss interaction and cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues. Two meetings have been held so far.

*[Translation]*

#### **Setting up of PGI-Like Medical Institute in Punjab**

3376. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up any institute on the lines of PGI Chandigarh in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up another PGIMER in Punjab. However, it is proposed to upgrade Government Medical College, Amritsar in the State of Punjab, in the 2nd phase of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). Planning Commission has been requested to accord "in principle approval" for upgradation of the institute.

#### **Modernisation of Madrasas**

3377. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment for the allocation of financial assistance for the modernization of Madrasas has been made by the Planning Commission.

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the financial allocations made in this regard;

(c) whether any decision has been taken by the Planning Commission for the modernisation of the Madrasas in the light of the reports submitted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY): (a) to (d) An outlay of Rs. 349 crore has been made for Area Intensive & Madrasa Modernization Programme during the XI Plan. The major objective of the programme is to assist traditional Institutions like Madarass and Maktabs desirous of providing general education in Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in addition to their existing curriculum, purely on a voluntary basis and also provide infrastructure support to Minority Institutions.

*[English]*

#### **Setting up of Ayurvedic Parks**

3378. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Ayurvedic Parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise locations identified so far for the same and the time by which such Parks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, a Central Sector Scheme for development of AYUSH has been launched in the 11th Five Year Plan to develop common facilities for drug manufacturing, testing and standardization. Grant will be given under the scheme by way of grant to the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), formed by group of entrepreneurs from AYUSH sector. The assistance will be restricted to 60% of the Project Cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crores. The remaining 40% will be raised by the SPV through equity, borrowings from Banks/Financial Institutions and other sources.

The Scheme would achieve following objectives:

(a) to fill in the critical gaps in the sector especially related to standardization and quality assurance infrastructure and capacity building through a cluster based approach.

(b) to encourage associative behaviour in the sector for sustainability of cluster development approach.

So far three clusters based at Thrissur (Kerala), Nasik and Pune (Maharashtra) have been approved in principle. The scheme will be implemented in the 11th Five Year Plan period.

*[Translation]*

#### **Extended Malaria Control Programme**

3379. SHRI RAKESH SINGH:  
SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of Extended Malaria Control Programme being implemented in the country;

(b) whether this Programme has been suspended in any of the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to start second phase of this Programme in the tribal dominated areas of various States keeping in view the sizeable number of patients affected by this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) under support from World Bank was operationalized in eight malarious States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Orissa covering a total of 100 districts in these States.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The World Bank supported EMCP concluded on 31st December, 2005. To sustain the ongoing malaria control activities, the World Bank has provided retroactive financing to the above States till implementation of the Phase II programme.

(d) Yes, Sir. The 2nd phase of World Bank project shall be implemented in tribal dominated malarious States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal. The World Bank will support the project in terms of positioning of consultants, Malaria Technical Supervisors (MTS), operating cost, training, supply of rapid diagnostic kits, drugs and long lasting insecticides treated bed nets, etc.

*[English]*

#### **Scientific Captive Breeding Programme**

3380. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted a project/programme for scientific captive breeding of fire endangered species;

(b) if so, the details of the programme along with its cost and the endangered species proposed to be promoted thereby; and

(c) the Union Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. No such proposal has been received by the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Conservation of Flora and Fauna**

3381. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Ghats in the country considered as a treasure house of medicinal plants, rare flora and fauna are under severe strains;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of a Centre of Excellence for the conservation of Eastern Ghats;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Eastern Ghats are under strain due to various anthropogenic factors,

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Upgradation of Psychiatric Hospitals**

3382. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for upgradation of Psychiatric Hospitals at Indore and Gwalior under the National Mental Health Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the upgradation is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 2.13 crore was released for modernization of Gwalior Mansik Arogyashala in 2005-06 and Rs. 2.9975 crore for that of Mental Hospital, Indore in 2006-07 under National Mental Health Programme. The release of grant-in-aid for both the institutes stipulated, inter alia, that the work on upgradation may be completed within a period of 12 months. The State Government is the implementing Agency.

#### **Proposal for Privatisation of CGHS**

3383. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to privatize the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal before the Government to privatise Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).

*[English]*

#### **Non Availability of Vitamin A Drops**

3384. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vitamin A drops for newly born babies are neither available in the Government hospitals nor in the CGHS dispensaries in the various parts of the country, especially in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Sir, Vitamin-A supplementation is provided to all children of 9 months to 5 years at 6 monthly intervals at all health Centres under the National Health and Family Welfare programme.

During 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 funds were placed with the States to procure drugs including Vitamin-A.

CGHS dispensary provides vitamin A capsules on specific prescription.

In addition, the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi, procured Vitamin-A through its State funds in February 2008 and supplied to all (NCR) Stores for issue to different agencies indenting Vitamin-A.

[Translation]

#### Double Laning of NH-78

3385. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the double laning work of the entire stretch of NH-78;

(b) the amount sanctioned for the project till date;

(c) whether the Government proposes to sanction additional funds for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the double laning work of the NH is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI

K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) At present, about 376 km length on NH-78 is of less than two (double) lane standards, out of which in about 227 km length, works of two laning sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 95.37 crores are in various stages of progress.

(c) to (e) Two laning in an additional length of about 69 km at an estimated cost of Rs. 32 crores has been proposed to be included in the current Annual Plan (2008-09). The remaining length of 80 km is to be taken up for two laning in subsequent annual plans.

[English]

#### Expenditure by SAI in Tamil Nadu

3386. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been spent by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) during each of the last three years in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed plan of SAI to expand its branches/centres in Tamil Nadu and other States for tapping new and hidden sports talents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following amounts have been spent under Sports Authority of India (SAI) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu during three years:-

S.No.	Name of Centre	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Total
1.	Special Area Games, Nagercoil	3,26,088/-	4,01,993/-	6,71,805/-	13,99,886/-
2.	Special Area Games, Myiladuturai	-	-	2,78,05,520/-	2,78,05,520/-
3.	SAI Training Centre, Chennai	28,05,293/-	35,09,013/-	50,74,119/-	1,13,80,425/-
4.	SAI Training Centre, Salem	20,37,524/-	23,08,586/-	38,36,487/-	81,82,597/-
5.	Indigenous Games & Martial Arts, Ambur	55,808/-	1,16,000/-	95,000/-	2,66,808/-

(c) As on date, no approved plan exists for the expansion of SAI centres/branches in Tamil Nadu and other States.

#### Setting up of Rape-Crisis Centres

3387. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up rape-crisis Centres in the country to provide Medical care, Psychological counseling to rape victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a state listed subject, such information is not centrally maintained.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, all rape victims/accused, are attended to

immediately and provided required medical care by the hospitals. These hospitals have round the clock emergency facilities for attending to rape victims/accused.

#### CBI Cases in J&K

3388. MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases the CBI had taken up and investigated in Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years till date; and

(b) the details of the status of these cases, category-wise, FIRs filed, chargesheets framed, proceedings in the courts and orders for action obtained?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The number of cases taken up by the CBI in Jammu & Kashmir in 2005, 2006 and 2007 are 15, 15 and 14 respectively.

(b) A detailed status of the cases is as follows:

Year	Under Trial	Ended in conviction	RDA recommended	Closed	Under investigation
2005	11	2	2	0	0
2006	9	1	1	1	3
2007	7	0	0	0	7

#### Deaths Due to Pollution

3389. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the report of the World Health Organisation (WHO), around five lakh persons most of them women and children are killed every year in India due to the pollution caused by burning of wood, coal and dung in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) World Health Organisation's report 'Indoor Air Pollution-National burden of diseases estimates' mentions that in India, around 4.07 lakh premature deaths can be attributed annually to use of biomass fuel and coal. According to a report of Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, it is estimated that 4.1 lakh to 5.7 lakh women and young children die prematurely every year due to indoor air pollution caused by burning of bio-fuels in poorly ventilated homes. However, no conclusive data is available to establish the correlation between the mortality and indoor air pollution.

The Government through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken various steps to control

and prevent indoor air pollution, through National Programme on Biogas Development to provide alternatives to burning firewood, agricultural residues, cattle dung and coal as fuel. National Programme on Improved Chulhas has also been taken up to promote thermally efficient and low smoke stoves/smokeless chulhas. IEC activities through electronic and print media are undertaken to give publicity to the programmes. Women Education programmes are also organized in villages to generate awareness about the hazards of burning firewood, agricultural wastes, cattle dung in traditional chulhas and benefits of the biogas technology etc.

*[Translation]*

**Sports Programmes for Talented Children and Youth**

3390. SHRI RAMADAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the sports programmes and facilities provided/proposed to be provided to encourage talented children and youth in the country; and

(b) the steps taken for universalisation of sports facilities and making it available for all individuals at educational institutions and various training centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been implementing various sports schemes, as indicated below, to provide sports facilities and financial assistance to encourage promotion of sports among the talented children and youth of the country:-

- (i) All India Rural Sports Tournament
- (ii) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools
- (iii) National Sports and Games in Schools
- (iv) North East Games
- (v) Sports Scholarships
- (vi) Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training

(vii) Scheme of Financial Assistance to National Sports Federations

(viii) National Sports Development Fund

(ix) Special cash awards to sportspersons

Further, the Government has recently approved the Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan, which aims at creation of basic sports infrastructure at grassroots level, in all panchayats of the country, in a phased manner during 11th and 12th Five year Plan periods, and organizing sports competitions at village, block and district levels.

*[English]*

**Environmental Clearance to Forest Land**

3391. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINGH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for release of 427.13 hectare of forest land coming under the submergence and environment clearance from the Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal for diversion of 427.13 hectare of forest land for Sidumbar Reservoir Irrigation Project in Valsad district of Gujarat for which in-principle (stage I) approval was accorded by the Central Government on 20.08.2004 with certain mandatory conditions. The Final (stage-II) Approval is accorded only after the receipt of the compliance report from the Government of Gujarat, which is still awaited. However, in cases where compliance of conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval is awaited for more than 5 (five) years from the State Governments, the in-principle approvals are revoked.

**Abolition of Indent System in CGHS**

3392. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open medical stores in all the C.G.H.S. dispensaries throughout India by abolishing indent system, which will be used by C.G.H.S. beneficiaries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Pending Cases with CBI**

3393. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with CBI;

(b) the reasons for pendency of such cases; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government early trial of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 1165 cases were pending investigation in the CBI as on 31.03.2008. ;

(b) Investigation of cases by the CBI takes time because of complicated nature of cases requiring scrutiny of voluminous documents and examination of large number of witnesses.

(c) Government has set up 39 Courts of Special Judges in various States exclusively for the trial of the CBI cases.

CBI endeavours through constant monitoring/suprevision, to ensure that there is no delay in trail on its part.

**Public Health Care System**

3394. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed serious concern over the pitiable state of public health care system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Hon. Supreme Court in Appeal (civil) 1949 of 2004 Samira Kohli v/s. Dr. Prabha Manchanda and another vide judgement dated 16.1.2008 has examined the implications of 'informed consent' in the context of a doctor-patient relationship and made a reference to the public health system.

Under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), health care is one of the thrust areas. The main vehicle for rejuvenating the public Health delivery system is National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which has been operationalised all over the country from 12th April 2005. The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care, especially, to the rural poor and vulnerable sections of the population. The key strategies under NRHM include increasing public expenditure on health, improving infrastructure, pooling resources, induction of management and financial personnel, and operationalising functional facilities which meet the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) at various levels.

**Condition of Government Hospitals**

3395. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of the Government run hospitals in the country including in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar islands is not satisfactory;

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

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government to improve the condition of these hospitals; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Health being a state subject, such information is not maintained centrally.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are Concerned, the conditions of these hospitals are found to be satisfactory. The improvement and upgradation/strengthening of the existing facilities of these hospitals are ongoing process for which necessary budgetary allocation has been provided for.

#### **Encroachment of Indian Territory by Neighbouring Countries**

3396. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:  
SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of neighbouring countries which have encroached upon certain portions of Indian territory and since when these are under their occupation;

(b) whether any area of land have been released from their encroachment during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India and China have appointed a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship, the framework of a boundary settlement; and

(e) if so, the details of decisions taken by a special representative on various issues so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu & Kashmir since 1948. Indian territory under the occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir since 1962 is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called China-Pakistan "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

(b) and (c) No.

(d) and (e) Yes, There have been eleven meetings of the Special Representatives so far. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" on April 11, 2005 during the visit of the Chinese Premier to India. The two Special Representatives are now exploring the framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the India-China boundary.

#### **Economic Growth**

3397. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sign of moderation in growth during the current year as per the latest estimates released by the Prime Minister's Advisory Council;

(b) if so, whether the economy is estimated to grow at 8.8% during the year 2008-09 as compared to 9.4% during 2006-07; and

(c) if so, the reasons attributed for the slow down of economic growth and the steps taken/being taken to improve the growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the 'Review of the Economy 2007/08' by the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister released in January 2008, the estimated rate of growth of the Indian economy is likely to be 8.9% in the current year 2007-08, as compared to 9.4% in 2006-07.

(b) While taking a preliminary view of the prospects for the economy in 2008-09, the EAC states that the Indian economy is likely to grow by about 8.5% in 2008-09 as compared to 9.4% during 2006-07.

(c) The EAC has attributed the following reasons for likely slowdown in the growth rate in 2008-09: (i) slowdown in growth in developed economies; (ii) slower growth in the demand for consumer goods; (iii) slightly slower growth in trade, hotels, transport & communications sector; (iv) farm sector growth closer to the trend of 2.5% than to the stronger performance evident in 2007-08. The Central Budget for 2008-09 contains a slew of measures

to spur consumption in the economy. These include adjustments in personal income tax slabs, reduction in excise duty rates on a range of consumer goods, wavier of farm loans. The extension of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to all rural districts of the country is likely to contribute to increase in consumption demand and, hence, growth of the economy. The Government has increased the allocation for infrastructure programmes like National Highway Development Project, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, as well as on education, health, and training and skill upgradation. These are expected to address some of the supply side constraints on sustaining the high growth rate and in improving the level of productivity of the economy. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, the investment in physical infrastructure is envisaged to increase from around 5 per cent GDP in 2006-07 to 9 per cent of GDP by the end of the Plan period (2011-12).

#### Enhancement of Allocation for Sports

3398. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation for development of sports activities/facilities has been enhanced during the last three years;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The allocation for development of sports activities/facilities has been enhanced during the last three years, as is evident from the information given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Budget Estimates	365.27	470.88	540.01
Revised Estimates	342.23	416.41	649.03
Expenditure	297.84	381.66	427.20*

\*Expenditure upto 31.1.2008.

[*Translation*]

#### Study on Sex Ratio

3399. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a research conducted by the Action Aid, an International Funding Organisation, there are only 500 girls for every 1000 boys in some rural areas of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(c) whether such sex ratio figure puts India even below the other third world countries;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Government does not seem to have received any report on the research reportedly conducted by 'Action Aid' on Child Sex Ratio. However, the information furnished by the Office of the Registrar General of India indicates that the Sex Ratio (SR) (number of females per thousand males) has increased from 927 to 933 from 1991 to 2001. However, the Child Sex Ratio (CSR) has declined from 945 to 927 during the same period.

The figures further reveal that the Child Sex ratio is comparatively lower in the affluent regions, i.e. Punjab (798), Haryana (819), Chandigarh (845), Delhi (868), Gujarat (883) and Himachal Pradesh (896). State/UT wise Sex Ratio (SR) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR) as per 1991 and 2001 Census is enclosed as statement.

Some of the reasons commonly put forward to explain the consistently low levels of Child Sex Ratio are son preference, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, higher maternal mortality and male bias in

enumeration of population. Easy availability of the sex determination tests may also be providing to be catalyst in the process, which may be further stimulated by pre-conception sex selection facilities.

The Government has taken action on strengthening the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the Child Sex Ratio in the Country are: Constitution of the Central Supervisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, whose function, *inter alia*, is to review and monitor implementation of the Act and Rules & Regulations made thereunder and recommend to the Central Government changes in the said Act and Rules, where required, and to create public

awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide; constitution of the National Inspection & Monitoring Committee for undertaking field visits periodically across the country, and constitution of the National Support & Monitoring Cell for effective implementation of Act, training of Judiciary, publication of Annual Reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), On-Line Complaint facility on the Ministry's Website, organizing sensitization workshops/seminars, launching of 'Save the Girl Child' campaign, seeking cooperation from the NGOs/religious leaders, etc. Further, under the National Rural Health Mission, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are being sensitized on the issue. AIs, funds have been provided to all States/UTs under the Rural Child health Programme for implementation of the Act and related activities.

#### *Statement*

#### *State/UT wise Sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 & 2001*

India and State/Union Territory*/District	Sex Ratio		Child Sex	
	1991	2001	1991	2001
1	2	3	4	5
India	927	933	945	927
Jammu and Kashmir	896	892	NA	941
Himachal Pradesh	976	968	951	896
Punjab	882	876	875	798
Chandigarh*	790	777	899	845
Uttaranchal	936	962	948	908
Haryana	865	861	879	819
Delhi	827	821	915	868
Rajasthan	910	921	916	909
Uttar Pradesh	876	898	927	916
Bihar	907	919	953	942
Sikkim	878	875	965	963
Arunachal Pradesh	859	893	982	964
Nagaland	886	900	993	964

1	2	3	4	5
Manipur	958	978	974	957
Mizoram	921	935	969	964
Tripura	945	948	967	966
Meghalaya	955	972	986	973
Assam	923	935	975	965
West Bengal	917	934	967	960
Jharkhand	922	941	979	965
Orissa	971	972	967	953
Chhatisgarh	985	989	974	975
Madhya Pradesh	912	919	941	932
Gujarat	934	920	928	883
Daman and Diu*	969	710	958	926
Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	952	812	1013	979
Maharashtra	934	922	946	913
Andhra Pradesh	972	978	975	961
Karnataka	960	965	960	946
Goa	967	961	964	938
Lakshadweep*	943	948	941	959
Kerala	1036	1058	958	960
Tamil Nadu	974	987	948	942
Pondicherry*	979	1001	963	967
Andaman & Nicobar Islands*	818	846	973	957

Source: Census 1991 & 2001, O/O Registrar General of India

\*Union Territory.

[English]

**Joint Venture by SAIL and Tata  
for Supply of Coal**

3400. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Limited and Tata Steels have set up a joint venture to mine coal blocks

for securing assured coking coal supply to meet their increasing production needs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given permission to such joint venture to explore coal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it will have an effect on import of coal from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Tata Steel have signed a Joint Venture Agreement for mining of coal on 3rd January, 2008.

(c) As per power delegated to Navratna PSUs, permission from the Government is not required in this case.

(d) In view of the expansion plans of SAIL, the requirement of imported coal from other countries may not come down inspite of the Joint Venture.

*[Translation]*

#### **NSSO Report on Employment**

3401. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Sample Survey Organisation, there has been reduction in creation of employment opportunities during the years 2004 to 2006 despite the increase in the rate of economic development/growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to bring change in Economic Policy to create more employment opportunities in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (e) As per the most recent quinquennial surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, the growth in employment increased from 1.25 per cent

per annum during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000 (Period-I), to 2.62 per cent during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 (Period-II). The growth rate in Gross Domestic Product during Period I was 6.5 per cent per annum and in Period-II it was 6.0 per cent per annum.

The Eleventh Plan Document, approved by NDC, projects that about 58 million employment opportunities are likely to be generated during the Eleventh Plan period. It also states that additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction.

#### **Survey Conducted for Coal**

3402. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey for coal mining during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith quantity of coal reserves found, Location-wise;

(c) whether some malpractices were noticed in the allotment of coal from these places due to which coal companies have suffered losses; and

(d) the location-wise amount of the loss suffered and profit earned by the Union Government in the mining of coal from such locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) As per Geological Survey of India, the details of coal resources, State-wise, during the last three years i.e. as on 1.1.2005, 1.1.2006 and 1.1.2007 are enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) Coal issued by coal companies is as per linkage and actual dispatches are done after realizing full coal value. As such, no loss has been reported by CIL.

**Statement***State-wise Geological Resources of Indian Coal—as-on 1.1.2005*

## Category-wise Coal Resources (in million tonnes)

State	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	8263	6079	2584	16926
Arunachal Pradesh	31	40	19	90
Assam	279	27	34	340
Bihar	0	0	160	160
Chhattisgarh	9373	26191	4411	39975
Jharkhand	35417	30439	6348	72204
Madhya Pradesh	7513	8815	2904	19232
Maharashtra	4653	2309	1620	8582
Meghalaya	117	41	301	459
Nagaland	4	1	15	20
Orissa	15161	30976	11847	60984
Uttar Pradesh	766	296	0	1062
West Bengal	11383	11876	4554	27813
<b>Total</b>	<b>92960</b>	<b>117090</b>	<b>37797</b>	<b>247847</b>

*State-wise Geological Resources of Indian Coal—as-on 1.1.2006*

Andhra Pradesh	8403.18	6158.17	2584.25	11745.60
Arunachal Pradesh	31.23	40.11	18.89	90.23
Assam	314.59	26.83	34.01	375.43
Bihar	0.00	0.00	160.00	160.00
Chhattisgarh	9570.15	27432.89	4439.06	41442.10
Jharkhand	36148.29	31411.22	6338.32	73897.83
Madhya Pradesh	7565.50	9258.38	2934.49	19758.37
Maharashtra	4652.39	2432.18	1992.17	9076.74
Meghalaya	117.83	40.89	300.71	459.43

1	2	3	4	5
Nagaland	3.43	1.35	15.16	19.94
Orissa	16910.63	30793.07	14295.56	61999.26
Uttar Pradesh	765.98	295.82	0.00	1061.80
West Bengal	11383.16	11878.41	4553.36	27814.93
<b>Total</b>	<b>95866.36</b>	<b>119769.32</b>	<b>37665.98</b>	<b>253301.66</b>

*State-wise Geological Resources of Indian Coal—as-on 1.1.2007*

Andhra Pradesh	8475	6328	2658	17461
Arunachal Pradesh	31	40	19	90
Assam	314	27	34	375
Bihar	0	0	160	160
Chhattisgarh	9973	27035	4442	41450
Jharkhand	36881	31094	6339	74314
Madhya Pradesh	7584	9259	2934	19777
Maharashtra	4856	2822	1992	9670
Meghalaya	118	41	300	459
Nagaland	4	1	15	20
Orissa	17464	30239	14296	61999
Uttar Pradesh	766	296	0	1062
West Bengal	11454	11810	5071	28335
<b>Total</b>	<b>97920</b>	<b>118992</b>	<b>38260</b>	<b>255172</b>

*[English]*

**Funds for JFMC and FDA for Afforestation**

3403. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:  
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated and released to Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) and Forest

Development Agency (FDA) for implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) during the Tenth Five Year Plan; State-wise;

(b) the outlay proposed for the purpose during the Eleventh Plan period, State-wise;

(c) whether there has been any delay in releasing funds to JFMC and FDA's in the country including Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) Under the fund flow mechanism of the National Afforestation Programme, funds are released by the National Afforestation Eco-development Board to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) which in turn transfer the funds to the constituent Joint Forest Management Committees. The details of funds released to the FDAs during the last three years, are given in the enclosed statement, state wise.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 2000 crores has been provided for the National Afforestation Programme during the Eleventh Plan. There is no state wise earmarking of outlay as the scheme is basically demand-driven in nature.

(c) and (d) Funds are released to FDA projects on receipt of appropriate proposals alongwith satisfactory utilization of the funds released earlier and other requisite documents like progress report, audit report etc. The release is further subject to availability of fund with National Afforestation and Eco-development Board during the financial year.

**Statement**

S.No.	State	Funds released in Rs. lakhs under National Afforestation Programme		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.08	11.06	9.97
2.	Chhattisgrah	17.63	13.05	42.69
3.	Gujarat	12.05	17.52	30.93
4.	Haryana	4.35	9.20	12.93
5.	Himachal Pradesh	9.08	11.56	7.43
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.28	5.83	8.13
7.	Karnataka	23.03	23.54	31.02
8.	Madhya Pradesh	12.61	15.83	13.84
9.	Maharashtra	14.69	15.93	29.92
10.	Orissa	12.05	14.07	19.01
11.	Punjab	3.97	3.36	5.88
12.	Rajasthan	7.26	5.62	2.50
13.	Tamil Nadu	20.92	17.22	9.46
14.	Uttar pradesh	17.04	11.88	36.77
15.	Uttarakahand	13.10	11.52	12.39
16.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Jharkhand	7.85	19.03	24.56
18.	Bihar	3.42	9.94	6.92

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Kerala	4.99	12.75	8.81
20.	West Bengal	5.92	7.00	7.23
	<b>Total (Other States)</b>	<b>202.32</b>	<b>230.92</b>	<b>320.38</b>
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.89	2.93	4.85
22.	Assam	5.50	13.60	8.58
23.	Manipur	6.30	7.78	12.37
24.	Nagaland	5.37	7.22	7.75
25.	Sikkim	6.23	7.41	11.28
26.	Tripura	4.27	4.37	5.02
27.	Mizoram	10.06	13.09	16.75
28.	Meghalaya	5.18	5.44	5.94
	<b>Total (NE States)</b>	<b>45.80</b>	<b>61.83</b>	<b>72.55</b>
	<b>G. Total</b>	<b>248.12</b>	<b>292.75</b>	<b>392.93</b>

#### **Illegal Construction on the Southern Ridge**

3404. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is rampant encroachment and illegal constructions on forest and agriculture land falling under the Southern Ridge area in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has appointed any Monitoring Committee for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Monitoring Committee has visited the said areas;

(f) if so, the details of their findings and the action taken thereon;

(g) whether the Monitoring Committee has also received complaints from the Members of Parliament; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
(a) to (h) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Import of Titanium Dioxide**

3405. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be Pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representations regarding problems being faced by the Kerala Mineral and Metals Limited in Chavara and Travancore Titanium products in Trivandrum;

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

(c) whether the import of Titanium Dioxide has adversely affected the domestic production and sale of Titanium products in Kerala;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps being taken to protect the domestic titanium industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) In January 2007 & January 2008 Shri Elamaram Kereem, Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala had written to Commerce & Industry Minister requesting the Central Government to increase the import duty rate on rutile grade Titanium Dioxide Pigment. The matter was examined by the Department of Commerce in consultation with Department of Atomic Energy and the Hon'ble Minister was informed by the Department of Commerce that it is not desirable to increase the import duty considering the low domestic production.

(e) In order to facilitate growth of the domestic Titanium Industry the Government has taken the following steps;

(1) Notified the Beach Sand Mineral Policy on 6.10.1998 with a view to encourage private sector participation in beach sand mining and value addition activities.

(2) With effect from 1.1.2007 the titanium bearing minerals and ores (Ilmenite, Rutile and Leucocoxene) have been removed from the list of Prescribed Substances and thereby dispensed with the licensing requirement.

(3) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion vide Press Note No. 6 (2008) dated 12.3.2008 notified the FDI Policy for mining Titanium bearing minerals and ores. FDI upto 100% will be allowed with prior government approval in mining and mineral separation of titanium bearing minerals & ores is permitted subject to sectoral regulations and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957 and value addition facilities being set up along with transfer of technology.

#### **Budgetary Outlay for Children**

3406. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children are one third of the population but the share for them in the Union Budget is very low;

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

(c) the steps taken to allocate more funds for children.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI .V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Children in the age group of 0-14 years comprise of 35.35% of the total population as per 2001 Census. For the first time in the Union Budget 2008-09 has a separate section with Statement of budget estimate (expenditure) for the schemes for the welfare of children in different Ministries/Departments which works out to 4.45% of the total budget. However, the estimates of expenditure have been made in respect of schemes which are substantially exclusive for children. There are other schemes of different Ministries/Departments which benefit both children and adults. For instance the estimates do not capture budget figures from schemes relating to drinking water supply, sanitation, road and transport, electrification, irrigation etc., which are not children-exclusive but benefit equally both children and adults. With further refinement of the process of estimate, the Budget Estimate for Children can increase substantially.

#### **Complaints Regarding New System of CGHS**

3407. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from CGHS beneficiaries about the functioning of the new system of computerized OPD;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make the new system more efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Computerisation of CGHS is a huge task and during the course of change over from one system to another minor teething problems are expected and CGHS is no exception. Now the systems appears to be setting down which will, in the long-run, be beneficial to the beneficiaries as well as the CGHS.

#### **Allocation of Funds for Tiger Projects**

3408. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated for tiger projects have not been utilised properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for proper utilization of the allocated fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) No such instance has come to the notice of this Ministry.

(c) Central Assistance is being provided to tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, based on the Annual Plan of Operations received from tiger reserves, emanating from reserve specific management/tiger conservation plans. The field implementation responsibility of the scheme rests with the State Governments, who furnish utilization certificates in prescribed formats along with detailed progress report. The Government of India provides technical guidance and monitors the project through supervisory visits and assessment by a panel of independent experts on the basis of standardized evaluation parameters.

#### **Good Manufacturing Practices for AYUSH Drugs**

3409. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any specific Scheme to encourage and promote good manufacturing practices for AYUSH drugs and medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any specific requests have been made by AYUSH drugs and medicine manufacturers for subsidy type packages and tax holidays etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Quality Control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Drugs was started to provide assistance to Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani manufacturers to improve their infrastructure to meet GMP norms. Under this scheme, one time grant

equivalent to 20% investment made by the unit subject to maximum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs was provided since 9th Plan. The scheme has been revised during 11th Plan under which following assistance is being provided:-

1. Assistance to ASU&H drug manufacturing units having an annual turnover of upto Rs. 20.00 crores for acquisition of prescribed essential quality control equipments for in-house Quality Control Lab shall be limited to Rs. 30.00 lakhs or 30% of the expenditure incurred on the basis of a MoU between the manufacturing unit/State Drug Controller and Department of AYUSH with a condition that the quality control equipment purchased with Government of India assistance shall not be disposed of and that Government of India will have lien on such equipment in case of company going into liquidation.
2. ASU manufacturing units having a turnover of upto Rs. 20.00 crores shall be provided with assistance of 30% or Rs. 30.00 lakh, whichever is less for upgradation of their facilities to WHO Good manufacturing Practices certification standards.
3. Above Centrally Sponsored Schemes is under implementation in the 11th Plan to encourage and promote compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices by Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha and Homoeopathy units in the country. Representations have been received in the past from Ayush manufacturing associations and those representations have been kept in view in revision of the above scheme.

#### **Outsourcing of Issuance of Passports**

3410. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outsourcing of the services pertaining to issuance of passports is likely to put national security at risk; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety and security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) In the Passport Seva Project, which has been elaborated in consultation with all concerned Government departments and agencies, only front-end non-sensitive activities such as applications collection, data entry, acceptance of fee and capturing of photo etc., will be performed by the Service Provider selected through an open bidding process.

All sensitive aspects of passport issuance, including verification of documents, check-lists, the decision to grant a passport and the handling of blank passport booklets will remain with Government employees as hitherto.

The project will not compromise national security in any manner whatsoever. The new system will be introduced only after a comprehensive third party security audit by a Government agency. Such audit will thereafter be repeated every year. The data of passport holders will remain in the Government domain with strict access control. The ownership and strategic control of the core and critical assets of the project will remain with the Ministry of External Affairs. Data coming to the possession of the service provider, when the application is submitted, will only be used by him to feed the Government database and the service provider will be held strictly accountable for any misuse of data.

#### **Allotment of Coal Blocks**

3411. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M/s Sterlite Industries and M/s Vedanta Resources with different Joint Venture have been allotted Coal Blocks in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the complete details of number of allotted Coal/Blocks for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) None of the three companies mentioned above have been allocated any coal block. However, M/s. Sterlite Energy Limited has been allocated Rampia & Dip Side of Rampia coal blocks on 17.01.2008 jointly with other companies for its power plant. Two other companies, M/s. Hindustan Zinc Ltd. and M/s. Bharat Aluminium Company, have also been allocated coal blocks, namely, Madanpur South on

13.01.2006 alongwith other companies and Durgapur-Taraimar on 01.11.2007 for their sponge iron and power plant respectively.

#### **Definition of BPL**

3412. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of poverty-line as per the current population and inflation in the country;

(b) the population living below the poverty-line in the year 1997 and the number of people living below the poverty line in the year 2007 i.e. during a decade;

(c) the facilities being provided to the people living below the poverty-line by the Central Government; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The Planning Commission has defined the poverty line as per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level. This corresponds to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differential. The poverty lines are periodically updated for price inflation. The state-specific poverty lines of 1973-74 are updated for the later years using state-specific Consumer Price Index of Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) in the rural areas and Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) in the urban areas following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group of Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The latest estimate of the poverty line is available for the year 2004-05. The poverty line in 2004-05 is estimated as per capita monthly consumption of Rs. 356.30 in rural areas and Rs. 538.60 in urban areas.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below the poverty

line from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) according to the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor. The two latest comparable estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 and 2004-05. As such, the number of people living below the poverty line during 1997 and 2007 are not available. Using the large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO in its 50th Round (July 1993-June 1994) and 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005), the number of population living below the poverty line is estimated as 320.4 million in 1993-94 and 301.7 million in 2004-05.

(c) and (d) A number of programmes to provide facilities to the people living below the poverty line are being implemented by the Central Government. The major schemes and programmes in this regard are: (i) National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, which provides a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, (ii) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, a holistic programme of self-employment, (iii) Indira Awas Yojana, which provides assistance for construction of dwelling units and upgradation of existing unserviceable kutcha houses for the rural families. The Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana provides gainful employment to the urban poor. The Targeted Public Distribution System provides food grains at reduced prices to the poor. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana provides food grains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate.

The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the Plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. The per capita consumption in the process is projected to double in the next ten years. In addition to the benefits of increase in income arising from the general growth process, the abovementioned programmes, which provide facilities to the people living below the poverty line, has its consequent impact on the reduction of poverty and thus improvement of the situation.

#### **Plasma Research Institute in Gujarat**

3413. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal for expansion project from Plasma Research Institute-BHAT area near Ahmedabad in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far; and

(c) the time by which the proposed project to be taken for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Vision for SAARC Countries**

3414. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various proposals as envisaged by the Prime Minister for SAARC countries;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in pursuance thereof; and

(c) the time by which various projects based on Prime Ministers vision will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) to (c) Speaking at the 14th SAARC Summit, the Prime Minister said that, "I have a compelling vision of an inclusive, plural and rapidly developing South Asia playing its role in an interdependent world's economic development and peaceful evolution." Several concrete proposals have been made by PM at SAARC to translate this vision into reality. These proposals include, South Asia University, SAARC Telemedicine Network, SAARC Food Bank, SAARC Multimodal Transport Project, SAARC Museum of Textiles, SAARC Car Rally and South Asia Energy Dialogue. These proposals have moved SAARC from a declaratory to an implementation phase. The status of these proposals is detailed in the attached statement.

**Statement**

S.No.	Details of projects	Status
1.	South Asian University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Project office is being established in New Delhi.</li> <li>• The 2nd Meeting of the inter-governmental Steering Committee scheduled on May 1, 2008, is expected to appoint an interim-CEO to head the Project Office.</li> </ul>
2.	SAARC Tele-medicine Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot tele-medicine project has started between Bhutan and India.</li> </ul>
3.	SAARC Food Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Food Bank will commence with a reserve of 241,580 Metric Tons food grains from SAARC Member States except Afghanistan.</li> </ul>
4.	SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Meeting of the Transport Ministers (August 29-31, 2007) deliberated on the Report of the SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study and recommended several pilot sub-regional and regional projects.</li> </ul>
5.	SAARC Museum of Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first exhibition titled 'Textiles tradition of South Asia' was temporarily held in New Delhi from December 7, 2007 to March 6, 2008.</li> </ul>
6.	SAARC Car Rally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAARC Car Rally was organized from March 15, 2007-April 3, 2007.</li> </ul>
7.	South Asian Energy Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Energy Ministers Meeting held on March 7, 2007.</li> </ul>

**World Hockey Qualifying Championship  
Held in Chile**

3415. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Hockey team failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympic, 2008 during the World Hockey Qualifying Championship held recently in Chile;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to revisit the causes of poor performance of the Indian Hockey team in the aforesaid Qualifying Championship; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the concrete steps taken by the Government to promote sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India lost to Great Britain in the finals of World Men's hockey Olympic qualifiers.

(c) and (d) The Government supplements the efforts of recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for the promotion of excellence in sports, including hockey. Apart from providing support for holding national coaching camps through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Government also provides assistance for the participation of national teams in training and competitions within and outside the country and the engagement of high performing coaches. Specifically in hockey, the Government has engaged a high performance foreign expert as Technical Adviser to provide technical support to the national men and women teams as also junior national teams. In addition to this, talented sportspersons in the age group of 14-21 are trained under various schemes of SAI, including in SAI Training Centres and SAI Special Area Games Centres, a large number of which have hockey among the disciplines in which training is imparted.

*[Translation]*

**Misuse of Funds by Indian Cultural Centres Abroad**

3416. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed the alleged misuse of funds meant for the activities of Indian Cultural Centres abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, Cultural Centre-wise;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. No such cases has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Allocation of More Funds to AIIMS**

3417. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the total outlay meant for research and patient care in the AIIMS;

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

(c) whether AIIMS has sought an increase in its budgetary allocation;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the services being provided to the people and to provide adequate funds to the institute for its research activities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) received consolidated Grant-in-Aids every year under Plan and Non-Plan from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for patient care services, teaching & research activities.

(c) to (e) The AIIMS has projected an overall amount of Rs. 692.75 crores under Plan & Non-Plan activities in Budget Estimates (BE) 2008-09. Towards this projection, the Institute has been provided an overall amount of Rs. 452.00 crores under Plan & Non-Plan activities in BE-2008-09. However, the standards of patient care services including teaching and research activities will be maintained.

*[Translation]*

**Four-laning on NH-33**

3418. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Governments of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh for four-laning of NH-33 linking Kodarma, Ranchi and Jamshedpur via Hazaribagh and from Jabalpur, Khajuraho and Damoh respectively;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure on these projects; and

(d) the time-frame fixed for completion of work on these stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The section of NH-33 from Barhi to Jamshedpur via Hazaribagh has been identified under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III for four-laning. The status of these projects is

at enclosed statement. No proposal for four laning from Jabalpur, Khajuraho and Damoh has been received from State Government of Madhya Pradesh. Also, no proposal

has been received from the State Government of Jharkhand for four-laning of Kodarma-Barhi stretch of NH 31.

### **Statement**

#### *Status of 4-laning of NH 33*

S.No.	Name of Stretch	NH.No.	Length (km)	Cost (Rs. In crore)	Status*
1.	Barhi-Hazaribagh	33	40	213	Bids for updation of DPR has been taken up.
2.	Hazaribagh-Ranchi	33	75	Updation of DPR for BOT (Annuity) has been taken up	Project approved for implementation under BOT (Annuity) scheme.
3.	Ranchi-Rargaon	33	70	815.324	Feasibility Study Report completed. PPPAC document preparation has been taken up.
4.	Rargaon-Jamshedpur	33	80	469.716	Feasibility Study Completed. PPPAC document preparation has been taken up.

\*NHDP Phase III works are targeted for completion by December 2013.

#### **Development of NH through PPP Mode**

3419. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways/sections of the National Highways selected for development through Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, State-wise;

(b) the estimated cost of each of the project;

(c) whether the toll revenue collected on PPP projects are shared between Government and the constructing Agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the share of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The state-wise details of projects awarded under Build, Operate and Transfer (Toll/ Annuity) through Public Private Partnership are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Revenue sharing as a concept was introduced after the new Model Concession Agreement (MCA) was introduced. The toll revenue is shared in accordance with the provision of the concession agreement entered into between National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the concessionaire. Based on the new MCA only seven projects have been awarded. The details of revenue share of NHAI in these projects are given in the enclosed statement-II.

In earlier concession agreements, while sharing of toll revenue was not adopted as a concept, some agreements provided for transfer of a proportion of revenue of NHAI once toll revenue exceeded a specified threshold. The share of the revenue and the specified threshold was however, unique to each agreement.

**Statement-I****State-wise details of projects under BOT (Toll)/Annuity through PPP**

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Source of Finance	Status	State (s) concerned	Estimated Total Project Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Tuni-Ankapelli Km 300-359 BOT [A] III	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	283.20
2.	Reishumundry-Dharmavaram AP-15 Km 200-254 BOT [A]-I	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	206.00
3.	Dharmavaram-Tuni AP-16 Km 254- 300 BOT [A]-II	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	231.90
4.	Nellore bypass	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	143.20
5.	Armur-Kalkali Village (AP-2)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	490.00
6.	Kottakata-Kumool (AP-5) km 135.740-211.000	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	592.00
7.	MIHAP Border to Islam Nagar (Ns-2/BOT/AP-6) Km. 175/0 to Km. 230/0	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	360.42
8.	Islam Nagar to Kadtal (Ns-2/BOT/AP-7) Km. 230.00 to Km. 278.00	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	546.83
9.	Kadtal to Armur (NS-2/BOT/AP-8) Km. 278/0 to Km. 308/0	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	271.73
10.	Tada-Nellore (Pkg. AP-7&8) on GQ	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	621.35
11.	Nandigama-Ibrahimpuram (Km. 217-252 of NH-9)	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Andhra Pradesh	138.85
12.	Farukhanagar-Kottakata (AP-3) km 34.100-80.000	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	255.00
13.	Farukhanagar-Kottakata (AP-4) km 80.000-135.740	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	302.00
14.	Chilkaluripet-Vijayawada-Six Lane (Km. 355 to Km 434.15) on NH-5	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Andhra Pradesh	572.30
15.	Kosi Bridge & Approaches on NH-57 in Bihar (Km 165.00 to 155.00) (BR-5	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Bihar	418.04
16.	Durg Bypass on NH-6	Bot [Toll]	Completed	Chhattisgarh	70.00
17.	Raipur-Aurang	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Chhattisgarh	190.00
18.	End of Durg Bypass-Chattisgarh/Maharashtra Border	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Chhattisgarh	464.00
19.	Delhi-Gurgaon (Access controlled 8/6 Lane)	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Delhi and Haryana	710.00
20.	Surat-Dahisar-Six Lane (Km. 263.00 to Km. 502.00) on NH-8	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Gujarat and Maharastra	1,405.57
21.	Pindwara-Palanpur (Km 264.00-340.00 of NH 14)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Gujrat and Rajasthan	498.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Gondal-Jetpur (Km. 117-143.3) & Rajkot Bypass (Km. 175-185) on NH- 8B in Gujrat, Pkg-VII	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Gujarat	388.09
23.	Six Laning of Vadodara to Bharuch Section (Km. 108/700 to 192/000 of NH-8) Pkg I	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Gujarat	660.00
24.	Six Laning of Bharuch to Surat Section (Km. 198/000 to 263.400 of NH-8) Pkg II	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Gujarat	492.00
25.	Panipat-Jalandhar-Six Lane (Km. 96.00 to Km. 387.10) on NH-1	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Haryana and Punjab	2,288.00
26.	Panipat Elevated Highway Project (Km. 86-96 on NH-1)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Haryana	270.00
27.	Delhi/Haryana Border to Rohtak on NH-10	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Haryana	486.00
28.	Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur-Six Lane (Km. 42.70 to Km. 273.00) on NH-8	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Haryana and Rajasthan	1,673.70
29.	Belgaum-Maharashtra Border (Pkg-IV)	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Karnataka	332.00
30.	AP/Karnatka Border-Nandi Hill Crossing & Devenhalli to Meenu kunte Village (Km. 463.60-527 & Km 535-539 of NH-7 in Karnatka) (avathi village) (KNT-1)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Karnataka	402.80
31.	Nelamangla-Tumkur (BOT)	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Karnataka	155.00
32.	Bangalore Elevated Highway Silkboard to Electronic City (Km. 8.785-18.75 on NH-7)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Karnataka	450.00
33.	Bangalore-Hoskote-Mudbgal Section Km 237.700 to Km 318.000 on NH-4	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Karnataka	565.00
34.	Bangalore-Neelmangla on NH-4 (Km. 10/00 to Km. 29/50)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Karnataka	445.00
35.	Neelmangla-Devihalli section (Pkg-I) Km 28/200 to Km 110/00 on NH-48 (Neelmangla-Hassan)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Karnatka	441.00
36.	Neelmangla-Hassan (Pkg-II) km 110/000 To Km 191/200 on NH-48	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Karnatka	440.00
37.	Trishur-Angamali (Km. 270-316.70 of NH-47)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	kerala	312.50
38.	Lakhnadon-MP/MH Border (Km. 547.4-596.75 of NH-7) in MP Ns-1/BOT/MP-2	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Madhya Pradesh	263.17

1	2	3	4	5	6
39.	Lakhnadon-MP/MH Border (Km. 596.75-653.225 of NH-7) in MP NS-1/BOT/MP-3	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Madhya Pradesh	407.60
40.	Guna Bypass (Km 319.700-Km 332.100 on NH-3)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Madhya Pradesh	46.00
41.	Indore-Khalghat (Km 12.600-Km 84.700 on NH-3)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Madhya Pradesh	472.00
42.	Khalghat-MP/MH Border	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Madhya Pradesh	549.00
43.	Satara-Karnataka Border (Kagal)	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Maharashtra	600.00
44.	Vadape-Gonde	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	579.00
45.	Pimpalgaon-Dhule	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	556.00
46.	Pune-Khed (MoSRTH)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	127.60
47.	Kondhali-Telegaon	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	212.00
48.	Chattisgarh/Maharashtra Border-Wainganga Bridge	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	424.00
49.	Nagpur-Kondhali	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Maharashtra	168.00
50.	NS-1/BOT/MP-UP/Gwalior-Jhansi (Km. 16-Km. 96.127 of NH-15)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	MP and UP	604.00
51.	Zirakour-Parwanoo (NH-22)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Punjab and Haryana	290.00
52.	Amritsar-Wagah Border Section of NH-1 from Km. 455.400 to km 491.620	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Punjab	205.88
53.	Ambala-Chandigarh (Zerakpur)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Punjab	298.00
54.	Jalandhar-Amritsar (Km. 407.100 to Km. 456.100) on NH-1	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Punjab	263.00
55.	Kurali-Kiratpur	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Punjab	309.00
56.	Jaipur-Kishangarh	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Rajasthan	644.00
57.	ROB Kishangarh	BOT [Toll]	Completed	Rajasthan	18.00
58.	Mahua-Jaipur	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Rajasthan	483.00
59.	Bharatpur-Mahua	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Rajasthan	250.00
60.	Tambaram-Tindivanam (BOT/Annuity) km 67 to Km 122	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	Tamil Nadu	375.00
61.	Krishnagiri-Thoppurghat (Km. 94.156 of NH-7) TN-1	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	372.70
62.	Salem-Karur (Trichy-Karur) (Km. 207.05-248.62 of NH-7) TN-2	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	253.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
63.	Salem-Karur (Namakkal-Karur) (Km. 258.65-292.60 of NH-7) TN	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	205.60
64.	Karur-Madurai (Karur-Dindigul) (Km. 292.60-373.725 of NH-7) TN	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	327.20
65.	Karur-Madurai (Dindigul-Samayanallur) (Km. 373.27-426.60 of (NH-7) TN-5	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	283.50
66.	Salem-Kerala Border (Km. 0-53 of NH-47) TN-6	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	469.80
67.	Salem-Kerala Border (Km. 53-100 of NH-47) TN-7	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	379.80
68.	Tindivanam-Ulundurpet (package- VI A) Km 21-Km. 192.25	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	480.00
69.	Ulundurpet-Padalur (package VI B) Km 192.25-Km 192.25-Km 285	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	460.00
70.	Padalur-Trichy (Package-VI C) Km 285-Km 325	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	320.00
71.	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin (Km 138.8-Km 264.5) TN-14	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	629.00
72.	4 laning of Km 80.000 to Km 135.750 of Thanjavur-Trichy Section of NH- 67 in the State of Tamil Nadu	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	280.00
73.	Trichy-Karur on NH-67	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	516.00
74.	Trichy-Dindigul on NH-45	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	576.00
75.	Pondicherry-Tindivanam on NH-66	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	285.00
76.	Salem-Ulundurpet (BOT-1/TN-06) Km. 0.313 to Km. 136.670 on NH-68	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	941.00
77.	Chennai Tada-Six Lane (Km. 11.00 to Km. 54.40) on NH-5	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Tamil Nadu	353.37
78.	Gorakhpur Bypass (Km. 251.70-279.80)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	600.24
79.	NS-1/BOT/MP-1/Gwalior Bypass (Km. 103 of NH-3 to Km. 16 of NH-75)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	300.93
80.	Jhansi-Lalitpur (Km. 0-49.79 of NH-25,26) in UP NS-1/BOT/UP-2	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	355.06
81.	Jhansi-Lalitpur (Km. 49.79-99.00 of NH-26) in UP NS-1/BOT/UP-3	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	276.09

1	2	3	4	5	6
82.	Bara-Orai (Km. 449 to Km. 422 on NH-2 & Km. 255 to 220)	BOT [Annuity]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	465.00
83.	Meerut-Muzaffamagar	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	359.00
84.	Agra-Bharatpur (Jaipur) UP/Rajasthan Border	Bot [Toll]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	195.00
85.	Sitapur-Lucknow	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	Uttar Pradesh	322.00
86.	Panagarh-Palsit	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	West Bengal	350.00
87.	Palsit-Dankuni Durgapur Expressway	BOT [Annuity]	Completed	West Bengal	432.40
88.	Vivekananda Bridge (2nd)	BOT [Toll]	Completed	West Bengal	641.00
89.	Sitiguri-Islampur (Km. 551-580 of NH-31)	BOT [Toll]	Ongoing	West Bengal	155.00

**Statement-II***Details of Toll revenue share to NHAI*

S.No.	Name of the project	Toll revenue share of NHAI	
		Toll revenue share from appointed date	Toll revenue share at the end of concession period
1.	Chennai-Tada (km 11 to km 54.40)	17.07%	31.07%
2.	Gurgaon-Kotputli-Jaipur (km 42.70 to km 273)	48.06%	59.06%
3.	Surat-Dahisar (km 263 to km 502)	38%	49%
4.	Chikaluripet-Vijaywada (km 355 to Km 434.15)	2% from 4.65 years after appointed date	12%
5.	Panipat-Jalandhar (km 96 to km 387.10)	20.14%	34.14%
6.	Delhi-Haryana Border to Rohtak	As per concession agreement NHAI will get a premium @ 2% of toll revenue 4692 days after Commercial Operations Date (COD) subject to an incremental increase of 1% for each subsequent year till end of the concession period of 25 years.	
7.	Khalaghat-MP/MH Border	As per concession agreement NHAI will be paid a premium @ 3.11% of toll revenue 405 days after Commercial Operations Date (COD) subject to an incremental increase of 1% for each subsequent year till end of concession period of 18 years.	

*[English]*

**Impact Assessment Study Regarding Mercury  
Pollution on Health**

3420. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS has conducted any survey to assess the impact on environmental mercury pollution on the health care system as reported in the Times of India dated March 17, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environmental and Forests, Government of India has sanctioned a project for AIIMS to conduct a survey to assess the awareness of Environmental Mercury Pollution in Health Care Systems.

**Construction of Tunnels Connecting  
Manali to Keylong**

3421. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the project for construction of the Rohtang Tunnel on Manali-Keylong DGBR road in Himachal Pradesh was sanctioned by the Union Governments;

(b) the total sanctioned cost of the project;

(c) the progress of the project, tunnel-wise; and

(d) the target date fixed for completion of the project, tunnel-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Construction of Rohtang Tunnel on Manali-Keylong-Sarchu road was approved by Cabinet Committee on Security on 6th September 2005.

(b) The project is approved at a cost of Rs. 1410.37 crore which includes construction of Rohtang Tunnel proper (Rs. 943.32 crores) approach roads to the tunnel (Rs. 1809.20 crore) and alternate road alignment Darcha-Padam-Nimmu (Rs. 286.85 crore).

(c) Progress on construction of Rohtang tunnel is as follows:

(i) M/s. SMEC International Pvt. Ltd. from Australia was awarded consultancy contract for Rs. 62.96 crore for detailed design and advisory services during construction. Design of tunnel is already completed by the consultant.

(ii) Pre-qualification of contractors for construction of civil works of Rohatang Tunnel has already been completed.

(iii) Tenders issued to 8 pre-qualified contractors. Five tenders have been received back on 25th February 2008.

(iv) Technical evaluation of tenders is in progress.

(v) Contract is likely to be awarded by 30th July 2008.

(d) The project is scheduled for completion by 2014.

**Destruction of Connecting Corridors  
in Forest Area**

3422. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of our forest protected areas are being isolated by destroying their connecting corridors to other forested areas;

(b) if so, the details of such corridors, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard particularly in establishing vital corridors for large mammals, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Destruction of connecting corridors can lead to the fragmentation of Protected Areas. However, information on the destruction of such corridors is not collated at Government of India level.

(c) Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Project Elephant and Project Tiger for various activities aimed at the conservation of wildlife including the establishment of vital corridors. Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfillment of necessary legal and procedural requirements.

[Translation]

#### **Review of Functioning of Panchayats**

3423. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to invite representatives of Panchayats including Pramookhs of Zila Panchayats and Blocks from all over the country, as published in Hindi daily 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 12, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee to review the work done by the Panchayat representatives; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) All State/UT Governments have been requested to send Presidents of District Panchayats and Intermediate Panchayats and two Sarpanches of Gram Panchayats from each Districts to attend the National Convention of Presidents of District Panchayats and Intermediate Panchayats being organized by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj at Burari Ground, North Delhi from 22 to 24 April, 2008. Earlier, a Core Committee of Panchayati Raj representatives selected by State Governments/UT Administrations had prepared a draft "15th" Anniversary Charter on Panchayats' which was submitted to Gram Sabhas and Panchayats all over the country for further consideration. The draft will be discussed, finalized and adopted by the representatives of these Panchayats during the National Convention.

#### **Effect of Climate Change on Pilgrimages**

3424. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilgrimages such as Gangotri, Yamunotri and Badrinath Dhams are facing threat due to climate change and environmental pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Although Geological Survey of India (GSI) has reported recession in the Gangotri glacier at a rate of 18.80 m/year during 1935-1996 period, there are no specific studies undertaken to establish a correlation between the climate change and environmental pollution and the glacial changes in the region around the pilgrimages of Gangotri, Yamunotri and Badrinath Dhams.

(c) A sustainable development path is being followed through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Some of the steps taken by the Government include interalia-setting up of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency and encouraging energy conservation and introduction of energy efficiency labeling, promoting use of renewable energy, carrying out power sector reforms and active renewable energy programme, use of cleaner and lesser carbon intensive fuel for transport, fuel switching to cleaner energy, afforestation and conservation of forests, promotion of clean coal technologies, reduction of gas flaring, encouraging Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors gas flaring, encourgaing Mass Rapid Transport systems and environmental quality management for all sectors.

The National Environment Policy 2006 of Ministry of Environment & Forests interalia addresses the issue of global warming. The Government has also set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change" in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

A high level coordination committee chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister called "Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change to coordinate National action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change" was constituted on 6th June 2007. In the meeting held on 13th July 2007, the council, interalia decided to prepare and finalise 'India's Climate Change Action Programme.'

*[English]*

#### **Spread of Encephalitis in Northern States**

3425. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of encephalitis have surfaced in various parts of the country, especially in the Northern States during the past few years;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The cases of Japanese Encephalitis (JE)/Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) are being reported only from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in so far as Northern States are concerned. However, the reports of AES/JE cases are also being received from other States like Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Nagaland. State wise details of AES/JE cases and deaths since 2003 are given in the enclosed statement.

J.E. is an acute viral disease and cyclic outbreaks are known to occur. The occurrence of the disease is determined by factors like rainfall, temperature, humidity, presence of amplifier hosts, etc. The disease is mainly correlated with the monsoon & post monsoon season, when mosquito breeding increases. There is no specific anti viral drugs for treatment of JE.

(c) the actions taken by the Government in this regard are as under:

- Early diagnosis and proper management of AES cases to reduce case fatality through strengthening of diagnostic and clinical management of JE cases, and curative services at PHCs/CHCs and District Hospitals.
- Training of PHC Medical Officer, Clinicians and nurses for early diagnosis and case management of JE.
- Advisories along with standard guidelines/ protocols on AES/JE cases management have been developed and conveyed to the State Governments.
- Rapid Response Teams were formed at districts level and they have been trained.
- Integrated vector control with emphasis on personal protection, segregation/mosquito proofing of pig-sties.
- Behaviour Change Communication for community participation to promote early case reporting, personal protection, isolation of amplifier host etc.
- A Sub office of Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare, Lucknow, has been established in Gorakhpur, UP since 2nd April, 2007 for intensive monitoring of situation and providing technical assistance to State Government on prevention and control of JE.
- Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Unit has been established at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, UP with financial support from Government of India for field visits and for strengthening of surveillance activities.
- Preparedness for prevention and control of AES/ JE is reviewed regularly at higher levels.
- Vaccination of community with SA 14-14-2 for JE has been undertaken in 7 districts of Gorakhpur during 2006-07. During 2007, 11 districts were covered under vaccination achieving an over all coverage percentage of 97 percent. Nine more districts are proposed to be taken up during 2008.
- Adequate drugs and disposables for the management of AES/J.E. cases are supplied by the Government of India.

- Multi-disciplinary Central teams comprising of Neurologist, epidemiologist, microbiologist and entomologist visited the affected States (Uttar Pradesh and Assam) during 2007 for providing technical guidance. Based upon their observations and recommendations, control measures were stepped up.
- Regular monitoring of AES cases is done by the Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).

**Statement***State-wise AES/JE Cases and Deaths*

S.No.	Affected States/UTs	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007	
		Cases	Deaths								
1.	Andhra Pradesh	329	183	7	3	34	0	11	0	22	0
2.	Assam	109	49	235	64	145	52	392	119	424	133
3.	Bihar**	6	2	85	28	192	64	21	3	336	164
4.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Delhi	12	5	17	0	6	0	1	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	27	0
7.	Haryana	104	67	37	27	46	39	2	1	32	18
8.	Karnataka	226	10	181	6	122	10	73	3	32	1
9.	Kerala	17	2	9	1	1	0	3	3	0	0
10.	Maharashtra	475	115	22	0	51	0	1	0	0	0
11.	Manipur	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	65	0
12.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Tamil Nadu	163	36	88	9	51	11	18	1	37	0
14.	Uttar Pradesh	1124	237	1030	228	6061	1500	2320	528	3024	645
15.	West Bengal	2	1	3	1	12	6	0	0	16	2
16.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Grand Total		2568	707	1714	367	6727	1682	2842	658	4022	963

**MPLAD Funds to Karnataka**

3426. SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to the State Government of Karnataka under the MPLAD Scheme since inception, member-wise, constituency-wise; and

(b) the number of works under the MPLAD Scheme executed by the funds released so far during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Under the MPLAD Scheme, funds are non-lapsable and are released to the Lok Sabha Constituencies and the Members of Parliament of Rajya Sabha. The details of the funds released to the Lok Sabha constituencies of Karnataka, since inception of the Scheme till 31st March, 2008, and the details of funds released to the Rajya Sabha MPs of Karnataka, are enclosed as statement I and II, respectively.

(b) The Ministry maintains only cumulative information of works recommended, sanctioned and completed, received from the districts. As per the reports received from the District Authorities, till 31.3.2008, 41251 works have been completed since inception of the Scheme in Karnataka in the last three years in not maintained by the Ministry.

**Statement I**

*Funds released under MPLADS to Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha (Karnataka) since inception:*

Sl.No.	Name of the Constituency	Rs. in crore Funds released
1	2	3
1.	Bagalkot	24.05
2.	Bangalore North	24.05
3.	Bangalore South	21.05
4.	Belgaum	23.05
5.	Bellary	22.05
6.	Bidar (SC)	21.05
7.	Bijapur	23.05
8.	Chamarajanagar (SC)	23.05
9.	Chikballapur	24.05
10.	Chikkodi (SC)	23.05
11.	Chikmagalur	24.05
12.	Chitradurga	24.05
13.	Davangere	23.05

1	2	3
14.	Dharwad North	23.05
15.	Dharwad South	23.05
16.	Gulbarga	21.05
17.	Hassan	21.05
18.	Kanakapura	23.05
19.	Kanara	22.05
20.	Kolar (SC)	23.05
21.	Koppal	24.05
22.	Mandya	19.05
23.	Mangalore	23.05
24.	Mysore	24.05
25.	Raichur	22.05
26.	Shimoga	18.05
27.	Tumkur	24.05
28.	Udupi	22.05
Total		633.40

**Statement II**

*Funds released under MPLADS to Members of Parliament of Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)*

*Current Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament*

Sl.No.	Name of the Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Nodal District	Rs. in crore Funds released
1	2	3
1.	B.K. Hariprasad Bangalore Urban	7.00
2.	Janardhana Poojary Dakshin Kannad/Mangalore	12.00
3.	K. Rahman Khan Bangalore Urban	23.00

1	2	3
4.	K.B. Shanappa Gulbarga	4.00
5.	M.A.M. Ramaswamy Bangalore Urban	7.00
6.	M. Rajasekara Murthy Bangalore Urban	22.50
7.	M.V. Rajashekar Bangalore Rural	12.00
8.	M. Venkaiah Naidu Bangalore Urban	18.00
9.	Oscar Fernandes Udupi	16.00
10.	Prema Cariappa Bangalore Urban	12.00
11.	Rajeev Chandrasekar Bangalore Urban	3.00
12.	Vijay Mallya Bangalore Urban	9.00
	Total	145.50
<b>Former Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament</b>		
13.	A. Lakshmisagar Bangalore Urban	8.50
14.	Bimba Raikar Bangalore Urban	12.00
15.	C.M. Ibrahim Shimoga	9.00
16.	Gundappa Korwar Gulbarga	4.05
17.	H. Hanumanthappa Chitradurga	8.05
18.	H.D. Deva Gowda Hassan	1.50
19.	H.K. Javare Gowda Hassan	12.00
20.	Janardhana Poojary-Ex Dakshin Kannad/Mangalore	8.00
21.	K.B. Krishna Murthy Bangalore Rural	12.00

1	2	3
22.	K.C. Kondaiah Bellary	7.00
23.	K.R. Jayadevappa Chitradurga	4.05
24.	Margaret Aiva Uttarakannada/Karwar	3.55
25.	Ramakrishna Hegde Bangalore Urban	10.00
26.	S.M. Krishna Bangalore Rural	3.00
27.	S.R. Bommai Dharwar	12.00
28.	Satchidananda Bangalore Urban	4.05
29.	Sh. Abdul Samad Siddiovi Raichur	0.05
30.	Sh. B.K. Hari Prasad Bangalore Urban	2.05
31.	Sh. G.Y. Krishnan Kolar	2.05
32.	Sh. I.G. Sanadi Dharwar	2.05
33.	Sh. J.P. Jauali Dharwar	0.05
34.	Sh. Prabhakar Kore Belgaum	2.05
35.	Sh. Ram Jethmalani Bangalore Urban	0.05
	Total	127.60
	Grand Total	272.60

*[Translation]*

**Use of RTI Act by the Rural/Tribal People**

3427. SHRI NIHAL CHAND:  
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rural and the tribal people are not using the RTI Act much;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures taken/being taken by the Government to spread more awareness amongst the rural and tribal people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS. (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally maintained.

(c) The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity had launched a campaign in 2006 for propagating awareness about the Right to Information Act. Further steps have also been taken up in the matter. The Department of Personnel & Training has issued a guide for information seekers by its O.M. No. 1/8/2007-IR dated 08.11.2007. All the State Governments have been requested to get the guidelines translated into the regional language(s) and give wide publicity to these guidelines. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been requested to involve the Non-Governmental Organisations working in the States to spread awareness about the Act. organizations like the Centre for Good Governance (CGG), Hyderabad, Yashwant Rao Chavan Academy of Public Development (YASHADA), Pune and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) etc. have undertaken awareness generation programmes in different states with the support of Government.

*[English]*

#### **Sale of Junk Food**

3428. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALLIAS SADHU YADAV:

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of junk food is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its impact on the health of children; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per information available, there are few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of junk food and obesity leading to diet related chronic non-communicable diseases.

(c) Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods. The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare has written to Health Minister of all States & UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and College canteens. Letters have also been written to chief Minister of all States and UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutes.

#### **Grant to Land to Forest Dwellers**

3429. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over vast stretches of sanctuary land to forest dwellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the extent of land per individual likely to be handed over; and

(d) the time by which this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Tribes & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has been enacted on 2nd January 2007 to recognize and vest the forest rights and occupation in forest land including Sanctuaries and National Parks in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been primarily residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded and 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. The Rules under the Act have been notified on 1st January 2008.

As per the Act, the recognition and vesting of forest rights to the forest dwelling Scheduled tribes and to other traditional forest dwellers in respect of forest land shall be subject to the condition that such Scheduled tribes or tribal communities or other traditional forest dwellers had occupied forest land before the 13th Day of December 2005, wherein, traditional forest dweller means any member or community who has for atleast three generation prior to the 13 day of December 2005 primarily resided in and who depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.

(c) and (d) The Sub-Section (6) of Section 4 of the Act envisages that the extent of land for an individual or family or community, as on the date of commencement of the Act, would be restricted to the area under actual occupation and in no case would exceed 4 hectares. However, forest rights recognized under this Act in critical wildlife habitats of National Parks and Sanctuaries as determined and notified under Section 2(b) of the Act may subsequently be modified or resettled in accordance with Section 4 (2) of the Act. The provisions of the Act are in force from 31st December 2007. However, no times framework for completion of implementation of the Act has been envisaged.

#### **Upgradation of Coastal Highways as National Highways**

3430. SHRI RAJU RANA:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINGH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to upgrade coastal highways as National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise with particular reference to State Highways in Gujarat and Union Territory near Gujarat; and

(c) the funds earmarked for such up-gradation and the targeted time fixed for completing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The declaration of any road as a National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, inter-se priority on all India basis and availability of resources. At present emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

#### **Suicides by Students Due to Stress and Depression**

3431. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALLIAS SADHU  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suicide cases by students are increasing in the country particularly during the examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken a decision to launch a programme to train the school teachers, counsellors and general physicians to identify the symptoms and cause of stress and depression in students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 5610, 5138 and 5857 students committed suicide in the country during 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively showing a mixed trend. No information is available on the rise in the number of student suicides during the examination.

(c) and (d) It is envisaged to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan period to include suicide prevention, stress management, Counselling services for Schools and Colleges under District Mental health Programme with active participation of community based organizations. Under District Mental

Health Programme, school/college teachers, general physicians and health workers would be trained to identify signs of stress and depression in students. District Mental Health Programme would be extended all over the country in a phased manner.

*[Translation]*

**Reservation for Other Backward Classes**

3432. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jobs are being provided to the candidates belonging to OBCs in the Central Government services as per the provisions of reservation of OBCs quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to fill up the requisite quota of OBCs vacancies in Central Government jobs;

(d) the percentage of quota pertaining to Other Backward Classes that has been filled as on March 31, 2008; and

(e) the percentage of growth of OBCs in the Central Government services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Reservation to the OBCs is being provided in services under the Government of India as per instructions issued by the Government.

(b) Reservation for OBCs in case of direct recruitment on all India basis by open competition is 27%. In case of direct recruitment on all India basis otherwise than by open competition reservation for OBCs is 25.84%. In case of direct recruitment to Group C and D posts which normally attract candidates from a locality or a region, the percentage of reservation for OBCs is fixed keeping in view the proportion of their population in the concerned State/UT and the fact that reservation for OBCs remains within the limit of 27% and total reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs remains within the limit of 50%.

(c) Vacancies reserved for OBCs are filled by candidates belonging to that category. Various concessions like relaxation in upper age limit are given to them so that vacancies reserved for OBCs are filled by them only. There is a ban on de-reservation of reserved vacancies.

(d) After introduction of reservation for the Other Backward Classes in services in 1993, the Government has been strictly implementing the quota for these classes in filling up posts through direct recruitment.

(e) As per information furnished by various Ministries/ Departments, the representation of OBCs in services increased by about 15.36% as on 1.1.2005 over their representation as on 1.1.2004

*[English]*

**Central Assistance for Treatment of Poor in Kerala**

3433. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the Government of Kerala for Central Assistance for infrastructure development and treatment for the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal for sanctioning of funds amounting to Rs. 296 crores has been received from the State of Kerala for infrastructural development under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) additionalities in their Annual Programme Implementation Plan for the year 2008-09.

(c) As per earlier proposals received from Government of Kerala, funds amounting to Rs. 25.26 crores, 44.60 crores and 143.11 crores have been released during the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively to the Government of Kerala under NRHM. The proposal for the year 2008-09 has been received and examined by the NPCC.

**Permission for Development of Minor Ports**

3434. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permission from Union Government is necessary for development of minor ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals pending for the such permission;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the State Government of Gujarat for NOC for Hydrographic survey for port development; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 the Central Govt. is responsible for the development of Major Ports. The respective State Governments have overall jurisdiction on Non Major Ports and are responsible for their development and no permission is normally required from the Central Government for development of non-major ports. However, requisite clearances including statutory clearance are required to be taken from the concerned Central Authorities. The Maritime States are also required to take security clearance from the Central Government for the short-listed bidders. As regards the NOC for the Hydrographic survey for port development, Government of Gujarat has informed that they have taken up the matter with respect to the area of Kori Creek, as the said area falls under the Border Security Force sheltered area.

**Time-bound Scheme to Meet Coal Demand**

3435. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-bound scheme has been formulated by the Government with a fixed target to meet the demand of coal in the country with the coal produced indigenously; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The working Group on Coal & Lignite for formulation of XI Five Year Plan (2007-12) was constituted by the Planning Commission which assessed the all India demand of coal at 731.10 mts. at the end of terminal year of XI Five Year Plan i.e. 2011-12 and projected the all India coal production at 680.00 Mts. (Coal India Ltd.-520.50 mts., Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.-40.80 mts. and others-118.70 mts.). To augment coal production from 360.91 mts. CIL and 37.71-SCCL at the terminal year of Xth Five year Plan i.e. 2006-07 to 520.50 mts. and 40.80 mts. by the terminal year of XI Five Year Plan (2011-12), 119 and 22 new projects are to be taken up by the Coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. respectively during the XI Five year Plan.

Apart from the above, 182 coal blocks have been allotted to other PSU and Private Sector companies to enhance the coal production.

*[Translation]*

**Proposals under Central Road Fund**

3436. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the Tenth Five Year Plan more than 100 proposals from 6 States were sanctioned under the Central Road Fund vis-a-vis less than 10 proposals of 13 other States;

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

(c) whether any proposals from three Union Territories were sanctioned out of the said Fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to remove such disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) During the Tenth Five Year Plan more than 100 proposals in 6 States,

between 10 to 100 proposals in 16 states and less than 10 proposals only in 6 States were sanctioned under the Central Road Fund (CRF). Besides, 77 proposals in 5 Union territories were also sanctioned under CRF. The state/UTs-wise details is Annexed. The proposals under CRF are sanctioned subject to conformance to Ministry's guidelines, depending upon the utilization of funds and inter-se priority of works assigned to the proposals by the State Governments.

**Statement**

Rs. in Crore

*CRF Works Sanctioned During 10th Plan*

Sl.No.	Name of States/ Union Territory	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4
<b>I. More than 100 proposals</b>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	183	438.17
2.	Gujarat	370	437.96
3.	Karnataka	821	619.00
4.	Maharashtra	320	712.96
5.	Rajashtan	441	656.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	383	473.21
<b>II. Between 10 and 100 proposals</b>			
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	30	99.05
2.	Assam	49	127.88
3.	Bihar	21	113.45
4.	Chhattisgarh	22	111.70
5.	Haryana	32	210.00
6.	Himachal Pradesh	27	68.52
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	25	194.43
8.	Jharkhand	10	111.20
9.	Kerala	30	387.37
10.	Madhya Pradesh	98	389.90
11.	Meghalaya	11	30.37

1	2	3	4
12.	Orissa	31	125.94
13.	Punjab	30	146.73
14.	Uttar Pradesh	85	768.37
15.	Uttarakhand	51	88.67
16.	West Bengal	17	257.62

**III. Less than 10 proposals**

1.	Goa	4	12.73
2.	Manipur	7	21.54
3.	Mizoram	6	11.23
4.	Nagaland	8	23.84
5.	Sikkim	9	11.71
6.	Tripura	4	9.69

**UT's**

1.	Andaman and Nicobar	2	7.58
2.	Chandigarh	4	6.60
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	1.23
4.	Delhi	65	117.00
5.	Puducherry	3	6.72

[English]

**Capacity of Coal Exploration**

3437. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had asked the Coal India Ltd. to expand its capacity of coal exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand for coal is likely to be increased manifolds in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. CMDIL's existing exploratory drilling capacities of 2 lakh meters per annum is proposed to be doubled to 4 lakh meters per annum both through outsourcing and departmental procurement of high capacity drills.

(c) to (e) The coal demand is projected to increase from 474.18 million tonne in the terminal year 2006-07 of the Tenth Five Year plan to 731 million tonne in the terminal year 2011-12 of the Eleventh Five Year plan. This demand is proposed to be met through augmentation of domestic production and some imports. The coal production is planned to increase from 431 million tonne in 2006-07 to 680 million tonne in 2011-12.

#### Two Laning of NH

3438. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to handover the stretch of 20,000 kilometers of single lane National Highways for converting into two-lane to State Public Works Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the National Highways and the stretches of National Highways identified for the same;

(c) the manner in which the two-laning work is likely to be implemented and the agencies entrusted for executing the work; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose and the time-frame fixed for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Implementation of the proposal for converting 20,000 kilometers of existing single lane/intermediate lane National Highways to two lane National Highways with paved shoulders under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)-Phase-IV, has not been approved by the Government. As such, it is too early to indicate the details of stretches, implementing agency, fund allocation, time-frame for completion of the projects and other modalities.

#### Accidents in Coal Mines

3439. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining accidents have come down during last three years;

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

(c) whether the Coal India Limited and the subsidiaries, particularly Central Coalfields Limited (CIL) have declared 2008-09 as the zero-accident year;

(d) if so, the details thereof company-wise; and

(e) the efforts to be taken by Coalfield Companies of CIL to improve the Safety Performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Mining accidents have shown varying trends during last three years and details of mine accidents company-wise and year-wise during the said period are given below:

Company	Fatal Accidents			Fatalities			Serious Accidents			Serious Injuries		
	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007	2005	2006	2007
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	15	8	7	16	13	8	123	102	105	125	105	115
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	12	11	10	17	60	10	71	45	66	76	47	66
Central Coalfields Ltd.	8	4	7	22	4	8	24	19	16	24	19	16
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	3	4	5	3	5	5	18	15	10	19	15	10
Western Coalfields Ltd.	11	13	12	11	13	12	47	57	60	48	60	61
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	14	7	10	15	7	10	93	68	60	98	72	63
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	9	2	4	9	2	4	13	10	9	13	17	9
North Eastern Coalfields	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	2	1	0
Total: Coal India Ltd.	73	49	55	94	104	57	391	317	326	405	336	340

Note: Figures for 2006, 2007 are subject to reconciliation with DGMS.

(c) to (e) CIL and its subsidiary companies are making all out efforts to minimise the number of accidents. In addition to compliance with the status related to coal mine safety the following safety measures are being adopted by CIL and its subsidiary companies:-

1. CIL has established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to Safety.
2. Conducting Safety Audit in mines at regular intervals.
3. Risk Assessment & Management, as a tool for enhancement of safety, has been introduced and is being conducted in each subsidiary company of CIL.
4. Increased Workers participation through Pit Safety Committee, Bipartite & Tripartite Committee meeting.
5. Towards avoidance of accidents due to inundation the following measures are being taken:-
  - a. Taking the required preventive measures against danger of inundation after assessment of danger from underground and surface sources of water in each mine prior to every monsoon.
  - b. Conducting of check surveys by company's surveyors as well as crosschecking the same in same cases by external agencies like Indian School of Mines (ISM) and Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL).
6. Thrust on measures for reduction of roof and side fall accidents in belowground mines are being continued by
  - a. Drawing use of Support Plans based on Rock Mass Rating (RMR) and implementation of same.
  - b. Greater use of Roof Bolting/Stitching methods of roof support by quick setting cement capsules.
  - c. Introduction of mechanized drilling by roof bolting machines thereby improving quality of roof bolting as well as reducing exposure of roof-bolting crew to hazard of roof fall.

d. Introduction of Resin grouted roof bolts in watery seams.

e. Training and re-training of Support Personnel and Supervisors.

f. Reducing exposure of workmen by increasing mechanization of operations in underground mines through the use of Side Discharge Loaders (SDL)/Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs), powered Support Long wall (PSLW) & Continuous Miners.

7. Measures for reduction of accidents in Opencast mines are being pursued through

a. Implementation of various Codes of Practices for cooperation and maintenance of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) for Drilling and Blasting, for transmission, distribution supply and use of electricity, for deployment of Contractor's workers for working in heights etc, traffic rules, checking of contractor's vehicles/equipment by company's engineers.

b. Training of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery operators and contractor's workers.

8. Thrust is being maintained on preparedness for emergencies through:-

a. Reviewing Emergency Action Plans for each and every working district in underground mines.

b. Demarcating escape routes on plans, as well as in working areas belowground.

c. Conducting mock rehearsals and monitoring failure points for further improvement.

d. Enhancement of safety awareness through publicity and propaganda, safety drives, safety weeks etc.

#### **National Highway Projects in the North Eastern Region**

3440. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the National Highways projects undertaken/to be undertaken for implementation under the

Eleventh Five Year Plan and during 2008-09 to improve connectivity in the North Eastern Region, State-wise;

Rs. in crore

(b) the allocation of funds made therefor under the Plan and the funds utilized under the Tenth Plan;

(c) the details of the by-passes constructed/proposed to be constructed connecting various National Highways in the region under the Tenth Five Year Plan, particularly in Assam; and

(d) the time frame fixed for each project of double laning, four laning and construction of by-passes, State-wise?

State	Amount of sanctions accorded during 2007-08	Amount of works listed for sanctions during 2008-09
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	30.00
Assam	112.12	292.00
Manipur	37.97	99.00
Meghalaya	43.87	264.00
Mizoram	21.95	119.50
Nagaland	47.08	50.50

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Execution of National Highway works in North Eastern Region (NER) is carried out by Border Roads Organisation, National Highways Authority of India and State Public Works Departments (PWDs). Border Roads Organisation is executing NH works in Sikkim and Tripura fully and in other States partly against lump sum amount allocated by the Ministry each year. National Highways Authority of India is executing the special programmes for which Annual Plan is not drawn. PWDs of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland are also engaged to execute NH works in these States on the basis of sanctions accorded by the Ministry in successive annual plans. Eleventh Plan for development of national highways is yet to be finalised by the Government. The amount of works for development of National Highways approved by the Ministry during 2007-08 (1st year of eleventh plan) and the amount of works included in the list of works prepared by Ministry for sanctions during 2008-09 in respect of the above-mentioned 6 States to be executed by 6 PWDs is given below:-

(b) The expenditure incurred on development of National Highways in NER during 10th Plan is Rs. 2383.93 crore. In addition expenditure on development of National Highways have also been incurred on Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East (SARDP-NE). The expenditure under SARDP-NE during 2006-07 is Rs. 91.65 crore. The budget of 2008-09 is yet to be passed by the Parliament.

(c) Four lane Guwahati bypass was completed during 10th Plan. Karimganj Nagaon, Daboka, Lanka, Lumding, Maibang, Udharband, Mahour, Baihata and Agartala bypass are under construction and bypasses of Dibrugarh, Tinsukhiya, Makum, Dum Duma, Rupai, Digboi, Margreita, Ledo and North-Lakhimpur in Assam and Shillong, Jowai and Tura bypasses in Meghalaya and Dimapur and Kohima bypasses in Nagaland and Gangtok bypass in Sikkim are in Planning and Survey & Investigation stage.

(d) Timeframe for works of double laning, 4-laning and construction of bypasses approved during 2007-08 is enclosed as statement. Since sanctions for double laning, 4 laning and construction of bypasses during 2008-09 are yet to be accorded, it is too early to indicate the timeframe for each project.

#### Statement

##### *List of works for double laning, four laning and bypasses approved under Annual Plan during 2007-08*

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of work	Time frame
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	NIL	Not applicable
2.	Assam	(i) Widening of existing intermediate lane of NH-37 from km 563/0 to 571/0 to double lane in (8 km)	March, 2010

1	2	3	4
3.	Manipur	(i) Widening to 4-lane from km 323.330 to 326.660 of NH-39	March, 2010
4.	Meghalaya	(i) Widening of single lane to two lane from km 21/870-43/00 of NH-51	March, 2010
5.	Mizoram	NIL	Not applicable
6.	Nagaland	(i) Widening to 2-lane with geometric improvement from km 17.00 to 23.00 of NH-61	March, 2010
		(ii) Widening to 2-lane with geometric improvement from km 33.00 to 40.00 of NH-61	March, 2010.

### Deaths of Indians in Foreign Countries

3441. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information relating to the accidents, deaths, injuries and suicides involving Indians working abroad has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years covering information relating to transportation of dead bodies and payment of compensation, etc; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

### Pending Proposals Under CRF from Madhya Pradesh

3442. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for upgradation of roads in Shivpuri, Rajgarh, Dewas and Betul districts of Madhya Pradesh from the Central Road Funds are pending with the Union Government.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

### By-Passes Connecting National Highways

3443. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of by pass projects connecting different National Highways completed during the Tenth Plan in the country, particularly in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the details of the on-going by pass projects, State-wise;

(c) the time-frame fixed for completion of on-going projects;

(d) whether Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for construction

of by passes, particularly from State Government of Madhya Pradesh for by pass on NH-7 at Seoni Town;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of bypass projects connecting different in the enclosed statement I. National Highways completed during the Tenth Plan in the Plan in the country are given. Four number of bypass projects have been completed in the State of Rajasthan and no bypass project has been completed in the state of Madhya Pradesh during the Tenth Plan.

(b) and (c) The State-wise details of the on-going bypass projects are given in the enclosed statement II.

(d) to (f) No proposal for construction of bypass has been received from any State Government. However, bypass to Seoni town in a length of 13 km is being constructed as part of four laning project from km 596.750 to 653.225 of NH 7 on BOT (Annuity) basis. The four laning project including the Seoni bypass is scheduled to be completed by May 2010.

### **Statement I**

#### *Bypasses Completed During Tenth Plan Period (2002-07)*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	NH No.	No. of Bypasses constructed during 10th Plan Period
1.	Andhra Pradesh	214	2
		5	1
2.	Assam	37	2
3.	Goa	4A	2
4.	Gujarat	8	1
5.	Karnataka	4	2
6.	Maharashtra	204	1
		6	1
7.	Punjab	15	1
		1	1
8.	Rajasthan	64	1
		8	1
		79	2
9.	Tamil Nadu	46	1
		7	2
10.	Uttar Pradesh	26	1
		28	2
		24	2

### **Statement II**

#### *Details of On-going Bypass Projects*

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	NH No.	Detail of by-pass	Status	Target date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	219	Madanapalle By-Pass	In Progress	Dec. 2009
2.	Assam	44	Karimganj Bypass	In Progress	Dec. 2009
		37	Nagaon Bypass	In Progress	June, 2009
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A	Banihal Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2009
		1A	Sopor Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2010
		1A	Woyil Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1A	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion)	In Progress	Sept, 2008
		1A	Srinagar Bypass (Bridge Portion)	In Progress	Dec. 2008
		1A	Jammu Bypass	In Progress	Dec. 2008
		1D	Kargil Bypass	In Progress	Dec. 2012
		44	Agartala Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2010
		44	Karimganj Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2009
4.	Karnataka	4	Chitradurga Bypass	In Progress	Oct-2008
		4	Tumkur Bypass	In Progress	Dec-2008
5.	Kerala		Calicut Bypass Ph. IV	In Progress	March, 2009
			Alapuzha By-pass Ph. II	In Progress	March, 2009
			Calicut Bypass Ph. II	Yet to be awarded	March, 2011
6.	Madhya Pradesh	75,3	Gwalior Bypass	In Progress	Oct, 2009
		26	Sagar Bypass	In Progress	June, 2009
		25,76	Shivpuri Bypass	In Progress	June, 2008
7.	Maharashtra	6	Akola By-pass	In Progress	March, 2009
8.	Punjab	64	Patiala Bypass	In Progress	Dec. 2010
		15	Batala Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2009
9.	Rajasthan	11A Ext.	Dausar By-pass	Road work completed, ROB in tender stage	March, 2010
		65	Jodhpur Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2009
		76	Kota Bypass	In Progress	June, 2009
		76,79	Chittorgarh Bypass	In Progress	Sept, 2008
10.	Tamil Nadu	7	Madurai Bypass	In Progress	Oct, 2008
		45,4 & 5	Chennai Bypass Phase II	In Progress	Oct, 2008
		45-B	Trichy Bypass	In Progress	March, 2009
11.	Tripura	44	Agartala Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2010
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2	Etawah Bypass (Balance work)	In Progress	June, 2008
		2	Allahabad Bypass Contract I (Bridge)	In Progress	May, 2008
		2	Allahabad Bypass Contract II	In Progress	June, 2008

1	2	3	4	5	6
		2	Alibabad Bypass Contract II	In Progress	June, 2008
		2,3	Agra Bypass	In Progress	Oct, 2010
		28	Gorakhpur Bypass	In Progress	June, 2009
		56A&B	Lucknow Bypass	In Progress	June, 2008
		25	Jhansi Bypass	In Progress	April, 2009
13.	Uttarakhand	58	Rudra Prayag Bypass	In Progress	Dec, 2020
14.	West Bengal	34	Dalkola Bypass	In Progress	Aug, 2008

### Leasing of Forest Land for Coal Mining

3444. SHRI BHAILAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to lease forest land to coal companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of such lease;

(c) whether coal companies are adhering to these prescribed terms and conditions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) After getting clearances from Ministry of Environment & Forests, forest land is leased out to the coal companies by the Government.

(b) Government of India accords diversion of forest land on lease for coal mining subject to the fulfillment of the following broad conditions in general.

(i) The compensatory afforestation shall be raised over degraded forest land double in extent the forest land being diverted. The user agency shall transfer the cost of compensatory afforestation to the State Forest Department.

(ii) The user agency shall create, fence and maintain a safety zone around the mining area. The user

agency would deposit fund with the forest department for creation, protection and regeneration of safety zone area and would have to bear the cost of afforestation over one and half time of the safety zone area in degraded forest elsewhere.

(iii) Legal status of forest shall remain unchanged.

(iv) The State Government would charge Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest area diverted from the user agency as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the guidelines issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(v) Subsidence analysis report to be obtained by the user agency.

(vi) The permission granted under Forest Conservation Act shall be coterminous with the mining lease granted under Forest Conservation Act shall be coterminous with the mining lease granted under MMRD Act or any other relevant Act or for 20 years, whichever is less.

(c) Yes, Sir.

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

*[Translation]*

### Scheme for Training of Youth in Villages

3445. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to formulate any scheme for imparting training to youths in villages as volunteers to secure rights for children as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated March 31, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States where Gram Panchayats are likely to be covered in the first phase of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is closely interacting with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) with regard to the role which might be played by Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in respect of the care and protection of children and monitoring the implementation of Child Rights. At National Consultation organized in New Delhi on 10th-11th March, 2008 jointly by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and NCPCR, the opportunity was given to representatives of PRIs, NGOs and officials from other Ministries to share their experiences with regard to child Rights. As a follow up of this Consultation, a module is proposed to be developed to be used for training PRI representatives as part of their general training programme.

[English]

#### Sports Complexes in Southern Region

3446. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of various sports complexes with the central assistance in the Southern Region, especially in Karnataka as on January 31, 2008;

(b) the funds allocated and expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the target fixed for completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c) Till 31.3.2005 the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the state Governments for creation of sports facilities, sports complexes in the Southern Region including in Karnataka. But w.e.f. 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure schemes were transferred to the state sector and only committed liabilities were being considered upto 31.3.2007 as per the relaxation given by the Planning Commission. No funds has been allocated during 2007-08 under the erstwhile sports infrastructure Schemes. The details of State-wise release of funds for creation of sports facilities including sports complexes under the erstwhile scheme of "Grants for Creation sports Infrastructure" during the Xth five year plan is enclosed as statement.

#### Statement

*State wise details of Central assistance released under the Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure from 2002-03 to 2006-07 (As on 31.3.2007)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Amount released	No. of projects								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.74	1	484.52	14	123.75	7	45.00	1	84.82	6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	156.44	6	191.00	5	27.00	1	71.00	1	480.00	5
3.	Assam	73.50	3	17	2	188.09	8	7.00	1	183.00	4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
5.	Delhi	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
6.	Goa	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
7.	Gujarat	0.00	0	0	0	85.00	2	0.00	0	45.00	1
8.	Haryana	1.20	1	40.17	2	118.13	16	32.80	4	47.8085	6
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.61	3	100.21	8	118.63	10	0.00	0	93.135	8
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.02	5	26.82	18	22.50	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
11.	Karnataka	82.20	14	58.7	8	101.3	9	0.00	0	42.60	2
12.	Kerala	0.124	1	13.01	4	1.50	1	0.00	0	8.44	2
13.	Madhya pradesh	62.40	4	152.27	13	115.40	6	18.00	1	219.265	11
14.	Maharashtra	165.00	7	238.43	13	169.04	9	45.08	2	419.23	10
15.	Manipur	62.50	5	0	0	22.50	3	0.00	0	92.838	6
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	100.11	5	234.55	5	0.00	0	0.00	0
17.	Mizoram	57.75	11	136.32	21	30.00	1	59.59	1	0.00	0
18.	Nagaland	184.00	8	962.46	21	115.98	12	45.00	1	1041.01	9
19.	Orissa	15.50	2	0.05	1	0.75	1	0.00	0	10.75	2
20.	Punjab	10.00	1	45.00	1	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
21.	Rajasthan	10.71	2	25.00	2	8.72	1	23.00	1	46.293	3
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
23.	Tamilnadu	97.011	8	170.36	22	81.154	13	50.52	2	195.2	9
24.	Tripura	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	16.29	1	46.49	3	69.23	6	83.00	4	68.015	6
26.	West Bengal	28.00	2	20.07	15	49.70	4	0.00	0	0.00	0
27.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	78.50	4	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
28.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	30.00	1	0.00	0	0.00	0
29.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	94.80	5	0.00	0	0.00	0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
34.	Pondicherry	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>1057.99</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>2906.98</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>1787.99</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>480.00</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3077.4025</b>	<b>90</b>

**Enforcement of Environmental Laws**

3447. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some eminent environmentalists have expressed their concern over the poor enforcement of various environmental laws in the country including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of the same alongwith the extent of their implementation/enforcement;

(c) the date on which the last review of environmental laws prevalent in the country was undertaken;

(d) the strategy adopted by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strictly implement the existing environmental laws in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Parliament has enacted several environmental statutes for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources. The umbrella legislation for protection of environment is the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, various rules/notifications have been issued. The review of the statutes/rules is undertaken by this Ministry in consultation with various stakeholders from time to time depending on the experience gained in the course of implementation of the statutes/rules; like the Environment Impact Assessment notification was initially framed in January, 1994 and was last amended on 14th September, 2006. The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 were framed in November, 2000 and were subsequently amended in October, 2002. The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules were framed in 1998 and were amended in the year 2000 & 2003. These statutes/rules are being enforced through the State Governments/Central/State Pollution Control Boards and also other authorities constituted under the other statutes. The Central/State Pollution Control Boards periodically hold meetings to assess the implementation of the environmental laws.

**Opening of Borders for Rail and Road Transports**

3448. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to open more border routes to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a passenger train will be permitted to enter into Pakistan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A number of measures have been taken to enhance people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan as also to promote bilateral trade since the beginning of the Composite Dialogue process in June 2004. Multiple bus services have commenced as also two train services during this period. Crossing over of trucks of either country up to designated points on the other side at Wagah-Attari border is operational since October 2007.

*[Translation]*

**Studies by NASA/ISRO**

3449. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NASA has carried out any study on the sediment of an erstwhile river from Shivalik Hills to Gujarat via Rajasthan on the basis of pictures taken by them;

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

(c) whether ISRO has also carried out any such study; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the further steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. ISRO is not aware of any study conducted by NASA on

the sediments of an erstwhile river from Shivalik Hills to Gujarat via Rajasthan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) ISRO has carried out studies, using data from Indian satellites, to map the old river courses/palaeo-drainage networks in the sand covered Thar Desert region in North-Western parts of India. The studies have indicated the possibility of a major river having had its course through the river Ghaggar in the past. This channel also appears to have flown parallel to the river Indus closer to the North-Western Indian border, and finally joining the Rann of Kachchh.

*[English]*

#### **Shortage of Trained Pharmacists/Chemists**

3450. SHRI RAMESH DUBE:  
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of trained pharmacists/chemists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) At present there are approximately 6.5 lakhs pharmacists are registered with Pharmacy Council of India and approximately 52000 pharmacists per annum are being produced by the pharmacy institutions within the country. Records of chemists are not maintained centrally and are maintained by the respective State Licensing Authorities.

#### **Upgradation of Crew Training Institute, Chandabali**

3451. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Orissa for the

development and upgradation of Crew Training Institute, Chandabali;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Achievements of the Indian Institute of Forest Management at Bhopal**

3452. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

The contribution and achievements of the Indian Institute of Forest Management at Bhopal for the last three years in terms of its research, training and consultancy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Sir, During the past three years, the Indian Institute of Forest Management has conducted 183 training programmes and workshops in the field of Joint Forest Management, Sustainable NTFP Management, Eco-tourism, Sustainable Forest Management, Bio-fuel and Energy Management Policy and Institutional Framework and Biodiversity Conservation and published 207 research papers/reports, book reviews and technical notes in the field of Forest Certification, Joint Forest Management, Protected Area Management, Climate Change Man Animal Conflicts and Natural Resource Accounting and also done 26 consultancy on forest related subjects.

#### **Women Suffering from Fibroids**

3453. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Indian women have suffering from fibroids as reported in 'The Asian Age' dated February 18, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government does not maintain details of women suffering from fibroids. However, adequate facilities are available for treatment of fibroids in public and private hospitals.

*[Translation]*

**Reduced PG Seats in Medical Colleges  
in Madhya Pradesh**

3454. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Council of India (MCI) has reduced the number of P.G. Seats in medical colleges situated in Madhya Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Medical Council of India (MCI) has not recommended to the Central Government reduction in number of PG Seats in medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh. However, MCI has recommended to Central Government to initiate action under Section 19 of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 for withdrawal of recognition/stoppage of admission in PG courses in following medical colleges in Madhya Pradesh where teaching faculty, infrastructure and clinical material etc, are not as per MCI norms;

1. S.S. Medical College, Rewa,
2. Netaji Subhas Chander Bose Medical College, Jabalpur,
3. Raja Gajra Medical College, Gwalior
4. Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal
5. MGM Medical College, Indore

**Maternity and Child Health Schemes**

3455. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes implemented/being implemented for maternity and child health by the Government; and

(b) the details of the funds earmarked and the expenditure incurred so far alongwith the names of the agencies implementing the scheme for the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Maternity and child health schemes are being implemented under Reproductive and Child health Programme Phase II within the umbrella of National Rural health Mission (NRHM), launched by the Government of India in the year 2005. The scheme seeks to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Maternal and Child Health services particularly to rural population throughout the country, with a special focus on 18 States with weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure. The interventions being implemented under this programme are as follows:

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a cash benefit scheme to promote Institutional Delivery with a special focus on Below Poverty Line (BPL) and SC/ST pregnant women;
- Appointment of an Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village to facilitate accessing of health care services by the community including pregnant women;
- Operationalising Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRUs) and 50% of all Primary Health Centers for providing 24x7 services.
- Augmenting the availability of skilled manpower by means of different skill-based trainings such as for providing Skilled Attendance at Birth.
- Training of MBBS Doctors in Life Saving Anesthetic Skills and Emergency Obstetric Care including Caesarian Section;
- Integrated management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI);
- Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC);
- Promotion of breastfeeding and complementary feeding;
- Control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections (ARI); and
- Control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases;
- Supplementation with micronutrients: Vitamin-A & Iron.

- Organizing Village Health & Nutrition Day at Anganwadi Centers.
  - Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)
  - Strengthening of Health Facilities such as Sub Centres (SCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) by providing them with united funds to improve service delivery.
  - Setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samitis (Hospital Management Committees) at District Hospitals, CHCs/FRUs and PHCs.
- (b) Funds under the RCH Flexible Pool are released to the States/UTs through State Health Societies for implementing the scheme under RCH-II. State wise details of the funds earmarked and the expenditure incurred are given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement****NRHM FINANCE DIVISION****Release & Expenditure under RCH Flexible Pool for the year 2005-06 to 2007-08**

Rs. In crores

S.N.	States	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		Total	
		Release	Exp	Release	Exp	Release	Exp	Release	Exp
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>A. High Focus States</b>									
1.	Bihar	29.38	2.40	113.14	27.48	0.00	43.73	142.52	73.61
2.	Chattisgarh	27.48	25.29	43.96	36.00	35.76	10.44	107.18	71.73
3.	Himachal Pradesh	5.01	0.41	6.18	2.71	6.64	4.48	17.83	7.60
4.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.05	1.43	10.53	5.22	9.12	7.29	25.69	13.94
5.	Jharkhand	40.60	5.28	21.41	12.95	22.16	11.76	84.17	29.99
6.	Madhya Pradesh	66.20	26.29	114.35	108.20	230.65	101.82	411.20	236.32
7.	Orissa	40.50	21.11	60.01	37.23	108.85	62.86	209.36	121.20
8.	Rajasthan	40.01	19.31	105.22	76.18	157.07	103.77	302.30	199.26
9.	Uttar Pradesh	169.73	26.21	156.00	87.12	192.72	119.71	518.45	233.04
10.	Uttarakhand	7.46	3.98	12.91	6.52	12.97	8.74	33.34	19.25
	Sub Total	432.37	131.73	643.71	399.61	775.94	474.60	1852.02	1005.94
<b>B. NE State</b>									
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.35	4.24	6.74	7.50	12.08	3.97	26.17	15.71
12.	Assam	64.92	2.48	55.76	66.11	166.95	90.00	287.63	158.59
13.	Manipur	7.43	1.43	4.32	4.69	14.25	3.80	26.00	9.90
14.	Meghalaya	4.50	0.50	6.12	3.57	9.96	2.88	20.58	6.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
15.	Mizoram	11.82	3.82	1.44	8.43	7.53	4.86	20.79	17.11
16.	Nagaland	6.61	1.64	3.73	5.06	7.87	2.91	18.21	9.61
17.	Sikkim	1.00	0.72	2.18	1.61	3.31	2.28	6.49	4.61
18.	Tripura	6.00	0.31	7.69	4.36	14.34	4.62	28.03	9.30
	Sub Total	109.63	15.13	87.98	101.34	236.29	115.33	433.89	231.80
C. Non-High Focus States									
19.	Andhra Pradesh	58.85	32.91	134.39	108.12	141.34	92.23	334.58	233.26
20.	Goa	1.06	0.07	0.46	0.56	0.32	0.13	1.83	0.76
21.	Gujarat	33.83	7.42	49.35	51.64	67.01	22.87	150.19	81.93
22.	Haryana	11.43	8.34	30.13	20.94	27.75	10.44	69.31	39.72
23.	Karnataka	28.80	13.75	73.20	41.21	42.62	25.41	144.62	80.37
24.	Kerala	21.44	2.07	31.20	3.17	41.97	32.19	94.60	37.43
25.	Maharashtra	52.81	13.76	119.25	40.53	186.21	51.56	358.26	105.85
26.	Punjab	17.42	5.02	23.72	11.17	13.89	9.60	55.03	25.79
27.	Tamil Nadu	61.39	13.01	74.80	62.42	103.05	40.40	239.24	115.82
28.	West Bengal	59.83	3.99	65.82	59.61	71.10	45.59	196.75	109.20
	Sub Total	346.84	100.34	602.30	399.37	695.26	330.42	1644.40	830.13
D. Small States/UTs									
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.45	0.15	0.48	0.44	0.40	0.24	1.33	0.83
30.	Chandigarh	0.74	0.32	0.82	0.29	0.42	0.44	1.98	1.05
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.35	0.12	0.48	0.25	0.17	0.28	1.00	0.65
32.	Daman	0.23	0.10	0.59	0.21	0.00	0.14	0.82	0.46
33.	Delhi	7.27	1.94	13.38	4.97	6.19	7.61	26.84	14.52
34.	Lakshadweep	0.12	0.07	0.58	0.17	0.01	0.10	0.71	0.35
35.	Puduchery	0.87	0.28	1.38	1.10	1.26	0.94	3.51	2.32
	Others				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Sub Total	10.01	2.99	17.71	7.43	8.45	9.76	36.17	20.18
	Grand Total	898.84	250.19	1351.70	907.75	1715.94	930.11	3966.48	2088.05

For the F. Y. 2007-08 release is as on date. Expenditure is up to 31/12/2007. Funds under the RCH Flexible Pool are released to the States/UTs through State Health Societies for implementing the scheme under RCH-II.

#### **Committee on PNDT Act**

3456. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, constituted for implementation of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PNDT) Act has submitted any report of its activities;

(b) if so, the major findings of the report; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The 'National Inspection and Monitoring Committee' (NIMS), constituted in compliance of an assurance given to the hon'ble Supreme Court of India in WP (c) No. 301 of 2000—Centre for enquiry Indo Health & Allied These (CEHAT) & Ors. Vs. UOI & Ors., for ascertaining proper implementation of the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, periodically undertakes Inspection Visits to different States/UTs in the Country to inspect the Genetic Clinics/Laboratories, etc., and hold discussions with the authorities entrusted with the responsibility for implementation of the Act, i.e. the State/UT Appropriate Authorities and the District Appropriate Authorities. The violations of the provisions of the Act and deficiencies in the implementation of thereof, if any, observed during the visit, are conveyed to the concerned State/UT Appropriate Authorities with the advice to take appropriate action against the violators and/or rectify the deficiencies, where called for.

During 2006-2008, the NIMC, visited the following States and UTs: Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, UP, Rajasthan, Orissa, Karnataka, Kerala, H.P. and Punjab.

#### **Environmental Clearance to Tapkara Herpetology Centre**

3457. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for opening Tapkara Herpetology Centre in Jashpur forest division of Chhattisgarh has been received by the Union Government from the State Government of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal has been cleared by the Union Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) Chhattisgarh Forest Department has submitted a proposal for the establishment of an "Awareness Centre for Snakes" at Tapkara. Since, the proposal was not in conformity with the existing Schemes, state government has been requested to submit a proposal for in situ conservation of herpeto fauna.

*[English]*

#### **Opening of New Consulate by India**

3458. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has opened a new Consulate in Guangzhou in China recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During the visit of President Hu Jintao of China to India in November 2006, it was agreed that in order to sustain, facilitate and promote greater engagement between the two countries, an additional Consulate General shall be opened in each other's country. In pursuance of this decision, the Consulate General of India in Guangzhou has commenced functioning in March 2008.

#### **III-Effects of Alcohol Consumption**

3459. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of alcohol is ruining the health of millions of young people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government is cognizant of the fact that consumption of alcohol in excessive amounts can lead to social, economic and health related problems. A study conducted by NIMHANS for WHO published in the year 2006 shows that nearly 30% of adult men and less than 5% of women consume alcohol giving a male to female ratio of 6:1. Alcohol use is higher in poor communities. The average age of initiation has reduced from 28 years during the 80s to 20 years in recent years.

(c) The policy with regard to sale and distribution of alcohol is within the purview of the State Governments. Therefore, the efforts made to contain the damage done by alcoholism vary from state to state. Apart from this, clinical care, building awareness, counseling and rehabilitation is made available through de-addiction centres and counseling centres run/funded by the Government.

[*Translation*]

#### **Development of Forests**

3460. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: )

(a) whether the Union Government had started or proposed to start the development of forest villages instead of cutting the forests for the residential and industrial purposes;

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

(c) the details of progress made so far under the above scheme, particularly in Maharashtra, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The scheme of Development of Forests Villages is being implement by Ministry of Tribal Affairs under Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). It was launched in 2005-06 as one of the thrust areas of Tribal Development during 10th Five Year Plan. For providing basic minimum facilities and services like food, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads and other infrastructure facilities; etc., the Government provided for Rs. 450.00 crore in the 10th Five Year Plan as a one-time measure. This fund was provided for the development of forest villages identified in 12 States of the country.

(b) and (c) A statement showing State-wise proposals received and approved for forest Villages and funds released is enclosed. In the case of Maharashtra there are no forest villages.

#### **Statement**

##### *Development of Forest Villages under SCA to TSP : Status of Implementation*

31.03.2008  
(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Total No. of Forest Villages	No. of villages for which projects approved	Total fund released so far
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	499	475	5876.42
2.	Chhattisgarh	425	422	9554.37
3.	Gujarat	199	199	4007.00
4.	Jharkhand	24	24	303.58

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Meghalya	23	23	390.71
6.	Madhya Pradesh	893	867	19492.07
7.	Mizoram	85	85	1710.00
8.	Orissa	20	20	290.80
9.	Tripura	62	62	930.00
10.	Uttarakhad	61	41	566.96
11.	Uttar pradesh	13	0	0.00
12.	West Bengal	170	170	2803.00
Total		2474	2388	45924.71

[English]

#### Ban on Sale of Tobacco Products

3461. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco products are still being sold to persons less than 18 years of age despite a ban on such sale; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Section 6 of "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" Tobacco Control Act, prohibits sale of cigarette and other tobacco products of a person below the age of 18 years. States Government are mainly responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08. The proposed national programme broadly includes.

1. Capacity building of the States in the effective implement of the tobacco control act, 2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District level monitoring cells.

2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;

3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the Government Schools.

4. Mass media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs.

5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

The pilot phase of the programme has been launched in 18 districts of 9 States.

#### Spurious Drugs Manufactured in India

3462. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a study conducted by the WHO, India produces 35% of the spurious drugs in the world and such drugs are being sold in the country at cheaper rate; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Drugs Controller

General (India) has informed that enquiries made with WHO has revealed that no such study has been conducted by WHO in this regard.

*[Translation]*

#### **Construction Work on Forest Land**

3463. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several polluting industries have been given special permission to carry out the construction work in the Forest Land even after the enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the names of such companies State-wise;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government from the State of Gujarat on behalf of the companies operating in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (e) The information is being collected from the respective State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House after compilation of the same.

#### **Withdrawal of Cases by CBI from Courts**

3464. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

(a) the number of cases for which CBI has proposed for their withdrawal from the courts; and

(b) the reasons for withdrawing such cases from the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) During the years 2005 to 2007 the CBI moved the Court for withdrawal of two cases in accordance with the provisions under Section 321 of the Cr. P.C. One case

was withdrawn as the accused had been absconding since registration of the case in 1978 and his whereabouts could not be ascertained in spite of all efforts. Another case was withdrawn in view of the lack of adequate evidence to establish criminal conspiracy and malafide intention.

*[English]*

#### **Contract Workers in NLC**

3465. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the contract workers of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) are resorting to strike quite often;

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

(c) whether production in the NLC units have been affected and the losses incurred as a result thereof;

(d) whether the contract workers have been demanding regularization of their service since long; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) The workers employed by contractors of NLC went on strike from the first shift on 29.03.2008 to the night shift of 05.04.2008 in response to strike call given by the NLC Jeeva Oppantha Thozhilalar Sangam (AITUC). The strike was for the following demands as stated by the union in their strike notice:

(i) The Contract Workmen engaged by the contractors in NLC have to be regularized as permanent employees on Seniority Basis on par with the Indcoserve Howsicos Society in accordance with the orders of the Court.

(ii) In accordance with the letter by the Assistance Labour Commissioner (Central) Chennai during 2002, contractors have to pay one month's wages as bonus to the Contract workmen and since then contractors have not paid this. NLC as a principal employer should pay the bonus.

- (iii) NLC Jeeva Oppantha Thozhilalar Sangam (AITUC) should be recognised by NLC, since they have majority of the contract workmen as members and conducted two strikes independently and successfully.
- (iv) The contract workmen should be given free treatment at NLC General Hospital. The contract workmen, who are involved in industrial accidents, should be given free treatment by NLC, and the expenditure incurred may be recovered from respective contractors.
- (v) The contract workmen shall be paid equal wages at par with the regular workmen of NLC.
- (vi) The contract workmen should be paid 20% of the wages as House Rent Allowance or they should be provided house facility.
- (vii) The contract workmen should be paid Rs. 500/- month as conveyance allowance.
- (viii) The provident fund accounts of contract workmen, which is now being handled by the Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Trichy, should be transferred and maintained by the NLC Employees Provident Fund Trust.
- (ix) Contract workmen should be given three sets of uniform and one rain coat every year.
- (c) As reported by NLC, during the above strike period, there was no production loss.
- (d) Yes, Sir. Regularization of their service in the company was one of their demands.
- (e) The workers employed by contractors are not directly engaged by NLC. All contracts are work contracts for a specific period mostly in civil (earth) works and cleaning works. While all statutory provisions are being implemented for payment of wages, provident fund and other benefits, there is no obligation on the part of the principal employer to regularise the services of contract workmen. Moreover, there is no requirement of additional manpower in NLC, as there is already surplus manpower due to closure of Chemical units.

*[Translation]*

#### Utilisation of Funds by CGHS

3466. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds allocated under the Tenth Five Year Plan have not been properly utilised by the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS); and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The funds allocated during the 10th Five Year Plan for CGHS have been fully utilized. Actual expenditure, including NER, against an allocation of Rs. 117.05 crore was Rs. 122.63 crore.

*[English]*

#### Health Schemes for Tribal Women

3467. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:  
SHRI HARISHCANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for improving the health condition of Tribal Women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request for financial assistance from the State Government of Kerala in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and under its umbrella, the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme Phase II, launched by the Government of India in the year 2005, seeks to improve the availability and access to quality health care particularly to vulnerable groups including the Tribal population throughout the country. This Mission has as its focus, 18 States with weak public health indicators and weak infrastructure.

The RCH Programme aims to reduce Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal

Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country, Under the programme, flexibility is provided to the states to devise need based Programme implementation Plan (PIP), inter-alia to (i) address the unmet need for contraception; (ii) Promote Skilled Care at birth; (iii) increase coverage of immunization; (iv) introduce integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (v) enhance availability of facilities for institutional deliveries and emergency obstetric care; (vi) provide skilled care to pregnant women at the community level; (vii) improve coverage ante-natal and postnatal care and (viii) address other related reproductive, maternal and child health care needs of their respective populace.

Further, a scheme to provide Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations is also available for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the country. Under this scheme, grant-in-aid is given for maintenance of the projects of 10-Bedded Hospital and Mobile Dispensary for the benefit of tribals, including tribal women.

(c) to (e) The State Government of Kerala sought budgetary support for Tribal Health under NRHM through their Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) for the year 2008-09, which is under finalization. As per the PIP, budgetary support has been sought in the following areas:

S.No.	Activity	No. of Camps	Total (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Tribal Medical Camps (TMU)	270	5.40
2.	Medical Camp PHC/CHC	197	5.91
3.	Special Medical Camps	80	8.80
4.	Adolescent Health Education Classes	463	2.315
Total			22.425

In addition, the State also sought financial assistance of Rs. 52.96 lakhs for implementation of Sickle Cell Anemia Project and Rs. 151.805 lakhs for the development of Ambedkar Memorial Tribal Hospital as Community Health Centre for tribal population & Education, Training, Research and Treatment centre for chronic and incurable diseases in the District of Wayanad.

#### Gadhuli-Santalpur Road

3468. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI BHUPENDRA SINGH SOLANKI:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted by the State Government of Gujarat for construction/improvement of Gadhuli-Santalpur road; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. The Gadhuli-Santalpur road is not a National Highway. However, Road and Building Department, Government of Gujarat had forwarded a proposal amounting to Rs. 127.16 crore for its construction/improvement to the Government. The matter is under consideration with the Government.

#### Setting up of Autonomous Body for Pharmaceuticals

3469. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a single and central licensing autonomous body for pharmaceuticals on the lines of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Bill, namely, the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2007 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2007 to, inter alia, set up a Central Drug Authority of India with a view to upgrade the national regulatory of India with a view to upgrade the national regulatory system for drugs and cosmetics and introduce centralized licensing for manufacture of drugs.

#### **India's Concern Over Pak Contract to Chinese Firms**

3470. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India has expressed concern over Pakistan's willingness to grant hydro-electric power projects to Chinese firms;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in view of its national interest?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### **Gender Testing Kits**

3471. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether gender identification kits are available for sale in the country by US based company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A news report in the Hindustan Times dated 23.11.2007 indicated that Gender Testing Kits from the U.S. and Canada were available in certain up-markets of Punjab for Rs. 15 to 20 thousand and that certain Genetic Centres were importing/purchasing such kits online in response to the web ads of such kits and selling them to their clients.

The Customs Wing and the Department of Revenue were requested on 29.11.2007 and 5.1.2007 respectively to examine the possibility of intercepting such Gender Determination Kits when imported into the Country under the Customs Act, 1961 and furnish details of the Importers of such kits to facilitate Government to take appropriate action against them under the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

In response to the above request of the Health Ministry, the Customs Department suitably alerted their field formations not to release the imported Gender Testing Kits and to take appropriate action under the Customs Act, 1961, vide the Finance Ministry's reply to Unstarred Question No. 531, dated 4.3.2008.

The Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC), by way of their input to a Court Case, have indicated that as per the reports received from their major Port Customs, no import of goods described as sex determination (gender testing) kits had been noticed during the last three years. Further, having regard to certain difficulties encountered by them in intercepting such kits, CBEC have made certain suggestions for consideration of this Ministry in order to facilitate them to intercept the Gender Testing Kits when imported into the Country, vide their letter dated 1.4.2008. It is proposed to request the Directorate-General of Health Services to examine the above suggestions of the CBEC and furnish their comments thereon on priority basis.

#### **State Support Centres**

3472. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up State Support Centres (SSCs) for Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;

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

(c) whether computerisation of these Centres have also been initiated; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal in Ministry of

Panchayati Raj to set up State Support Centres (SSCs) for Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country;

(c) and (d) Do not arise;

*[Translation]*

**Transport Development Council**

3473. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO  
GAWALI:  
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meetings of Inland Water Transport Development Council are being held regularly;

(b) if so, the details of such meetings held during the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Inland Water Development Council was set up in 2001. Since then, only two meetings of the Council have been held. The 1st Meeting was held on 25.08.2001 and the 2nd Meeting was held on 18.10.2002. No further meetings of the Council could be held thereafter because the Council required reconstitution owing to expiry of tenure of its expert Members.

*[English]*

**Tri-Nation Gas Pipeline**

3474. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal pertaining to tri-nation gas pipeline was discussed between India and Iran during the visit of the India Foreign Secretary to Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the Project?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) During the Foreign Secretary's visit to Iran in December 2007, the Iranian Government was informed that India remains committed to gas pipeline and other projects which are financially viable and in which security of supply is assured. Issues relating to gas pipelines will be discussed with the new government in Pakistan in the near future.

**Indian Missions Abroad**

3475. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Missions functioning abroad;

(b) the details of funds allocated and utilized by these missions during the last three years, year-wise and mission-wise;

(c) whether any mechanism has been put in place to evaluate their performance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India has resident Missions in 116 countries and also has 5 Special Missions.

(b) Details of funds allocated and utilised by all these missions during the last three years, year-wise and mission-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Yes. Mission's performance is constantly evaluated by considering various parameters including progress in bilateral relations, budget of the Mission, consular and visa services, bilateral trade and economic relations, etc. Evaluation of the periodic reports sent by the Missions is done by the Ministry against the political objectives. Additionally, regular returns on consular functions and the internal administration of the Chancery are evaluated by the relevant functioning divisions of the Ministry. Moreover, regular inspections of the Missions are carried out by senior officers of the Ministry periodically to review their functioning. In addition, statutory inspection of Missions' accounts is also undertaken by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Principal Chief Controller of Accounts of MEA at regular intervals to ensure that they are functioning in conformity with prescribed procedures and delegated financial powers.

**Statement**

*Details of funds Allocated and Utilized by the Indian Missions during the Last Three Years, Year-wise and Mission-wise*

(In Rs. Thousands)

S.No.	Missions	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
		Funds Allocated	Actual Utilization	Funds Allocated	Actual Utilization	Funds Allocated	Actual Utilization
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	El Abidjan	25262	25072	25604	16350	27556	26731
2.	HCI Abuja/L.O. Lagos	41147	43349	73945	73304	63748	62700
3.	El Abu Dhabi	73100	72097	76193	74714	77216	76946
4.	HCI Accra	37650	38026	39735	38433	39715	39647
5.	El Addis Ababa	28435	27845	32237	31841	33481	33323
6.	El Almaty/Astana	45774	45816	48526	47428	47463	47253
7.	El Algiers	31773	31415	36853	35368	43539	42529
8.	El Amman	13329	11972	14856	14779	15818	15531
9.	El Ankara	57871	57797	50700	48989	55464	55017
10.	El Antananarivo	19072	18981	25460	25352	23901	23071
11.	El Ashgabat	31929	30219	34534	34130	32608	32129
12.	El Athens	33075	32772	32538	31977	37436	37280
13.	El Baghdad	20221	19316	21364	14444	16701	21549
14.	El Bahrain	42430	42390	44095	39881	48748	45983
15.	El Baku	19964	19638	20166	19644	34511	34000
16.	El Bangkok	66834	66909	67807	66965	75471	74385
17.	El Beijing	140886	136741	147800	145155	145802	145532
18.	El Beirut	43102	43040	44000	43915	42110	41935
19.	El Belgrade	22356	23063	22860	22608	22392	21687
20.	El Berlin	124433	124482	131926	135737	148029	147233
21.	El Berne	78909	77955	79324	76501	75879	75799
22.	El Bishkek	36376	30798	28710	28878	35681	35295

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	El Bogota	34959	34224	39523	38432	40407	38995
24.	El Brasilia	46423	46064	48537	48977	68444	67121
25.	El Bratislava	39781	37549	35419	34661	39986	39595
26.	El Brussels	107136	105630	101373	97875	103120	103109
27.	HCL Brunei	28444	28826	29728	31188	33384	29668
28.	El Bucharest	34789	34902	36947	36635	39000	38975
29.	El Budapest	34546	33076	36349	36413	37911	37511
30.	El Buenos Aires	37264	37033	40331	38311	41339	40664
31.	El Cairo	63153	62841	61210	60390	64183	65607
32.	HCL Canberra	50300	49734	62732	62604	69718	68536
33.	El Caracas	53991	50908	45220	44944	43152	42069
34.	HCI Colombo	106544	104228	114344	115102	122805	123233
35.	El Copenhagen	45531	45708	46474	46250	43865	43762
36.	El Dakar	26373	24808	30631	30426	26985	25552
37.	El Damascus	47182	45763	41837	41757	48793	48425
38.	HCI Dar-es-salam	35962	35806	38676	38490	38886	39076
39.	HCI Dhaka	143893	142193	142612	135419	152623	150659
40.	El Doha	53238	52435	57680	57800	63895	64078
41.	El Dublin	39260	39119	39901	37780	40321	40312
42.	El Dushanbe	32292	33207	32063	30334	38181	41101
43.	HCI Gaborone	30048	23146	21241	21685	26399	27046
44.	PMI Geneva	138669	143645	145025	161347	147752	148325
45.	CD Wing Geneva	41447	46549	45340	48712	49015	48443
46.	WTO Wing, Geneva	105900	110188	115300	107995	102318	84472
47.	HCI Georgetown	32073	30688	33681	33013	31295	31537
48.	El The Hague	80214	78850	86722	86001	99926	91276
49.	El Hanoi	48440	48386	48771	47831	53430	53388
50.	HCI Harare	30832	30574	27564	27241	39058	35632
51.	El Havana	36669	34686	36941	37344	37566	38149

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
52.	El Helsinki	35144	34914	42485	45797	50057	50121
53.	HCI Islamabad	123396	123335	133432	134341	160398	134342
54.	El Jakarta	54172	53472	52454	51603	57094	56922
55.	El Kabul	80829	53770	88929	86522	104770	102969
56.	HCI Kampala	21566	21463	26609	23628	30282	30674
57.	El Kathmandu	118872	115048	129070	122929	129655	123794
58.	El Khartoum	26010	19712	25741	23036	23480	23801
59.	El Kyiv	48781	48753	48341	48178	52924	52024
60.	HCI Kingston	29157	27706	33425	33173	32384	32098
61.	HCI Kuala Lumpur	54648	54624	56687	56781	70996	71042
62.	El Kuwait	91564	92089	91940	90903	93283	92398
63.	El Lima	25165	24629	26126	26158	26344	27531
64.	El Lisbon	40392	40484	39500	40392	43604	43666
65.	HCI London	395760	396893	407900	406682	447600	452247
66.	El Luanda	31447	31447	34802	34048	37586	35151
67.	HCI Lusaka	28420	28336	30400	26856	28668	27651
68.	El Madrid	60065	63293	64076	69957	84585	85302
69.	HCI Maha/Victoria	26563	26723	28484	24044	28649	17100
70.	HCI Male	37645	37508	45004	39971	45212	44385
71.	El Manila	27659	27100	33261	32618	33577	33194
72.	HCI Maputo	29274	28972	26763	23290	27924	27766
73.	El Mexico City	39355	42733	39341	39319	43338	41611
74.	El Minsk	23632	23112	27098	26062	27369	29552
75.	El Moscow	143598	144073	154272	147075	177144	174370
76.	El Muscat	71986	66463	68920	63840	69154	66923
77.	HCI Nairobi	43555	43525	44430	49774	55115	53384
78.	PMI New York	182183	180396	220855	220282	207373	199952
79.	HCI Nicosia	27390	26672	27516	27684	27498	27423
80.	El Oslo	43842	43495	44244	45068	43657	43139

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
81.	HCI Ottawa	72581	72456	65027	66918	84012	83914
82.	El Panama	38015	34553	41117	41127	38389	37958
83.	El Paramaribo	27258	25956	29062	27969	32178	31005
84.	El Paris	207986	217536	209191	207564	217976	220736
85.	PDI Paris	30700	28375	43600	25240	35390	28996
86.	El Phnom Penh	43331	37112	35678	33768	35559	33875
87.	HCI Port Louis	45225	41460	44711	43744	45621	44954
88.	HCI Port Moresby	22390	22510	18437	18314	24837	24646
89.	HCI Port of Spain	45378	43101	43591	43191	39780	39694
90.	El Prague	58534	57839	59348	59348	63244	61363
91.	HCI Pretoria	69384	65288	66400	63530	63259	62827
92.	El Pyongyang	16698	16784	17316	17611	17194	16899
93.	El Rabat	31029	30453	27026	25262	35337	35037
94.	El Riyadh	112450	112401	110793	108169	113672	111656
95.	El Rome	123071	116612	106925	97434	119610	123845
96.	El Sana'a	22052	20051	19278	19140	22433	22235
97.	El Santiago	34987	32116	31134	31133	37922	37834
98.	El Seoul	64850	63057	65281	65439	69116	69488
99.	HCI Singapore	83992	84363	82747	82299	91730	89426
100.	El Sofia	23323	23156	26109	25743	26572	26229
101.	El Stockholm	62238	62004	64278	62888	70819	70223
102.	HCI Suva	34433	33943	35462	36215	38612	34244
103.	El Tashkent	40738	40165	42676	43315	49012	48878
104.	El Tehran	69995	69953	72954	72335	67004	66556
105.	El Tel Aviv	86869	86259	87381	86740	93871	93746
106.	El Thimpu	45708	45707	46061	45316	51605	51406
107.	El Tokyo	132340	128756	120668	120751	115751	114782
108.	El Tripoli	36451	29865	35019	29160	36442	36809
109.	El Tunis	15937	15420	20477	20920	18706	18901

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
110.	El Ulan Bator	19965	20194	21223	21071	19226	19875
111.	El Vienna	109998	107851	107900	100020	108085	101471
112.	El Vientiane	22460	21676	20992	21072	21189	20170
113.	El Warsaw	46677	43989	49556	46502	46016	45811
114.	El Washington	296150	287225	342700	317336	352925	345861
115.	HCI Wellington	32353	31599	33001	32191	40192	40561
116.	HCI Windhoek	26076	25486	31038	28185	28845	28717
117.	El Yangon	44371	44323	43097	41118	41563	41443
118.	El Yerevan	24418	23867	25361	25700	29743	29538
119.	El Zagreb	37237	37056	36653	36427	43362	42915
120.	El Kinshasa	*	*	*	*	32072	22697
121.	El Ljubljana	*	*	*	*	5623	1692
<b>Total</b>		<b>6958999</b>	<b>6831918</b>	<b>7210790</b>	<b>7051566</b>	<b>7669440</b>	<b>7521116</b>

\*- Office not operational during the period

El Embassy of India

HCI High Commission of India

PMI/PDI Permanent Mission/Delegation of India.

### Slow Progress in Detecting TB Cases

3476. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:  
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has found India's slow progress in detecting tuberculosis (TB) cases in its recent report on Global Tuberculosis Control as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March, 19, 2008;

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

(c) whether tuberculosis still remain the largest single cause for deaths in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons died from tuberculosis during the last two years, year-wise;

(e) whether a large number of persons are unaware that they suffer from tuberculosis and are spreading the disease among healthy individuals; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per WHO report, there has been progress globally towards TB control targets including in India. The report carried data pertaining to year 2006. Though the absolute number of cases detected and initiated on treatment have shown an increase, however, the rate of this increase has been slower than previous year. In 2006, India detected 66% of the estimated new infectious cases, in 2007, 70% of such cases have been

detected thus achieving the global target to case detection. This 2007 data will be reported to WHO in the year 2008 and will be carried in the WHO global report 2009.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Tuberculosis is not the single largest cause of death in India.

(e) and (f) Studies on accessibility and utilization of RNTCP services and KAP studies (Knowledge, Attitude, Practices) indicate that awareness level has increased among people.

Advocacy, Communication, Social Mobilization (ACSM) is an important component of the programme focusing on awareness generation, patient counseling and motivation for patients to complete treatment under supervision. These activities have been decentralized and communication material has been developed and also available at RNTCP website for adaptation in the field. Media campaigns at the national level are undertaken with the support of Prasar Bharti and other channels to create awareness about the services. Designated persons have been provided in the states and districts to undertake communication and social mobilization activities in the field.

The program also involves NGOs and other civil society organization and private health care providers to reach out to larger section of society. RNTCP is also involving community based organizations, Self Help Groups (SHGs) to provide services nearest to the patient's home, and also for ensuring compliance and treatment completion.

#### **Free Health Insurance Scheme for Slum Dwellers**

3477. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating free health insurance for slum dwellers across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions for identifying slum dwellers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health Insurance for the identified

urban slum population is one of the components of the National Urban health Mission, which is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Construction of Jetties at Diamond Harbour**

3478. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to construct five jetties at Diamond Harbour of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds likely to be spent on these jetties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A High Power Committee (HPC) constituted by the Department of Shipping to study various aspects of containerization in Kolkata Dock System and Haldia Dock System to improve container traffic in these two dock systems had recommended the development of container handling facilities at Diamond Harbour in Kolkata Port. A consultant has been appointed for preparation of the feasibility report. The report will, inter alia, indicate the potential traffic, evacuation facilities, capacity of stack yards, the number of jetties to be constructed for container handling and the estimated cost of the project.

#### **Setting up of Organ Banks**

3479. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up 10 organ-banks in the country as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March, 11, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the locations for setting up of such organ-banks in the country;

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

(e) the time by which such banks are likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Organ Retrieval Banking Organisation (ORBO) a national facility and nodal centre for the country is already operational at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. A network of 15 hospitals (Government, Public and Charitable) with ORB has been formed for smooth functioning and coordination for process of Organ Donation and Transplantation in Delhi.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Extinction of Species of Birds and Animals**

3480. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, several species of fauna and flora particularly vulture, etc. are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, species of birds and animals-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save these species of fauna and flora from extinction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in their Red Data list (2007) has reported that a total of 560 species of animals & plants are threatened in India. Out of these, a total of 313 species including vultures, etc. are animals, while 247 are plant species. Amongst the animals, the number of reported threatened species in India is as follows:

(i) Mammals: 89

(ii) Birds: 75

(iii) Reptiles: 25

(iv) Amphibians: 63

(v) Fishes: 39

(vi) Molluscs: 2

(vii) Other Invertebrates: 20

The main reasons for the decline in the number of faunal and floral species is loss of habitats of these species. The other reasons include anthropogenic pressures, incorporation of poisonous substances in the food chain due to intensive agriculture, horticulture, dairying, etc.

(c) The Steps taken by the Government to protect these species are as follows:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants including Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Wild Buffalo, Tibetan Antelope, Marine turtles, Corals, etc, against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(iii) Protected Areas, viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries 'Project Tiger', and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

(v) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

- (vi) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (vii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.

*[English]*

**Development of Roads and Ports  
for Moving Foodgrains**

3481. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the godown facilities in India are very meager compared to countries such as Russia, China, United States, Brazil and Australia as reported in the 'Hindu' dated 19th February 2008;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to develop roads and ports to move foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to increase goods handling capacities of ports from 600 million metric tonnes to 1500 million metric tonnes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the house in due course.

**Killing of Leopard and Tiger in Van Vihar  
National Park**

3482. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a leopard and a tiger have been killed in Van Vihar National Park at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken against those responsible; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save wild animals in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) As reported by the State Government, no leopard or tiger has been killed in Van Vihar National Park, Bhopal during last three years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The steps taken by Government to prevent extinction of tigers and other species in the country are as follows:

(i) National Parks and Sanctuaries have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife and their habitat.

(ii) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals, including Tiger, Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Wild Buffalo, Tibetan Antelope, Marine turtles, Corals, etc. against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent. The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

(iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', Project Tiger and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wild animals;

(v) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

(vi) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

(vii) A multidisciplinary Tiger Conservation Authority has been constituted with effect from 04.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by inter alia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management and preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan etc.

- (viii) The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation.

#### **Fake Bank Guarantees**

3483. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALLIAS SADHU YADAV:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has issued an advisory to all Government Departments to verify all bank guarantees submitted by contractors or suppliers as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 9, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the contractors or suppliers in number of cases submitted forged and fake bank guarantees to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of such cases came to the notice of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against each contractor/supplier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has issued an advisory to all CVCs of Ministries/Departments for streamlining the system of acceptance of bank guarantees with a view to eliminating the possibility of acceptance of any fake guarantees in its circular No. 1/1/08 dated 31.12.2007.

(c) to (e) 9 cases regarding submission of fake bank guarantee by the contractors have been brought to the notice of the Commission. Of these, 5 relate to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), 2 to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and 1 each to Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Bank of India. In the 5 cases of NHAI, FIRs have been lodged with the Delhi Police. The NHAI has also terminated the contracts of the concerned contractors and has also blacklisted them. Two cases of the FCI have been sent by the Commission to the concerned

organization for investigation and report. In one case of the DDA, the Commission has advised disciplinary action against 26 officials. In the case of the Bank of India, the CBI has recommended launching of prosecution against identified officials of the Bank.

#### **Coal-Based Power Plant in Orissa**

3484. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation proposes to set up a coal-based pithead power plant in Orissa in joint venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of power to be generated by this plant; and

(d) how far would this help to be bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) do not propose to set up a coal-based pithead power plant in Orissa in Joint Venture. However, there is a proposal to set up a 2000 MW coal based power plant, on its own by NLC, in Orissa.

(b) For the proposed coal-based power plant, a site near Rengali in District Samabhaipur, Orissa has been identified in consultation with Govt. of Orissa.

(c) The amount of power that would be generated by this plant is as under:

Annual Gross generation at 80% PLF	: 14,016 MU
Annual Net generation	: 12,965 MU

(d) As per the tentative allocation of power from this project by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the State of Orissa would get 10% (200 MW) share. This would help to bridge the gap between demand and supply to that extent.

#### **Assessment of National Reproductive Health Programme**

3485. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the national Strategy for Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual health Under the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) programme which commenced in the year 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details the guidelines fixed for implementation of the said programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Since the launch of Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual health strategy, implementation has been reviewed twice a year during Joint Review Missions under RCH-II Programme. During such reviews, States report the progress made so far in implementing the Strategy. Following the National launch, Regional Planning meetings have been organized with groups of States and implementation guidelines have been prepared and disseminated to the States. Based on these discussions, the States have included the Plan of Implementation of ARSH Strategy in their respective State Implementation Plans.

Appropriate Training Manuals under the ARSH Strategy have been developed and disseminated to States. National level training of Medical Officers and trainers have been organized and support has been provided for, State level training. Training Manuals for Lady Health Visitor/Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wife has also been translated into local languages and used in training them.

#### **Multi-Drug Resistant-TB Patients**

3486. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drugs commonly used to treat tuberculosis have failed to cure an estimated 70,000 Indian annually as reported in '*The Times of India*' dated March 24, 2008;

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

(c) whether the number of Multi Drug Resistant (MDR)-TB patients have increased in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to combat the Multi-Drug Resistant-TB (MDR-TB); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. Studies conducted nationally and internationally have shown that the drugs used for treatment of TB are nearly 100% effective if administered in appropriate combination and doses for the prescribed duration to drug susceptible patients. The programme experience has shown that it is not the failure of the drugs per se but the failure to take the treatment which results in unfavourable outcomes. The failure rate amongst patients registered for treatment under RNTCP has consistently been ~2% for new cases and ~5% for re-treatment cases.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Drug resistance surveillance studies undertaken in the past by premier institutes like TRC, Chennai and NTI Bangalore and the state level studies undertaken in Gujarat and Maharashtra recently have shown that the prevalence of multi-drug resistant TB has not increased over the past several years and is estimated to be ~3% in new cases and 12-17% in re-treatment cases. The ongoing drug resistance surveillance undertaken by TRC in its study area has actually shown a decrease in the prevalence of MDR TB.

(e) Yes Sir. Despite the low prevalence, the programme is viewing the threat posed by the potential emergence of the drug resistant TB to TB control seriously and develop a multi faceted strategy to address this.

(f) The programme emphasizes on the prevention of MDR-TB through sustained high quality DOTS implementation by all health care providers in the public and private sector.

Effective management of MDR TB requires accurate diagnosis and follow up through culture and DST. The programme is in the process of establishing a network of accredited Culture and Drug Susceptibility testing Intermediate Reference Laboratories (IRL) across the country, at least one in each state, in a phased manner for diagnosis and follow up of MDR TB patients. The IRL at Gujarat and Maharashtra have been accredited recently.

Another 10 IRLs are under the accreditation process and are expected to be accredited in 2008. The remaining IRLs will be accredited in 2009-10. The diagnosed MDR cases will be treated as per the DOTS Plus guidelines developed by the programme, in line with the International recommendations. The treatment will be provided at the DOTS Plus sites at least one in each state, with qualified staff to manage the patients, and have a system to deliver ambulatory DOT after an initial short period of in-patient care. The DOTS Plus services have been rolled out in the states of Gujarat and Maharashtra in 2007. Remaining states will be covered under DOTS Plus by 2009-10.

#### **Rail Connectivity of Ports**

3487. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for rail connectivity of Bedi and Porbandar is under the consideration of the Union Government;

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

(c) the details of other rail-road connectivity of ports projects undertaken in the State for the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Proposals regarding rail connectivity of Bedi and Porbandar from State Government of Gujarat were received by the Ministry of Railways. In this connection the status of the said projects is as follows:-

#### **(i) Porbandar-Porbandar Port:**

A survey for construction of new line from Porbandar to Porbandar Port was completed during 1999-2000. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 10 km long new line had been assessed as Rs. 13.11 crore with a rate of return of (-) 3.55%. In view of heavy throw forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered and State Government has been advised that this being a small line Project could be taken up by the Port either itself or as a deposit work.

#### **(ii) Rail Link to Bedi port**

This is also a small link and is not viable from traffic consideration. Gujarat Maritime Board had got a study from M/S RITES. The work is to be a deposit work of the port.

(c) (1) As regard rail connectivity of ports, Ministry of Railways have taken up the following projects connected with Ports and hinterland in the State of Gujarat:

(i) Gandhidham Palanpur gauge conversion (313 kms)- completed and commissioned;

(ii) Bharuch-Smaj-Dahej gauge conversion (62 kms). The project is to be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle for which Shareholders Agreement has been signed. This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

(iii) Bhildi Samdari Gauge conversion (223 kms)- Work is in progress and targeted for completion during 2008-09. This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.

(iv) Apart from the above works, new line from Surat to Hazira is also proposed to be taken up through a Special Purpose Vehicle. This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. and the alignment of the line had earlier been decided. However, State Government have now desired for change of alignment.

(2) As regards to road connectivity to ports in the State of Gujarat, National Highways Authority of India under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III has undertaken the preparation of Detailed Project Reports for two projects viz Surat-Hazira Port (NH-6-29 Km) and Kandla Mundra Port (NH-8A Extension-73 Km).

#### **Payment of Property Tax By Indian Mission in USA**

3488. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a federal judge in New York has recently asked the Indian Government to pay several millions as property taxes and interest for the use of an Indian diplomatic building in Manhattan for non-official purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the US administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The District Court in New York has ruled in favour of New York City's position regarding payment of real estate taxes on portions of foreign government property that is not used exclusively for the purposes of maintaining offices or quarters for the principal resident representative or resident representative with the rank of Ambassador or Minister plenipotentiary, or offices for the staff of such representative. The amount in question stands at US dollars 41451769.35 (or Rs. 169.81 crores as on 17.03.2008).

(c) and (d) At Government's request, the US State Department in its intervention during the court case supported GOI's appeal in order to secure a favourable decision from the Courts of Appeal. We are in contact with the US State Department and with relevant entities within the UN system to find an acceptable solution.

#### Lignite Mining

3489. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantum of lignite mined during the last three years and proposed to be mined Location-wise, State-wise, during the current year;

(b) whether lignite mining lease is given/proposed to be given to the private sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the firms given mining lease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) The details of quantum of lignite mined during the last three years are as follows:

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Tamil Nadu	Rajasthan	Gujarat	Total
2005-06	20.435	0.687	8.944	30.07
2006-07	21.014	0.464	9.788	31.285
2007-08 (Provisional)	21.555	0.597	11.699	33.861

The details of the State-wise current production capacity is given below:

S.No.	State	Production capacity (Mill Tonnes per annum)
1.	Tamil Nadu	24.00
2.	Rajasthan	1.60
3.	Gujarat	9.45
Total		35.05

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of the Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, read with the Provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 mining lease for lignite can be granted to a private sector company engaged in specified end uses such as power generation, steel manufacturing, cement production, coal gasification and coal liquefaction, for their captive use only. The Central Government have given prior approval in respect of Kharsalia-I block allocated to M/s. Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Ltd. and Gurha East Lignite block allocated to M/s. Marudhar Power Private Ltd.

[Translation]

#### Budgetary Allocation for Infrastructure Development Projects

3490. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budgetary provisions made under the Tenth Plan for the development in various sectors viz. power generation, road construction, ports and civil aviation;

(b) whether funds released according to the aforesaid provisions;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the target achieved in power generation has been only half the target fixed under the Tenth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The details of Tenth Plan outlay for power, roads, ports and civil aviation sectors are as under:-

Sector	Outlay (Rs. crore)	Expenditure (Rs. crore)
Power	1,77,051	90,678
Roads	59,490	48,594
Ports	5,418	2,891
Civil Aviation	12,928	7,792

(e) and (f) During the Tenth Plan capacity addition of 21,080 MW was achieved as against target of 41,110 MW which is 51.28%. The reasons of not achieving targets in power generation include delay in super critical technology tie up by BHEL, delay in award of works, delay in financial closure, delay in environmental clearance, delay in preparation of draft project report and signing of MOU with State Government, etc.

*[English]*

**Environment Clearance to Projects for Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

3491. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for environmental clearance of the various projects;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As on date, two proposals for grant of Environmental Clearance as received from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are pending. The first proposal pertains to the extention of existing jetty, construction of vehicle ferry ramp, shore protection measures, etc. at Kamorta by Andaman Lakshdweep

Harbous Works. This proposal has recently been recommended by the concerned Expert Appraisal Committee for grant of Environmental Clearance under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006.

The second proposal pertains to the construction of Modern Sports Complex at Car Nicobar. Information was sought from the project proponent regarding pertinent matters such as the clearance from Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority. The clarifications have recently been received and the proposal will now be put up to the Expert Appraisal Committee for their consideration and recommendations.

**Handing Over the Hindustan Shipyard to Indian Navy**

3492. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to hand over the control of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) to Indian Navy for meeting its strategic requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a new Shipyard in lieu of HSL to cater to the demands of the Shipping Industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The issue of handing over the control of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL) to the Indian Navy came up before the Group of Ministers (GoM) while considering the proposal of Rehabilitation-cum-Financial Restructuring of HSL. The GoM has since made its recommendations in this regard which are being placed before the Competent Authority for approval.

**Over-Bridges on National Highways**

3493. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:  
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the over-bridges constructed and widened/proposed to be constructed and widened on the National Highways for the last three years, State-wise and Location-wise;

(b) the funds allocated and released for the construction of these bridges;

(c) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for construction of bridges;

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

(e) the status of the Bridges under construction/widening, Location-wise including Bridge at Suchindram along the NH-47?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Funds for Strengthening and Maintenance of NHs**

3494. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds spent out of the funds allocated for strengthening and maintenance of National Highways, State-wise;

(b) whether the unspent amount is carried forward and released in the next financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds carried forward and released in the next financial years, Year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Separate funds for Development (which includes strengthening) and Maintenance of National Highways (NHs) entrusted with the State Public Works Departments are allocated State-wise. However, no State-wise allocation of fund is made for NHs entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organization (BRO).

Details of fund allocated and expenditure incurred, State-wise, during 2007-08 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Statement**

Amount in Rs. Crore

Year

2007-08

State-wise details of the fund allocated and expenditure incurred for the development and maintenance of NHS entrusted with the State PWD during the year 2007-08.

S.No.	State	Development*		Maintenance	
		Allocation	Expenditure**	Allocation	Expenditure**
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	82.89	81.58	78.13	57.35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6.00	5.65	0.37	0.06
3.	Assam	87.76	83.94	41.62	27.04
4.	Bihar	92.20	90.19	29.90	7.87

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chandigarh	2.00	2.00	0.98	0.83
6.	Chattisgarh	40.45	37.97	27.19	20.79
7.	Delhi	9.00	8.30	0	0
8.	Goa	15.00	15.00	4.92	2.73
9.	Gujrat	65.17	65.16	40.27	32.18
10.	Haryana	81.25	81.24	18.13	16.83
11.	Himachal Pradesh	57.00	57.00	17.70	15.60
12.	Jharkhand	57.25	57.24	27.82	18.55
13.	Karnataka	106.83	106.28	59.45	45.15
14.	Kerala	50.50	49.39	27.30	22.13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	77.18	75.49	58.23	53.96
16.	Maharashtra	144.80	144.79	63.16	45.50
17.	Manipur	12.10	10.08	14.30	3.30
18.	Meghalaya	22.00	22.33	13.18	4.74
19.	Mizoram	15.00	15.00	7.24	2.38
20.	Nagaland	12.00	10.20	7.43	3.84
21.	Orissa	139.31	138.87	50.51	41.28
22.	Puduchhery	7.55	7.49	0.91	0.59
23.	Punjab	85.95	85.47	23.82	18.35
24.	Rajasthan	103.05	101.41	69.63	60.10
25.	Tamil Nadu	94.48	93.85	32.64	20.17
26.	Uttar pradesh	132.90	132.50	62.02	65.27
27.	Uttarakhand	38.99	38.98	19.10	15.41
28.	West Bengal	58.00	57.99	24.08	17.23
Sub Total		1695.41	1675.39	820.03	619.23

Funds allocated to NHAI and BRO and expenditure incurred for the development and maintenance of NHs entrusted with NHAI and BRO

NHAI	265.00	265.00	147.91	147.91
BRO	649.76	629.76	30.06	30.06

\*Includes funds for NH (O) and Permanent Bridge Fee Fund (PBFF)

\*\*Data Provisional pending adjustment

*[English]***Opening of CGHS Dispensaries**

3495. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open CGHS Dispensaries in various parts of the country, particularly in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Compensation for Land Acquired for Kaiga Atomic Power Plant**

3496. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a number of families whose lands have been acquired for the Kaiga Atomic Power Plant in Karnataka have not been paid compensation till today;

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

(c) whether the Government intends to clear all the compensation payments to the families whose lands has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The land for Kaiga Project was acquired through the Government of Karnataka and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has paid compensation, as demanded by the State Government, way back in the year 1988. Some families have appealed before the Civil Judge for enhanced compensation. The awards passed by the Civil Judge and corresponding demands from the State Government have also been settled by NPCIL.

However, some appeals are pending for disposal by the Civil Judge.

**Reservation Policy upto Entry Level**

3497. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the Government's consideration to curtail the reservation policy up to the entry level in jobs under the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Foreign Funds for Afforestation**

3498. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several international agencies provide funds through the Ministry to the State Governments and NGOs for planting more trees or bringing more areas under forest cover;

(b) if so, year-wise/agency-wise details of funds provided to Government as well as private agencies in Rajasthan during Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the utility and outcome of said funds provided for afforestation have got reviewed from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof in respect of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Japan Bank for International Cooperation is providing funds through the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to the State of Rajasthan for "Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project" which inter-alia aims at Afforestation activities in the State. The year-wise details of funds provided are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The review (performance Audit) of the above Project is on by the Principal Accountant General (Civil Audit), Jaipur.

**Statement**

*Year-wise details of reimbursement provided by Japan Bank for International Cooperation*

Sl.No.	Year	Funds (in Rs. Lacs)
1.	2003-04	2066.31
2.	2004-05	6745.22
3.	2005-06	7377.14
4.	2006-07	8064.78
Total		24253.45

*[English]*

**CGHS Facility in Karnataka**

3499. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries of CGHS in Karnataka;

(b) the details of the hospitals and the diagnostic centres recognized for treatment by Central Government for employees under CGHS in Bangalore;

(c) the details of the hospitals proposed to be recognized under the above scheme in Karnataka; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure all prescribed medicines are supplied to the patients on the same day various CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In December, 2007, there were 1,23,607 registered CGHS beneficiaries in Bangalore, Karnataka.

(b) Details have been furnished in the enclosed statement.

(c) CGHS cannot unilaterally empanel any private hospital/diagnostic centre. When a Hospital/diagnostic centre apply under the Scheme of empanelment, the same

is inspected by the Quality Council of India (QCI) and only on the basis of the recommendations of QCI, the CGHS empanels hospitals & diagnostic centres.

(d) Medicines are procured from Government Medical Stores by following a system of annual indent as per the CGHS formulary. Medicines which are not in stock but have been prescribed by a specialist/medical officer are procured by indenting for local purchase through an appointed Local Chemist and in case of emergency the patient is issued an authority slip to collect medicines directly from the Local Chemist.

**Statement**

*List of Private Hospitals and Diagnostic Centres Empanelled Under CGHS Bangalore*

**Hospitals:**

1. Church of South India Hospital, Post Bag No. 4, Hazrath Kambal Posh Road, Bangalore-560051
2. Hosmat Hospital, 45 Margrath Road, Off. Richmond Road, Bangalore 560025
3. K.R. Hospital, 979, 25th Main Road, BSK 1st Stage, 50 Feet Road, Hanumanthnagar, Bangalore 560050
4. Mallige Medical Centre, 31/32 Crescent Road, Bangalore 560001
5. Mallya Hospital, 2 Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore 560001
6. Narayana Hrudalaya, No: 258/A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 560099
7. P.D. Hinduja Sindhi Hospital, Sindhi Hospital Road, Sampangirarnagar, Bangalore 560027
8. Panacea Hospitals (P) Ltd., 334, 8th Main Road, III Stage, IV Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore 5600079
9. Sagar Apollo Hospital, 44/54, 30th Cross, Tilaknagar, Jayanagar Extension, Bangalore 560041
10. St. John's Medical College Hospital, John Nagar, Sarajpur, Bangalore 560034

11. St. Marathas Hospital, No. 5, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore 560001
12. The Bangalore Hospital, No: 202, Rashtriya Vidyalaya Road, Bangalore 560004
13. Shekhar Hospital, No: 81, Bull Temple Road, Bangalore 560019
14. Jain Dental centre, A 101, Brigade Majestic, 1st Main, Gandhinagar, Bangalore
15. Imperial Hospital & Research Centre Ltd., (a unit of Apollo Hospitals), 154/11 Opp. IIM, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore
16. Yellamma Dasappa Hospital, No: 25 Andree Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bangalore 560027
17. Sparsh Hospital, Sy. No. 29/P2, Narayana Health City, Hosur Road, Bommasandra, Bangalore 5600099
18. Wockhardt Hospital, No: 14, Cunnigham Road, Bangalore 560052
19. Bangalore West Lions Eye Hospital & Cornea Grafting Centre, 5 Lions Eye Hospital Road, (Off. J.C. Road), Bangalore 560002
20. Trinity Hospital & Heart Foundation, Near R.V. Teacher's College Circle, Basvangudi, Bangalore 560004

**Diagnostic Centres:**

Sl.No.	Name of Private Diagnostic Centres
1.	Medinova Diagnostic Services Ltd., No. 55, Infantry Road, Bangalore-01
2.	R.V. Diagnostic laboratory 21, 10th Cross, Yellappa Garden, Malleswaram, Bangalore-03
3.	Ragavs Diagnostic & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd., Sadguru COMplex, 4014, 27th Cross 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore 11

*[Translation]***Heart Disease Due to Consumption of Palm Oil**

3500. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumption of 'palm oil' causes heart disease in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of patients suffering from such disease during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any research/survey in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to ICMR and AIIMS, several epidemiological studies have shown that consumption of saturated fatty acids raises LDL cholesterol, a well known risk factor for coronary artery disease. Palm oil has a high content of saturated fat which increases the risk of heart disease (Natural Heart Lung and Blood Institute and WHO).

(c) and (d) The data relating to the number of patients suffering from such disease during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise is not available. However, according to the assessment of Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, 2006 published by ICMR, there were about 1.86 crore cases Ischaemic Heart Disease in 1998 whereas this figure in 2004 was 2.23 crores.

(e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Endangered Species of Clouded Leopard**

3501. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Forest officials have seized five skins of endangered clouded leopard at Jaigaon on the Indo-Bhutan border as reported in the "Times of India" dated March 07,2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to prevent this illegal trading in the skin of endangered species;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (J) Yes, Sir. On 25.2.2008, officials of West Bengal Forest Department have seized five clouded leopard skins at Jaigaon in Jalpaiguri District. One person was arrested in this connection and is under trial in the court.

The steps taken by Government of India to prevent poaching and illegal trade in wildlife are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats including endangered species.
5. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.
6. India has bilateral arrangements with China and Nepal on combating wildlife crime.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to prevent poaching and illegal trade.

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.
5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.

### Modern Technology Arms to Forest Guards

3502. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether old and outdated arms have been provided to the Forest Guards in Kaziranga National Park to protect the park from poachers;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide modern technology arms to the Forest Guards to protect the parks from poachers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) The Forest Guards in Kaziranga National Park are allowed to use arms with non-prohibited bores and hence equipped with .315 rifles only. However, the Assam Forest Protection Force personnel and the Home Guards deployed therein are provided with 303 rifles.

(c) to (e) Based on the proposals received in the form of Annual Plan of Operations, Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to the State/UT Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes-Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant for various activities aimed at the conservation of wildlife including the procurement of arms and ammunition. Such proposals are processed by the Central Government subject to the availability of funds and fulfilment of necessary legal and procedural requirements.

### Genetic Variations in Human Beings

3503. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made towards involving sequencing of genomes of different people from around the world to create a detailed and medically useful picture of human genetic variation;

(b) names of Health Scientists involved alongwith the countries of their origin; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the news released on 22nd January, 2008 by the National Institute of Health (NIH), an International research consortium had announced the 1000 Genomes Project, involving sequencing the genomes of at least a thousand people from around the world to create the most detailed and medically useful picture to date of human genetic variation. The project is getting major support from the Wellcome Trust Sangor Institute in Hinxton, Engalnd, the Beiging Genomics Institute, Shenzhen (BGI Shenzhen) in China and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) India. The data so created will be made available to the world wide scientific Community through freely accessible public database. The detailed map of human genetic variation will be used by many researchers seeking to relate genetic variation to particular diseases. In turn, such research will lay the groundwork for the personal genomic era of medicine, in which people routinely will have their genomes sequenced to predict their individual risks of disease and response to drugs.

[*Translation*]

#### Removal of Corruption

3504. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the agencies which have been entrusted with the task of combating corruption in the country;

(b) whether these agencies have been able to check corruption in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete steps initiated by the Government to remove corruption from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are two agencies of the Central Government entrusted with the task of combating Corruption.

(b) and (c) As per the Annual Report of the CVC for the year 2006, the Commission, out of a total of 11,149 complaints disposed off 10,775 complaints during the year. Further, in the Disciplinary Proceedings initiated against officials, major penalty was awarded in 3362 cases and minor penalty was awarded in 5768 cases. The major penalty cases included dismissal/removal/compulsory retirement in 916 cases. In pursuance of the Commission's advice, the competent authorities in various organizations, issued sanction of prosecution against 150 public servants.

Out of 1070 regular cases investigated by the CBI during 2007, charge-sheets were filed in 851 cases in competent Courts. During the year, 674 cases were disposed off in trial out of which 426 cases resulted in conviction.

(d) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance" to corruption and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life. Several steps have been initiated to remove corruption and to improve functioning of Government. Important among these steps are:-

(a) Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;

(b) Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(c) Right to Information Act, 2005;

(d) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/ Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance.

Government organization are also constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Governance, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability.

#### Functioning of Medical and Dental Colleges

3505. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges in the country are not functioning as per the specified norms;

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

(c) the names of such colleges identified during the last three years, year-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Medical Colleges and Dental Colleges in India are functioning in accordance with the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Dentists (Amendment) Act, 1993 and Regulations made there under. The medical/Dental colleges which do not fulfill the minimum qualifying criteria prescribed in MCI/DCI Regulations are not granted permission for running MBBS/BDS courses. However, in certain cases, Central Government has granted permission with the reduced intake where the teaching, infrastructural and clinical facilities etc. are inadequate for the existing intake and where an assurance has been given by the State Government on the rectification of deficiencies. List indicating the name of such medical/dental colleges during the last three years is enclosed as statement I & II.

**Statement I**

*Name of medical colleges where Medical Council of India had given negative recommendations*

Sl.No.	Name of the medical college
1	2
1.	Christian Medical College, Dichipalli, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
3.	Vivekanand Institute of Medical Sciences, Valia, Gujarat
4.	Toothukudi Medical College, Toothkudi, Tamil Nadu
5.	Pt. B.D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak (from 115 to 150 seats)

1	2
6.	M.R. Medical College, Gulbaraga
7.	K.J. Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai
8.	MGM Medical College, Swangi, Wardha
9.	Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
10.	Coimbatore Medical College, Coimbatore
11.	Basaveshwara Medical College, Chitradurg
12.	MVJ Medical College, Bangalore
13.	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Gantok, Sikkim

*Name of medical colleges where permission was granted on the basis of assurance given by State Government on rectification of deficiencies*

Sl.No.	Name of the Medical College
1.	Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh
2.	Toothukudi Medical College, Toothukudi, Tamil Nadu
3.	Tirunelveli Medical College, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
4.	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Gantok, Sikkim
5.	Uttaranchal Forest Hospital Trust Medical College, Haldwani, Uttaranchal

**2006-07**

*Name of medical colleges where Medical Council of India had given negative recommendations*

Sl.No.	Name of the Medical College
1	2
1.	Christian Medical College, Dichipalli, Andhra Pradesh
2.	VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
3.	Vivekanand Institute of Medical Sciences, Valia, Gujarat

1	2
4.	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Gantok, Sikkim
5.	Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Karnataka
7.	K.J. Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai (from 50 to 100 seats)
8.	Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences, karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh
9.	PES Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh
10.	GSL Medical College, Rajamundry
11.	Dr. PSI Medical College Sciences Research Foundation, Chinoutpally, A.P.
12.	Sadan Institute of Medical Sciences, Perincherru, A.P.
13.	Bhaskar Medical College, Yenkapatty, A.P.
14.	Konaseema Institute of Medical Sciences, Amlapuram A.P.
15.	Baseveshwara Medical College, Chitradurga, A.P.

*Name of medical colleges where permission was granted on the basis of assurance given by State Government on rectification of deficiencies*

Sl.No.	Name of the medical college
2.	VMMC& Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
4.	Sikkim Manipal Institute of Medical Sciences, Gantok, Sikkim
5.	Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Karnataka

*Name of medical college where permission was granted with reduced intake on the recommendations of MCI*

Sl.No.	Name of the medical college
1	2
1.	Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences, Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh

1	2
2.	PES Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Dr. PSI Medical College Sciences Research Foundation, Chinoutpally, A.P.
4.	Sadan Institute of Medical Sciences, Perincherru, A.P.
5.	Bhaskar Medical College, Yenkapatty, A.P.
6.	Konaseema Institute of Medical Sciences, Amlapuram, A.,P.
7.	Shri Ram Murti Smarak Institute of Medical Sciences, Bareilly, U.P.

2007-08

*Name of medical colleges where Medical Council of India had given negative recommendation*

Sl.No.	Name of the Medical college
1	2
1.	Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shimoga, Karnataka
2.	Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka
3.	V.S.S. Medical College, Burla, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
4.	M.K.C.G. Medical College, Behrampur, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
5.	T.D. Medical College, Alappuzha, Kerala (from 100 to 150 seats)
7.	Christian Medical College, Dichipalli, A.P.
8.	Vivekanand Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Valia, Gujarat
9.	Kesar Sal Medical College & Research Institute, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
10.	Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya, Karnataka

1	2
11.	Theni Government Medical College, Theni, Tamil Nadu
12.	Government Vellore Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu
13.	Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Karnataka
14.	Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, Belgaum, Karnataka
15.	Government Medical College, NDMC, Jagdalpur
16.	Agartala Government Medical College, Agartala
17.	Tripura Medical College & BRAM Hospital, Agartala
18.	Kanyakumari Medical College, Asaripallam, Tamil Nadu
19.	Chhattisgarh Institute of medical Sciences, Bilaspur
20.	Sri Guru Ram Rai Medical College, Dehradun
21.	K.J. Somaiya Medical College, Mumbai. (from 50 to 100 seats)
22.	Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad (from 100 to 150 seats)
23.	SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
24.	Government Medical College, Kota (from 50 to 100 seats)
25.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur (from 60 to 100 seats)

*Name of Medical colleges where permission was granted on the basis of assurance given by State Government on rectification of deficiencies*

Sl.No.	Name of the medical college
1	2
1.	Shimoga Institute of Medical Sciences, Shimoga, Karnataka

1	2
2.	Raichur Institute of Medical Sciences, Raichur, Karnataka
3.	V.S.S. Medical College, Burla, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
4.	M.K.C.G. Medical College, Behrampur, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
5.	T.D. Medical College, Alappuzha, Kerala (from 100 to 150 seats)
6.	Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya, Karnataka
7.	Theni Government Medical College, Theni, Tamil Nadu
8.	Government Vellore Medical College, Vellore, Tamil Nadu
9.	Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Karnataka
10.	Belgaum Institute of Medical Sciences, Belgaum, Karnataka
11.	Government Medical College, NDMC, Jagadpur
12.	Agartala Government Medical College, Agartala
13.	Tripura Medical College & BRAM Hospital, Agartala
14.	Kanyakumari Medical College, Asaripallam, Tamil Nadu
15.	Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences, Bilaspur
16.	Sri Guru Ram Rai Medical College, Dehradun
17.	SCB Medical College, Cuttack, Orissa (from 107 to 150 seats)
18.	Government Medical College, Kota (from 50 to 100 seats)
19.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur (from 60 to 100 seats)

**Statement II****2005-06****I. Seats Reduced**

Sl.No.	College Name	Seats Reduced
1	2	3

NIL

**II. Permission not Granted**

Sl.No.	College Name	Seats
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1.	Lenora Institute of Dental Sciences, Rajamundry	60
<b>Bihar</b>		
2.	Sarjug Dental College, Laheria Sarai, Darbhanga Bihar	40
3.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Dental Sciences & Hospital, Patna	40
4.	Mithila Minority Dental College & Hospital, Loheriasarai, Darbhanga, Bihar	60
5.	Darbhanga Dental College, Darbhanga (Bihar)	40
6.	Dr. S.M. Naqui Imam Dental College & Hospital, Bahera (Bihar)	60
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
7.	Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences, Lucknow	100

**2006-07****I. Seat Reduced****Andhra Pradesh**

1.	Parineeya Mahavidyalaya Institute for Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Ranga Reddy Dist.	100 to 60
2.	Sree Sai Dental College & Research Institute, Srikakulam	100 to 60

**Maharashtra**

3.	Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Dental College, Navi Mumbai	100 to 60
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**Rajasthan**

4.	Eklavya Dental College & Hospital, Kotputli	100 to 60
5.	Jodhpur Dental College & General Hospital, Jodhpur	100 to 60

**II. Permission Not Granted**

Sl.No.	College Name
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
1.	Leonora Institute of Dental Sciences, Rajamundry
<b>Bihar</b>	
2.	Darbhanga Dental College, Darbhanga
3.	Dr. S.M. Naqui Imam Dental College & Hospital, Bahera
<b>Kerala</b>	
4.	Pariyaram Dental College, Academy of Medical Sciences, Kerala
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	
5.	Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences, Lucknow

2007-08

**I. Seats Reduced**

Sl.No.	College Name	Seats Reduced
1	2	3
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>		
1.	Rungta College of Dental Sciences & Research, Bilai	100 to 60
2.	New Horizon Dental College & Research Institute, Bilaspur	100 to 50
<b>Kerala</b>		
3.	Pariyaram Dental College	100 to 50
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
4.	Guru Gobind Singh College of Dental Science & Research Centre, Burhanpur	100 to 50
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
5.	Maharashtra Institute of Dental Sciences & Research, Latur	100 to 50
6.	Aditya Dental College, Beed	100 to 50
<b>Orissa</b>		
7.	Gandhi Dental College, Bhubneswar	60 to 50
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
8.	Jodhpur Dental College & General Hospital, Jodhpur	100 to 50
9.	NIMS Dental College, Jaipur	100 to 50

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu		
10.	Adhiparasakthi Dental College & Hospital	100 to 60
Uttar Pradesh		
11.	Purvanchal Institute of Dental Sciences, Gorakhpur	100 to 50

## II. Permission Not Granted

Sl.No.	College Name	Seats
Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Lenora Institue of Dental Sciences, Rajamundry	60
Chhattisgarh		
2.	Chhattisgarh Dental College & Hospital, Rajanadgaon	100
Tamil Nadu		
3.	Sofia Dental College, Chennai	50
Uttar Pradesh		
4.	Avadh Institute of Dental Sciences, Lucknow	100
5.	Kalka Dental College, Meerut	100

[*English*]

### Environmental Clearance to Industries in Orissa

3506. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has received the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report recommending environmental clearance to the industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the big companies like Posco, Vedanta and Mittal etc. have been made to submit Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study by any agency and sent to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Fourteen Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports were received by the State Pollution Control Board, Orissa during the last 2 years in respect of thermal power plants, integrated steel plants, captive minor port, beneficiation plants, aluminum smelter, oil exploratory activity etc.

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006, environmental clearance is mandatory for the project activities listed in schedule of the notification. M/S POSCO India Limited and Vedanta have submitted EIA reports for their projects to the Ministry for which environmental clearances have been accorded.

State Pollution Control Board of Orissa has advised M/S Mittal Industries to submit the EIA report. No EIA report has so far been submitted by M/s Mittal Industries.

*[Translation]*

**Implementation of Reservation Policy for SCs/STs**

3507. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the implementation of Reservation Policy is not being effectively executed in the Ministries/ Departments and Public Undertakings;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to fill up vacant posts in accordance with the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the Government has received any requests/memorandums from Hon. MPs in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government intends to introduce a Bill in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Reservation in services under the Government of India is being provided as per instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training from time to time. Central Public Sector Undertakings, Autonomous Bodies, etc. also follow these instructions mutatis mutandis.

(c) and (d) Some letters are received from the Members of Parliament from time to time, regarding reservation in services. The Government takes necessary action if any instance of non-implementation of reservation policy is brought to its notice.

(e) and (f) The Government has already introduced a Bill, namely the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes (Reservation in posts & Services) Bill, 2004 in the Rajya Sabha.

*[English]*

**Impact of Increased Representation of Women in PRI**

3508. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to assess the impact of increased representation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) A comprehensive survey of Elected Women Representatives (EWRs) of Panchayati Raj Institutions has been conducted involving a sample size of ten percent of all the women representatives in various States/UTs of the country. The scope of the survey includes several dimensions of representation of women in Panchayati Raj Institutions including the process of election, the political empowerment of the Elected Women Representatives over three round of elections (in most States), facts and figures on their re-election especially on reserved seats, progression of women to higher tiers of panchayats, the quality of their participation in the Panchayats and its impact in terms of development activities and service delivery, the status of Elected Women Representatives within the household, their skill up-gradation, the level of their confidence, the role of self help groups, women's organizations and other civil society organizations in strengthening the participation of Elected Women Representatives, the role of parallel bodies, e.g., user committees in local governance and their impact on the functioning of Elected Women Representatives, the success stories etc. The report of this survey is expected to be available in the last week of April, 2008.

*[Translation]*

**Free Treatment for Patients**

3509. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI HARISHING CHAVDA:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for treatment of the poor at a concessional rate in those private hospitals and nursing homes which have been allotted land at concessional rates by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such hospitals/nurshing homes and terms and conditions under which lands were allotted to them;

(c) whether these hospitals/nurshing homes are not complying with the terms and conditions under which lands were allotted to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the defaultry hospitals/nursing homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court in writ petition No. 2866/2002 titled as "Social Jurist Vs. Govt. of NCT of Delhi & Others, all the private hospitals to whom land has been allotted at concessional rates have been directed to comply the condition of free treatment to the extent of 25% OPD and 10% IPD.

In so far as Land and Development Office (L&DO), Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India, is concerned, land has been allotted to the following private hospitals:-

(a) Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

(b) Mool Chand Hospital

(c) Veeranwali International Hospital (Delhi Hospital Society)

(d) VIMHANS

(e) St. Stephens Hospitals

In addition, L&DO allotted additional land for expansion of Seth R.B. Seth Jessa Ram Hospital, though in the case of this hospital, the initial allotment of land was done by DDA.

An inspection committee headed by Principal Secretary Health, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has been constituted to monitor free treatment for poor patients to be provided by private hospitals who have been allotted land on concessional rates. The Committee inspects these hospitals and submit periodic reports to the Principal Secretary (Health) in this regard.

### Special Health Scheme for Senior Citizens

3510. SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a nation-wide campaign named 'Vridhajana Swasthaya Sanrakshan' under the Ayurvedic and the Siddha systems of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives and programmes under the Scheme;

(c) the details of the funds likely to be spent by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make this Scheme a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A National Campaign on Ayurveda and Siddha for Geriatric Health Care has been launched for mainstreaming of strengths of these Systems. The main objective of the Campaign is to sensitize the policy makers, and practitioners of various Systems of Medicine working at primary, secondary and tertiary health care and general public about Ayurveda and Siddha based Geriatric Health Care.

The following programmes and steps have been taken under the campaign:-

(i) a National Workshop having participants of policy makers, Ayurveda/Siddha/Allopathy experts, academicians, practitioners, researchers and NGOs. This Workshop has been held on 23-24 January, 2008.

(ii) dissemination of the messages across the country to mainstream the strength of Ayurveda/Siddha for Geriatric Health Care through State/District Campaigns.

(iii) State level Workshop by State Governments in association with Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha (CCRAS) as nodal body.

(iv) involvement of Ayurveda/Siddha colleges located in State capitals in the Campaign.

- (v) organization of District level workshops
- (vi) Re-orientation Training Programme (ROTP) and Continued Medical Education (CME) courses for Geriatric care through Ayurveda and Siddha.

An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs has been incurred for the purpose. Adequate funds have been earmarked to support the State Governments for organizing state and district level campaigns.

*[English]*

#### **Common Review Mission for NRHM**

3511. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU  
YADAV:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set a Common Review Mission (CRM) to review the implementation of the programmes launched under the National Rural Health Mission as reported in *Hindustan Times* dated March 12, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CRM has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the findings of the CRM Report; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the suggestions/recommendations made by the CRM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Common Review Mission (CRM) of NRHM was set up as part of the Mission Steering Group's mandate of review and concurrent evaluation. It conducted its appraisal in November 2007, 16 months after NRHM got final cabinet approval in July 2006 and the actual processes started up. The terms of reference set out the task of the NRHM CRM as, assessing the progress of the NRHM on 24 parameters, which relate to the core strategies and the central areas of concern. Based on these, the CRM was

mandated to identify the constraints being faced and to make recommendations on the areas that need strengthening and course correction. The Review Mission was made up of 52 members—central and state health government officials and public health experts. After a one-day orientation briefing by the various divisions at the ministry in Delhi, the team divided into 13 groups and left for the selected states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

At the state level, there was an initial one-day briefing, after which the team divided into two groups and each went to visit one or two districts. The district visits lasted two to three days and the appraisal was done using a protocol that indicated the minimum number of each type of facility (and villages) that should be visited and the thematic areas that must be covered in the inquiry. Upon returning to the state headquarters, there was an interaction with civil society groups, after which the reports were finalised. Finally, the common review mission teams presented their observations and findings to the host state department heads and NRHM facilitation teams for their feedback.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CRM has submitted its report which is available on this Ministry's website at <http://mohfw.nic.in/NRHM.htm>.

(e) The copy of the CRM report of NRHM has been forwarded to all the 35 States/UTs for follow up action.

#### **Plight of Indian Workers at Mississippi Shipyard, USA**

3512. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU  
YADAV:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the plight of Indian workers living in extreme inhuman conditions at

Mississippi Shipyard, U.S.A. as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated March 09, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the U.S. Government;

(d) if so, the response of the U.S. government thereto;

(e) whether these workers have revolted and filed a lawsuit against their employer allegedly involved in human trafficking racket in the U.S.;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the workers have requested the Indian government to protect their families in India from the intimidation of recruiting company in Mumbai; and

(h) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the reports received from the Indian Mission in USA, a total of 590 Indian workers were recruited by the foreign employer M/s Global Resources Inc., Mississippi, through M/s Diwan Consultants, Mumbai. They had gone to US on H2B visas (Guest Workers Visa Programme) valid initially for 10 months, extendable at the discretion of the employer and the US authorities. The workers were deployed in the yards of M/s Singal International, a marine fabrication company, located at Pascagoula, Mississippi and Orange County, Port Arthur, Texas. They were mainly aggrieved on account of alleged poor accommodation and amenities, deductions from their salary for accommodation, food, electricity, water and also non-fulfilment of the alleged initial commitment of permanent residency status etc.

(c) and (d) The Indian Mission in USA has approached the US Government to conduct detailed investigation on the complaints of the Indian workers and take remedial measures.

(e) and (f) On 6th March, 2008, about 100 workers demonstrated outside the office of their employer demanding continued employment, better salary and amenities in addition of fulfilment of initial commitments regarding permanent residency status/Green Card etc.

They held a press conference at New Orleans on 10th March, 2008 and also held protest marches. They also filed a case at the Fifth Circuit District Court, New Orleans, alleging human trafficking against the company M/s Singal International and the recruiting agencies.

(g) and (h) 120 workers met the Indian Ambassador in Washington on 27th March, 2008 highlighting their demands of expediting investigation into their grievances, prevent their deportation from USA, arrange permanent residence status and prevent harassment to their families in India by the recruiter. However, this Ministry has not received any complaint of harassment by the recruiters from the families of the workers.

The Ministry has suspended the license of M/s Dewan Consultants and M/s. S. Mansur & Co., Mumbai, black listed the foreign employer and is also initiating legal action against the Recruiting Agent for violation of Emigration Act, 1983. The Indian Mission has also taken steps to withhold visas from the main US recruiters involved to prevent them from entering India to conduct recruiting operations.

#### **National Action Plan on Climate Change**

3513. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has finalized a National Action Plan on the issues arising out of climate change to deal with its impact on environment and specific crops as reported in the Times of India, dated 21.03.2008;

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

(c) whether the expert Committee working under the guidance of the PM's Council on Climate Change has submitted its report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, in its first meeting held on 13th July, 2007, had decided that a National Document compiling action taken by India for addressing the challenges of

climate change and the action that it proposes to take, be prepared as India's National Report on Climate Change. Accordingly, the draft of India's Climate change Action Programme is being finalized shortly.

(c) to (e) The Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change was set up by the Government of India in May 2007, under the Chairmanship of Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India with a tenure of three years and entrusted with the task of studying the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and identifying the measures needed to address the issues relating to vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts. The Report of the Expert Committee is under preparation and an interim report is likely to be available soon.

#### Promotion of Hockey and Football

3514. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for promotion of all sports including Hockey and Football being played in the country; and

(b) the funds allocated and incurred therefrom for the development and promotion of Hockey and Football in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) The Government supplements the efforts of recognized National Sports Federations (NSFs) for the promotion of excellence in sports, including hockey and football. Apart from providing support for holding national coaching camps through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Government also provides assistance for the participation of national teams in training and competitions within and outside the country and the engagement of high performing coaches. Specifically in hockey, the Government has engaged a high performance foreign expert as Technical Adviser to provide technical support to the national men and women teams as also junior national teams. In addition to this, talented sportspersons in the age group of 14-21 are trained under various schemes of SAI, including in SAI Training Centres and SAI Special Area Games Centres, a large number of which have hockey and football among the disciplines in which training is imparted.

(b) The financial assistance provided to the Indian Hockey Federation, Indian Women Hockey Federation, Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society and All India Football Federation during the last three years under the scheme of 'Assistance to National Sports Federations' is as under:-

Name of Sport Federation	Rupees in lakhs		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Indian Hockey Federation	89.46	90.34	121.18
Indian Women Hockey Federation	78.81	111.64	189.09
Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society	7.00	1.75	4.00
All India Football Federation	65.37	25.55	61.90
Subrato Mukherjee Football Tournament Society	5.00	5.00	5.00

[Translation]

#### Awareness among Masses for Blood Donation

3515. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any campaign to create awareness among masses about blood donation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent by the Government on the blood donation campaign during the last three financial years; and

(d) the achievements made as result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting voluntary blood donation by observing World Donors day on 14 June and National Voluntary Blood Donation on 1 October every year. Awareness programmes and workshops on voluntary blood donations are conducted in schools, colleges and universities. Regular voluntary blood donors are felicitated by Ministers and Celebrities. IEC materials on voluntary blood donation like posters, brochures and pamphlets are printed and

disseminated. Hoardings and kiosks are displayed at strategic locations.

Messages on voluntary blood donations from Honorable Ministers and celebrities are broadcast and published in National dailies; and audio-visual materials are developed for telecasting in TV and broadcasting on radio.

(c) During the last three years, Government has spent Rs. 42.2 lakhs in 2005-06 Rs. 55.0 lakhs in 2006-07 and Rs. 186.6 in 2007-08 on promotion of voluntary blood donation.

(d) As a result of these campaigns, voluntary blood collection has increased from 4.7 million/units in 2005 to 5.51 million/units in 2006 and 5.6 million/units in 2007. The proportion of voluntary blood donation has increased from 54.1% in 2005 to 56.4% in 2006 and 59.9% in 2007.

*[English]*

**Penalty on Institutions/Organisations  
Allowing Smoking**

3516. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to impose stricter penalty on such Institutions/Organisations which allow its employees to smoke within its premises as reported in *The Times of India* dated March 21, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Section 21 of "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" Tobacco Control Act, provides penalty for those, who contravenes the provisions of section 4 i.e. ban on smoking in public place with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees. The Act does not provide for any penalty on the institution/organization at present. States Government are mainly responsible for implementation the provisions of the Act.

(c) A proposal for enhanced penal provisions on the individuals and imposition of vicarious liability on the person in charge of the organization/institution wherein provision of section-4 are violated is under the consideration.

**Road-Connectivity Between India and Central Asia**

3517. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any discussion has been held with the Central Asian countries about road-connectivity in this region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such discussion; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for improving road-connectivity with Central Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways (NHs). There is no direct road connectivity of India with Central Asian Countries. The development of NHs extending upto borders of neighbouring countries are taken up under different programmes within the framework of national priorities and as per availability of funds.

**Opencast Project in SECL**

3518. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved any opencast expansion project of the South Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the expenditure involved and the time by which it will be completed;

(c) the extent to which it would raise the coal output; and

(d) the States to which the coal would be supplied from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Government has approved three opencast (OC) Expansion projects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) namely Dipka OC Expansion, Gevra OC Expansion and Ksmunda OC Expansion during the Xth Five Year Plan.

The details of these projects are as stated below:-

S.No.	Name of project	Date of sanction	Incremental Capacity (Mty)	Incremental capital cost (in Rs. Crore)	Date of achieving target capacity
1.	Dipka OC Expansion from 10 to 20 mty	12.07.2005	10	856.59	March, 2010
2.	Gevra OC Expansion from 12 to 25 mty	12.07.2005	13	1339.69	March, 2010
3.	Ksmunda OC Expansion from 6 to 10 mty	06.06.2006	4	360.25	March, 2011

(d) Coal from these projects would be supplied to power utilities and other consumers in the States of Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan etc.

#### **Global Warming and its Dangerous Effects on Health**

3519. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to address the dangerous effects of Global Warming on health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has set up an 'Expert Committee of Impacts of Climate Change' in May 2007 to study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India and to identify the measures that may be needed to address vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.

Under the directions of 'Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change' India's Climate Change Action

Programme (ICCAP) envisages National action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change in various sectors, including health sector. Indian Council of Medical Research has also constituted Task force on 'Global Environment Change and Health' which is focusing on areas, which Climate change may have impact on, such as, (i) Respiratory Diseases and air pollutants, (ii) UV-B and Cataract, and (iii) Vector Borne Diseases.

#### **Violation of Environmental Laws**

3520. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large number of textile industries and units particularly those in the processing sector across the country have failed to comply with the existing environmental laws and regulations;

(b) if so, the details of the industrial units which have been reported as violators and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to provide training to small manufacturers of dyes and chemicals to comply with these laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

**Development of Virgin Coal Blocks**

3521. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) proposes to develop 26 virgin coal blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the production capacity of the SECL may help to bridge the gap between demand and supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) 26 coal blocks/project have been identified in South Eastern Coalfields Limited area envisaged for taking up during XI Plan period.

(b) The details of the blocks are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Reserve in Mt	Grade
1	2	3	4
1.	Kusmunda & Expansion OC*	499.13	E-F
2.	Gevra & Expansion OC*	975.00	E-F
3.	Dipka & Expansion OC*	617.00	E-F
4.	Kartali East OC	61.41	C-D
5.	Raj West OC	167.62	D-F
6.	Vijay East OC	58.00	C-D
7.	Batura OC	35.00	C-D
8.	Mahan III & IV OC	55.00	C-D
9.	Palma OC	235.00	B-G
10.	Chintapani OC	100.00	E-F
11.	Raj East OC	Being assessed	E-F
12.	Porda OC	Being assessed	E-F
13.	Jampali OC	31.30	D-F
14.	Bijari OC	35.10	D-F
15.	Ambika OC	39.37	B-F

1	2	3	4
16.	Pathakpur UG	74.43	B-E
17.	Jamdai UG	Being assessed	
18.	Gumgara UG	Being assessed	
19.	Bakulmuni UG	25.23	B-C
20.	Amba UG	Being assessed	
21.	Durgapur OC	76.40	D-G
22.	Bodri/Bodri North UG	72.14	C-D
23.	Badauli Extension UG	41.94	C-D
24.	Amritdhara UG	23.22	B
25.	Chengara OC**	14.33	G/UG
26.	Jarwahi OC**	19.66	B-E

\*Project/blocks indicated in Sl. No. 1 to 3 are not virgin, but expansion blocks.

\*\*Blocks indicated in Sl. No. 25 & 26 are not being considered for development at present due to poor quality

(c) The production capacity of SECL is proposed to be enhanced from a level of 88.50 Mt during the terminal year of X Plan i.e. 2006-07 to 111.00 Mt during the terminal year of XI Plan i.e. 2011-12.

**Appointment of Women Sports Instructors**

3522. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talented girls/women are deprived of sports opportunity due to non-appointment of women sports instructors in Government co-educational schools and colleges in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote sports among the girls/women; and

(c) the number of women sports instructors in Government co-educational schools/colleges in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the number of schools/colleges that does not have women sports instructors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) to (c): "Sports" is a State subject and promotion of the same at State level is the primary responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories. There is no specific scheme of the Government of India to appoint women sports instructors in Government co-educational schools and colleges. However, the Government of India, through various schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts on promotion of Sports at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior level.

At present SAI has two training centres in Andaman and Nicobar Island, namely (i) National Sports Talent Contest Centre (NSTC) at Rangath and (ii) Special Area Games Centre (SAG) at Port Blair, where sportspersons are given training in different sports disciplines. Women sportspersons also have opportunity to participate in such schemes. Under the SAG Centre at Port Blair, there are 60 boys and 52 girls trainees in the discipline of Cycling, Football, Rowing, Kayaking & Canoeing, Weightlifting and Swimming. Under Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme at panchwati, Rangath (Andaman and Nicobar), in the discipline of Football 25 girl trainees are imparted training by expert coaches.

#### **Development of Colachel Port**

3523. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Detailed Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report for the development of the Colachel port has been received by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) A request has been received from Government of Tamil Nadu for development of Colachel Port. Appointment of Consultant for preparation of a Techno-Economic Feasibility and Detailed Project Report as well as

Environmental Impact Assessment Studies for this project is under process.

#### **R&D Unit of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathy Medicines in Gujarat**

3524. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to set up Research and Development Unit of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathy Medicines in the State of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this Research Unit is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) An Expert Committee constituted by Government to review the working of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS) has suggested upgrading the existing Regional Research Unit, Ahmedabad to Institute of Ayurveda Drug Development. Government have accepted the Expert Committee report for implementation by the CCRAS.

#### **Mobile Dispensaries for Small Villages**

3525. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce mobile dispensaries and pathology facilities for the small villages and disease-prone areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the disease-prone areas identified so far, disease-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) With the objective to take health care to door step of the public in rural areas, especially in under-served areas Mobile Medical Units (MMU) have also been approved @ one MMU per district under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Two kinds of MMUs are envisaged, one with diagnostic facilities for the states other than North-Eastern States, Himachal

Pradesh and J&K. In addition, for the North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and J&K, specialized facilities and services such as X ray, ECG and ultra-sound have been proposed to be provided due to their difficult hilly terrain, non-approachability by public transport, long distances to be covered etc. The states are, however, expected to address the diversity and ensure the adoption of most suitable and sustainable model for MMUs to suit their local requirements. The funds are released to States/UTs Government as per their requirements in their respective annual NRHM programme implementation plans.

Pathology Labs facility is available at the level of Primary Health Centre and Community Health Centres which are established in rural areas as per population norms.

(c) The Mobile Medical Units have in fact provided service to the underserved areas and areas having difficult/hilly terrain in the country.

#### **Costly Surgery for Heart and Kidney Patients**

3526. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for high cost for surgery pertaining to heart and kidney; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to reduce such high cost and provide treatment to such patients at a reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The surgery for heart and kidney is done using high tech equipments and these are super specialty subjects namely Cardio Thoracic Vascular Surgery (CTVS) and Urology. These patients require intensive post operative care which also increase the cost. The facility of treatment for these ailments is available in some medical colleges and premier apex institutions like AIIMS, PGI Chandigarh, SGPGI, Lucknow etc. Treatment for these diseases is either free or highly subsidized in Government institutions. Further assistance for treatment, if required by poor and needy patients is available under the National Illness Assistance Fund.

*[Translation]*

#### **People Living Below Poverty Line**

3527. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage and number of BPL people is declining;

(b) if so, the State-wise comparative details of the present list and the preceding list alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the decline has been due to the differences in norms adopted for identification of BPL persons in the current list and the preceding list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The comparable poverty estimates of BPL people from 35.9 per cent to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05 and in the number of BPL people from 3203.68 lakh to 3017.20 lakh.

(b) The BPL list for 2002 has not been finalized in all the States.

(c) It cannot be definitely said that the decline is due to differences in norms adopted for identification of BPL persons.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Environment clearance for Bauxite Mining Projects**

3528. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has given environment clearance to Ashapura Minechem Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), on the basis of which the internal Expert Appraisal Committee on Mining gave its approval, was based on data copied from a Russian bauxite mine report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to rescind the clearance given to the said company;

(f) if so, the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has accorded environmental clearance on 29.12.2006 to the bauxite mining project of M/s Ashapura Minechem Ltd., located in District Ratnagiri in Maharashtra involving mine lease area of 99.86 hectares.

(c) and (d) The initial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report of M/s Ashapura. Minechem Ltd was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in the meeting held in May, 2006. EIA report was not found adequate by the EAC and as such the proponent was advised to revise the EIA report. Accordingly, the revised EIA report was considered by EAC in the meeting held in September, 2006 and Committee desired to have a site visit by a duly constituted Sub-committee. The site was inspected in October, 2006 and the Sub-committee submitted its report to EAC. The EAC reconsidered the project in the meeting held in November, 2006 taking into the account the site visit report and finally recommended the project for environmental clearance. Based on the recommendations of the EAC, environmental clearance to the project was accorded by the Ministry.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Do not arise.

#### **Emergency Services in CGHS Dispensaries**

3529. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether emergency healthcare services are being provided by the CGHS dispensaries in the Capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the dispensaries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The following 21 CGHS dispensaries are providing emergency services:

South Avenue, North Avenue, Telegraph Lane, Dr. Z.H. Road, Lodi Road (closed for the time being), M.B. Road, Kalkaji I, Sadiqu Nagar I, Sri Niwaspuri, R.K. Puram I, Moti Bagh, Laxmi Nagar, Shahdara, Timar Pur, Kingsway Capm, New Rajinder Nagar, Janakpuri I, Palam Colony and Paschim Vihar.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **Women Representatives in PRI**

3530. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state the State-wise details of percentage of women representatives who got elected for more than one term in 3-tier Panchayats in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): The information is being collected from States/UTs and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

#### **Inadequate Road Space**

3531. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles operating in the country as on date;

(b) whether the road space available to accommodate these vehicles is inadequate and causes congestion on roads;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per the latest available data the total number of registered motor vehicles in the country as on 31st March 2004 was 7,27,17,935.

(b) and (c) The number of motor vehicles had steadily increased at an average rate of 10% per annum during the years 1994-2004. However, the road space is not increasing commensurate with the increase in number of

vehicles resulting in many serious problems such as traffic congestion, increase in number of road accidents etc.

(d) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. There are separate guidelines for capacity of roads in rural areas and capacity of urban roads in plane areas as per Indian Road Congress (IRC) code IRC: 64-1990 and IRC: 106-1990 respectively. The development of National Highways including their capacity augmentation is a continuous process. In the recent past Government has taken up several projects for improvement of National Highways including their capacity augmentation and construction of expressways under various phase of National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North East region (SARDP-NE) and under the annual plans of the Department of Road Transport & Highways.

*[Translation]*

#### **Visit of Russian Prime Minister to India**

3532. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Prime Minister has visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the agreements, if any, signed during the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes. The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Mr. Viktor A. Zubkov visited India on 12-13 February 2008.

(b) The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation met the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. During the meetings, discussions were held on bilateral relations in the fields of trade and economy, energy, defence, science and technology and culture and regional and international issues of mutual interest. On 12 February, the visiting dignitary attended the Second Indo-Russian Forum on Trade and Investment and jointly inaugurated the 'Year of Russia' in India in the year 2008 along with the Prime Minister of India. Two Memoranda on cooperation, one on law enforcement matters between the Indian Central

Board of Excise and Customs and the Russian Federal Customs Service, and another in the field of archives between the National Archives of India and the Russian Federal Archival Agency were signed during the visit.

#### **Paucity of Space in Passport Offices**

3533. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passport offices in the country particularly the one at Surat are facing the problem of paucity of space;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to overcome this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Passport Office, Surat was opened in 2003 and is located at hired premises since then. The public area of the premises, when purchased, was considered to be sufficient to cater to the passport-seeking public. With substantial increase, over the years, of passport-seekers, the available space has become inadequate. In fact, with growing workload, the same problem has cropped up in most of the other passport offices also. The Ministry has recently purchased a plot of land in Surat and it is proposed to construct our own building with adequate public area.

With the implementation of the Passport Seva Project, the Government propose to open 68 Passport Seva Kendras all over the country where applicants will be able to submit their passport application forms in comfortable conditions, with adequate space provided in each case for visitors.

*[English]*

#### **Protection of Tigers**

3534. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed the State Governments to take adequate measures for tiger protection as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March 22, 2008;

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

(c) whether the National Tiger Conservation Authority has issued deadlines for tiger-bearing States and threatened to cut off funds if they don't deliver;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government has also warned the States to block the funds for tiger reserves unless they sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

(f) if so, the response of the States thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. Advisories have been issued to States for tiger protection. Based on the review and deliberations held in the All India meeting of Field Directors recently, timelines have been prescribed for submission of reserve-wise indicative Tiger Conservation Plan, apart from plan for relocation of villages from the core/critical tiger habitat identified within tiger reserves.

(d) to (f) So far, Tiger Conservation Plan has been received only from the Similipal Tiger Reserve of Orissa, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is awaited. Both MOU as well as the Tiger Conservation Plan are awaited from all other Tiger Reserves. The tiger reserve States have been informed that central assistance under Project Tiger would be provided only on receipt of an indicative Tiger Conservation Plan and the prescribed MOU, duly signed by the competent authority of the State.

*[Translation]*

#### **Patients Ratio in Psychiatric Hospitals**

3535. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of patients undergoing treatment in psychiatric hospitals in the country as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): As per the latest figure (2004) available in Health Information of India-2005, the total number of patients who took treatment in mental hospitals is 1231905 (918786-Out Patients and 313119-In Patients).

*[English]*

#### **Functioning of Siddha, Ayurvedic and Unani Dispensaries/Hospitals**

3536. SHR G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Central Government Hospitals and Dispensaries of Siddha, Ayurvedic and Unani functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to provide more such facilities in the Government hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is only one Central Government Hospital functioning under CGHS i.e. Ayurvedic Hospital, Lodi Road, New Delhi. The information with respect to the Central Government Dispensaries of Siddha, Ayurvedic and Unani functioning under Department of AYUSH is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Promoting Development of Health Care Facilities of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy, the Central Government provides Grant-in-Aid to eligible hospitals/polyclinics for:

- (i) Establishment of Specialised Therapy Centres with hospitalization facility for Panchakarma/Kshar Sutra therapy of Ayurveda or Regimental therapy of Unani Medicine or Siddha or Yoga & Naturopathy or Homoeopathy;
- (ii) Establishment of Speciality Clinics of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy (ISM & H) i.e. system specific outdoor treatment centres; and
- (ii) Setting up of ISM & H wings in District Allopathic hospitals.

State Governments avail the financial assistance under the aforesaid scheme to set up AYUSH facilities mentioned above in Government hospitals.

**Statement***Dispensaries under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and other Ministries*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	CGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare			Ministry of Labour & Employment*		
		Siddha	Ayurveda	Unani	Sihha	Ayurveda	Unani
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	2	2	-	3	-
2.	Bihar	-	1	-	1	2	1
3.	Chhatisgarh	-	-	-	-	2	-
4.	Delhi	1	14	5	-	11	-
5.	Gujarat	-	1	-	-	54	-
6.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	1	-
7.	Karnataka	-	2	1	-	2	-
8.	Kerala	-	1	-	-	10	-
9.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	1	-	7	-
10.	Maharashtra	-	5	-	-	13	-
11.	Orissa	-	1	-	-	1	-
12.	Rajasthan	-	1	-	-	9	1
13.	Tamil Nadu	2	1	-	2	-	-
14.	Uttar Pradesh	-	4	1	-	11	-
15.	West Bengal	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>2</b>

\*The dispensaries shown come under the ESI Corporation and Labour Welfare Organization under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

In addition to above, Coal India Limited and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. are running 12 and 1 Ayurvedic dispensaries respectively.

**Co-Operative Development and Peace  
in Central Asia**

3537. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Conference on Co-operative Development and Peace in Central Asia was held in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein;

(c) whether India is planning to set up a Regional Technology and Expertise Demonstration Centre in Central Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes. An International Conference on the theme 'Cooperative

Development and Peace in Central Asia' was organised by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh on March 15 and 16, 2008.

(b) The seminar covered wide-ranging subjects including contemporary issues of security, peace and development of the region.

(c) The External Affairs Minister, in his inaugural address at the Conference, stated that the Ministry is presently looking at the possibility of setting up a regional centre in Central Asia, which may cater to nationals from the region in areas such as English language training, entrepreneurship development and technical courses.

(d) The above proposal is in a preliminary stage.

(e) As the technical and economic parameters of the proposal have not been worked out, the timelines cannot be indicated at this stage.

#### **Amendments in Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2007**

3538. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs Act, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such amendments are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government proposes to amend the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) Act, 2001, provision relating to eligibility criteria for the post and tenure of Director General of ICWA. The proposed amendment will be brought to Parliament.

#### **Rise in Chicken Pox Cases**

3539. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of chicken pox have recently registered sudden rise in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by Municipal Corporation of Delhi, no rise in cases of chicken pox has been reported in Delhi, during the year 2007.

Chicken pox is a disease, which shows seasonal variation in its occurrence. The disease spreads from person to person through air and occurs as self-limiting disease. There is no specific treatment for the disease apart from managing symptoms such as fever. Facilities for treatment of chicken pox are available in tertiary care hospitals of the country.

#### **Demand for More Doctors in Central Government Hospitals**

3540. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the hospitals under the administrative control of the Union Government require more doctors to meet the increasing work-load as reported in the Hindu dated March 25, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) It is a fact that patient load on the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi is on the increase. To increase the number of doctors, the ban imposed on fresh recruitments has already been lifted and contractual appointments have also been permitted.

#### **National Dredging Policy**

3541. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate a national policy on dredging;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the dredging projects undertaken/likely to be undertaken by the Government for the last three years and current year, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Ministry after reviewing the existing policy has issued the revised dredging policy guidelines to followed by all major Ports w.e.f. 1.4.2007 for a period of three years. The revised policy guidelines are as follows:-

- (i) All Major Ports shall invite open competitive bids for dredging works and Indian companies owing Indian flag dredgers, including Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) shall have the right of first refusal if the rate is within 10% of the lowest valid offer. This would apply to both maintenance and capital dredging works with sole exception of the maintenance dredging requirement of Kolkata Port for which separate instructions shall apply.
- (ii) If more than one company owing Indian flag dredger participates in the tender, the right of first refusal will go to that Indian company which

has quoted the lowest rate and is within 10% of the lowest valid offer.

- (iii) All Major Ports may strictly adhere to the guidelines issued by the Central Vigilance Commission from time to time for processing the tenders in a transparent manner. Ports may ensure that a prequalification criteria is fixed in advance and should not be very stringent to restrict entry of certain potential Indian bidders. The prequalification conditions should be exhaustive, yet specific. The prescribed conditions should be clearly specified in the bid documents to ensure fair competition and transparency. Detailed instructions in this regard will be issued separately.
- (iv) The Government of India through Department of Shipping reserves the right to assign, in public interest, any contract for dredging work in any of the Major Ports to DCI on nomination.
- (v) Guidelines issued by DG (Shipping), Mumbai from time to time in terms of the relevant provisions of Merchant Shipping Act shall be applicable.

(d) The details of the dredging projects undertaken by the various Major Ports during the last three years and the projects proposed to be undertaken during the current year are given in the enclosed statement.

*Statement*

Sl.No.	Name of the Port	Details of project undertaken during the last three years	Details of projects undertaken during the current year
1	2	3	4
1.	Tuticorin	NIL	(i) Dredging work in front of berth no. 9 to cater to 10.7 m draught vessels (ii) Dredging work in front of coal jetties, oil jetty and approach channel to cater to 11.70 m draught vessels. (iii) Proposals to deepen the channel and basin to cater to 12.80 m draught vessels.
2.	Paradip	NIL	(i) Deepening of channel by Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) (ii) enhancement of draught at existing dock system from 12.5 m to 14 m to cater to Panamax vessels.
3.	Ennore	2007-08-maintenance dredging of approach channel and harbour basin	Capital dredging phase I and dredging for beach nourishment and land reclamation.

1	2	3	4
4.	Kolkata	Maintenance dredging through DCI dredgers 2004-05-18.89 million cubic mtrs. 2005-06 16.26 million cubic mtrs. 2006-07-16.73 million cubic mtrs. and 2007-08-16.40 million cubic mtrs.	Proposals to introduce the river regulatory measure scheme which interalia includes capital dredging for improvement of depth in the Haldia channel on a long term basis.
5.	Mumbai	No capital dredging works have been undertaken.	Maintenance dredging of channels carried out by the Port in two years cycle. Capital dredging for approach channel, turning circles and berth pockets for second chemical berth a Pir Pau, for offshore container berth at Indira Dock, development of harbour wall berths 18-22 Indira Dock.
6.	JNPT	The port carries out post monsoon maintenance dredging every year with the dredging quantity of about one million CUM per annum through M/s. Dredging Corporation of India.	Proposals to commence the project for deepening and widening of Mumbai Harbour channel and Jawaharlal Nehru Channel to accommodate vessels (6000 TEU capacity vessels) upto a draft of 14 mtrs.
7.	Chennai	Deepening of Dr. Ambedkar Dock Basin and entrance channel have been completed on November, 2004.	NIL
8.	Mormugao	Annual maintenance dredging carried out during the last three years.	Annual maintenance dredging to commence from August, 2008.
9.	New Mangalora	2003-04-Maintenance dredging through DCI 2004-05-5.80 million cubic mtrs. 2005-06-7.30 million cubic mtrs. 2006-07-6.90 million cubic mtrs. Capital dredging 2005-06-0.35 million cubic mtrs.	2007-08-6 million cubic mtrs. (approx).

#### Death of Temple Elephants

3542. SHRIMATI. MANEKA GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of temple elephants died during the last three years alongwith the names of the temples?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): The information relating to the death of temple elephants are not collated at the Central government level. However, State wise details of the death of temple elephants during last three years reported to the Ministry are as follows:

#### Kerala

Sl.No.	Name of Elephant	Name of Temple
1	2	3
1.	Hariprasad	Panmana Meenamthottathil Bhagavathi Temple
2.	Mahadevan	Karunagapally Padanayar Kulangara Temple
3.	Neelakantan	Ettumanoor Mahadeva Temple

1	2	3
<b>Karnataka</b>		
1.	Shanthala	Mahalingpur Math, Mudhol, Bangalkot, Karnataka
2.	Bharathi/Arundhati, (One Elephant)	Lakshmi Bhao Maharaja Jain Basti, Raibagh tq, Raibagh, Belgaum, Karnataka
3.	Shankara	Sri Kshetra Dhamashtala, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka
<b>West Bengal</b>		
1.		ISCON temple, Mongapur, Nadia District

*[Translation]***Use of Chemicals in Soft Drinks**

3543. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- whether chemicals are being used in soft drinks;
- if so, the names of these chemicals and their ill-effects on human health after their consumption;
- whether the Government has issued any instructions to indicate the percentage of chemical contents on each bottle of soft drinks; and
- if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The standards of Carbonated Water have been prescribed vide item A. 01.01. in PFA Rules, 1955. Carbonated water conforming to the standards for carbonated water as laid down under PFA Rules, 1955 is considered safe.

The labeling provisions have been prescribed under PFA Rules which have to be adhered to by each manufacture. The name and quantity of each foodgrade chemicals or compounds used need not be inscribed on the Container.

*[English]***Irregularities in Allotment of Coal Blocks**

3544. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any irregularities have been found in allotment of coal blocks to various power-producing companies as reported in 'The Hindustan' dated March 19, 2008;

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

(c) whether Central Electricity Authority has framed any norms for companies who applied for coal blocks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of the companies who failed to fulfil such norms and later on allotted coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The allocation was made following due process and in accordance with the guidelines.

(c) and (d) The coal blocks were allocated based on guidelines framed by the Government for allocation of coal block and not on the basis of any norms framed by the Central Electricity Authority. Inter-se priority for allocation of a block among competing applicants for a captive block was decided as per the following guidelines:

- Status (stage) level of progress and state of preparedness of the projects;
- Networth of the applicant company (or in the case of a new SP/JV, the networth of their principals);
- Production capacity as proposed in the application;
- Maximum recoverable reserve as proposed in the application;

- (v) Date of commissioning of captive mine as proposed in the application;
  - (vi) Date of completion of detailed exploration (in respect of unexplored blocks only) as proposed in the application;
  - (vii) Technical experience (in terms of existing capacities in coal/lignite mining and specified end use);
  - (viii) Recommendation of the Administrative Ministry concerned;
  - (ix) Recommendation of the State Government concerned (i.e. where the captive block is located);
  - (x) Track record and financial strength of the company.
- (e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) & (d) above.

*[Translation]*

#### **Developmental Works in Backward Districts.**

3545. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister or PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to undertake developmental works through Government agencies instead of Non-Governmental Organisations in the backward districts of the country under the Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) was initiated with the objective to put in place programmes and policies with the joint efforts of the Centre and the States which would remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people in the identified backward districts of the country. The RSVY has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) since 2006-07. Out of the 147 districts covered under the RSVY, 70 districts have claimed their full entitlement of Rs. 45.00 crore.

The State Governments implement the RSVY through the district administration. According to the RSVY guidelines the State Governments release the funds received under the programme to the District Rural Development Agencies. The guidelines of RSVY provide that people's participation and involvement of PRIs, NGOs and Self Help Groups should be ensured at every stage including plan formulation, implementation and monitoring under the scheme. The guidelines also prescribe that the PRIs, NGOs and Self Help Groups may also be involved in awareness and capacity building, etc. for which about two per cent of the funds could be utilised.

The Union Government has no plan to introduce change in the existing guidelines of the RSVY.

*[English]*

#### **Use of Tobacco by Teenagers**

3546. SHRI ASADDUDIN OWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether one in five teens use tobacco in the country as per the Global Youth Tobacco survey conducted recently as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated March 20, 2008;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of the survey;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new class room-enforcer tobacco monitor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to control the use of tobacco by school-going teens in particular and others in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) India 2006- A school based survey on a representative sample of students aged 13-15 years indicates that over one in ten students currently use tobacco. The findings of the survey in brief are as detailed below:

- Decreased exposure to second hand smoke in public places at National level (49% to 40%)
- Initiation of smoking before age 10 has significantly decreased at National level (49% to 37%)

- Narrowing of gap between boys and girls, in tobacco use,
- Prevalence of tobacco use has not decreased,
- Exposure to cigarette advertisements on billboards has not decreased,
- Sale to minors does not show any improvement over 3 years,
- Free sampling of cigarettes have increased in some regions,
- Central, Eastern & North-eastern region need special attention as tobacco prevalence has increased or remains high.

(c) to (e) The Government has enacted "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003", prohibits smoking in public places including educational institution; sale of tobacco products to minors and sale around education institution especially to protect the health of teenagers.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08. This program envisages broadly:

1. Capacity building of State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level Monitoring Cells for the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control, Act, 2003.
2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco.
3. Carrying out school programme in the Government schools to sensitize the teenagers.
4. Mass media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs.

#### **Observation of OIC Regarding Kashmir**

3547. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has made any observation regarding Kashmir issue as reported in "The Times of India" dated March 17, 2008;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, OIC made observation on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir in its final communique and passed a resolution on the dispute at its 11th Summit held in Dakar, Senegal from March 13-14, 2008. The excerpts of the OIC communique are enclosed as statement.

The Government of India has issued rebuttal (March 16, 2008) on the observation of OIC on Jammu & Kashmir, which states "We note with regret, that the OIC in the documents issued following the OIC Summit held in Dakar, Senegal on 13-14 March, 2008 has once again chosen to comment upon Jammu & Kashmir and issues internal to India. The OIC has no *locus standi* in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir which is an integral part of India. We strongly reject all such comments."

(c) India is neither a member nor an observer in the OIC. The Government of India has consistently maintained its stand that OIC has no locus stand in matters concerning India's internal affairs including Jammu & Kashmir and this has been taken up bilaterally with the member countries of the OIC.

#### **Statement**

*Excerpts Related to Jammu & Kashmir and India from the Final Communique of the Eleventh Session of the Islamic Summit Conference Dakar-Republic of Senegal (13-14 March 2008)*

56. The Summit Conference reaffirmed its support for the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their legitimate right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. It called for the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the OIC Mission led by the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. It called for the respect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and the withdrawal of security forces from Indian occupied Kashmir. It urged India to allow the visit of an OIC fact-finding mission to the Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as other

international human rights organizations in order to verify human rights conditions in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

57. The Conference endorsed the recommendations of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. It took note of the Memorandum presented by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people and reaffirmed the OIC's commitment to promote the just and peaceful solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

58. The Conference appreciated Pakistan's commitment to the ongoing Composite Dialogue with India and the flexibility shown by Pakistan in moving forward towards the resolution of Jammu and Kashmir dispute through sincerity, flexibility and courage. It called on India to positively reciprocate in order to arrive at a just and final settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as the core issue of their conflict. The Conference commended Pakistan for its continuing efforts to create and sustain an enabling environment for the Composite Dialogue with India.

59. The Conference expressed deep sympathy with the people of Jammu and Kashmir who have suffered great human, material, social, economic, and environmental losses as a result of the disastrous earthquake of October 8, 2005. It expressed gratitude for the contributions made by the international community, especially the OIC Member States, for relief and rehabilitation of the earthquake victims and encouraged them to continue to provide necessary assistance in future. It appealed to the Member States and Muslim institutions to grant scholarships to the Kashmiri students in different universities and institutions in OIC countries.

#### **Effectiveness of DPT Vaccine**

3548. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether effect of DPT vaccine are not for the whole life and revaccination is required after 6-7 years as reported in 'The Times of India' dated March 30, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any remedial measures in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the Universal Immunization Programme, Infants are vaccinated with DPT vaccine at the age of 6, 10 & 14 weeks and Booster dose at 18 months of age to immunize against Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus Toxoid. The tetanus and diphtheria toxoids are highly immunogenic (95-100%), the pertussis vaccine has a protective efficacy of 70-90%. Duration of immunity after whole cell vaccine declines by 50% over a period of 6-12 years. Because the traditional whole cell vaccine was considered too reactogenic to be administered after 6 years, the immunization schedule did not include additional pertussis immunization after that age.

(c) and (d) Under the Universal Immunization Programme, DT (Diphtheria & Tetanus Toxoid) vaccine is administered to the children at the age of 5 years and TT (Tetanus Toxoid) at the age of 10 & 16 years.

#### **Funds Allocated for National Rural Health Mission**

3549. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated spent for the Flagship Programme-National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the current Plan;

(b) the number of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and the link workers recruited trained and deployed till date; and

(c) the role assigned to elected representatives in the implementation of NRHM Scheme in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to 11th Plan document, allocation for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for 5 year period is Rs. 89,478 Crore. A total amount of Rs. 10223 crores approximately has been spent during the first year of 11th Plan, i.e. 2007-08.

(b) Given below is the table showing the number of Accredited Social Health (ASHA) and link workers selected and trained till date:

*Status of ASHA and Link Workers*

Sl.No.		ASHA	Link Workers
01.	Proposed for Mission Period	535104	262474
02.	Selected (as on date 12.03.2008)	481308	147984
03.	Trained at least in one module (as on date 12.03.2008)	406464	116385

(c) The State and District Health Mission guidelines under NRHM provide for membership to elected representatives like Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies. In addition, local MP/MLA or their representatives are also members of the Rogi Kalyan Samitis formed at the District, Sub Divisional and Block level.

[*Translation*]

**Environment Clearance to Industries**

3550. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small scale industries with capital less than Rs. 1 crore and producing items reserved for small scale industries are excluded from environmental clearance as per the schedule-1 of para 3 (c) of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated January 27, 1994; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 27th January, 1994 has been superseded by the new Environmental Impact Assessment Notification dated 14th September, 2006. The development activities covered in the new notification are based upon their threshold limits pertaining to production capacity and not on the investment criteria.

[*English*]

**Poaching of Wildlife Animals**

3551. SHRI RAVI PRAKSH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether wild animals are being killed by the poachers owing to negligence by the park authorities;

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

(c) the details of instructions issued by the Government for entertaining VIP tourists visiting the National Parks; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of the wild animals in the National Parks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir. There are no such reports with this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such instructions have been issued by the Central Government for entertaining VIP tourists visiting National Parks.

(d) The steps taken by Government of India to protect wildlife and prevent poaching are as under:

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of Wildlife crime, Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. A network of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries has been set up across the country to protect wildlife.
3. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
4. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes-Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, to State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wildlife and prevent poaching:

1. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
2. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies.
3. Provision for arms and ammunition, and communication facilities.
4. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.
5. Soliciting cooperation from the local communities.

12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):  
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the National Mineral Policy, 2008, (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *see* No. LT 8508/08]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Aluminium Research Development and Design Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2006-07.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) for showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 8508A/08]

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):  
Sir, on behalf of Shri Mahavir Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2006-07.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT. 8509/08]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2006-07, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2006-07.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8510/08]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2004-2009 updated as on 11th April, 2008 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8511/08]

- (2) A copy of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol.I) – 2004-2009 (updated as on 11th April, 2008) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8512/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): Sir, on behalf of Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Delimitation Commission of India Order No. 56 published in Notification No. O.N.26(E) (Hindi and English versions) in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2008, making certain amendments in the Delimitation Commission Order No. 49 dated 14th June, 2007, under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Delimitation Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8513/08]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. O.N. 11 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2008, containing corrigendum to the Notification No. 282/KT/2007-Vol. V. dated 2nd July, 2007, issued under Delimitation Commission Act, 2002.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8514/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8515/08]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8516/08]

(5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (National Population Stabilisation Fund), New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8517/08]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8518/08]

(9) A copy of the Dental Council of India Revised BDS Course Regulations, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. DE-22-2007 in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2007 under sub-section (4) of section 20 of the Dentist Act, 1948, together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. DE-22-2007 dated the 11th January, 2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8519/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:-

(i) S.O. 351(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 58 (Meerut-Muzaffarnagar Section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (ii) S.O. 164(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th January, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 17 in the State of Kerala.
- (iii) S.O. 1950(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 47 [Tamil Nadu/Kerala Border (Walayar-Thrissur Section)] in the State of Kerala.
- (iv) S.O. 1951(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Vaniampara to Thrissur Section) in the State of Kerala.
- (v) S.O. 1952(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Walayar-Thrissur Section) in the State of Kerala.
- (vi) S.O. 282(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2008 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of different stretches of National Highway Nos. 13,17 and 48 in the State of Karnataka.
- (vii) S.O. 335(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th February, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1535 (E) dated the 13th September, 2007.
- (viii) S.O. 1899(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 48 (Nelamangala-Hassan Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (ix) S.O. 1900(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Mulabagal-Kolar-Bangalore Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (x) S.O. 1929(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc), of National Highway No. 4 (Mulabagal-Kolar-Bangalore Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xi) S.O. 415(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2008 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1741 (E) dated the 10th October, 2006.
- (xii) S.O. 528(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2008 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of National Highway No. 2 [Etawah to Secundera (Kanpur-Dehat)] in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item nos. (iii to v and viii to x) of (1) above
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8520/08]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): Sir, on behalf of Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) A copy of the Central Industrial Security Force (Group 'A' Executive Cadre) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 201 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2008, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8521/08]
- (2) A copy of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.83(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2008, under sub-section (3) of section 30 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8522/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. 428(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2008 recognizing laboratories mentioned therein as the Environmental Laboratories to carry out the function entrusted to such laboratories issued under sections 12 and 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8523/08]

- (2) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 186 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2008 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8524/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8525/08]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati D. Purandeswari, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8526/08)

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (2) of section 25 Indra Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985:-

(i) Notification No. IG/Admn.(G)/Registrar/2003/753 published in Weekly Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2007 making certain amendments to sub-clauses (b) and (d) of the Statute 5 (7) of the Indra Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985.

(ii) Notification No. IG/Admn.(G)/St.10A/2003/950 published in Weekly Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2007 making certain amendments/addition to clause (1) (12) of Statute 10A of the Indra Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8527/08)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-8528/08)

12.01 $\frac{1}{4}$  hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

37th to 40th Report

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- (1) Thirty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation);
- (2) Thirty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research and Education);
- (3) Thirty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries); and
- (4) Fortieth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.01½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

55th to 59th Reports

*[English]*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology:-

- (1) Fifty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (2) Fifty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).
- (3) Fifty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).
- (4) Fifty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Information Technology).
- (5) Fifty-ninth Report on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in their Forty-eighth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Real Estate Management in Department of Posts.

12.01¾ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

29th Report

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): I beg to present the Twenty-Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 2008-09'.

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 15 – Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey – not present.

12.02 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

20th and 21st Reports

*[Translation]*

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs:-

- (1) 20th Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2008-09.
- (2) 21st Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs for the year 2008-09.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 16. Shri Ananth Kumar – not present.

12.02½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

67th to 71st Reports

*[Translation]*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:-

- (1) Sixty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Finance

(Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Disinvestment);

- (2) Sixty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- (3) Sixty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Planning;
- (4) Seventieth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and
- (5) Seventy-first Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

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12.03 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD,  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND  
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**23rd and 24th Reports**

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution:-

- (1) Twenty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution); and
- (2) Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution).

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12.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS**

**36th Report**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Railways for the year 2008-09.

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12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

**31st and 32nd Reports**

MD. SALIM (CALCUTTA-NORTH EAST): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development:—

- (1) Thirty-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Urban Development.
- (2) Thirty-second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

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12.04½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS  
AND FERTILIZERS**

**25th and 26th Reports**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:-

- (1) Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); and
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

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12.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

**31st to 34th Reports**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KALYAN SINGH (Bulandshahar): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development:-

- (1) Thirty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (2) Thirty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (3) Thirty-third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (4) Thirty-fourth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

12.05<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

31st to 33rd Reports

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel:-

- (1) Thirty-first Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Coal;
- (2) Thirty-second Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Mines; and
- (3) Thirty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Steel.

12.06 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

85th and 86th Reports

*[English]*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (SURAT): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce:

- (1) 85th Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce and Industry); and

- (2) 86th Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (Ministry of Commerce and Industry).

12.06<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

130th to 133rd Reports

*[English]*

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

- (1) One Hundred and Thirtieth Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the One Hundred and Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- (2) One Hundred and Thirty-first Report on the Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2007-08) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;
- (3) One Hundred and Thirty-second Report on the Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Home Affairs; and
- (4) One Hundred and Thirty-third Report on the Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I wish to express my deepest sense of gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful manner in which the Standing Committees have functioned and for the Reports they have filed in time. Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation. I think this is the way our Parliament functions. It is the glory of our Parliament that we function so. I believe all the Committees' Reports are unanimous. I thank you very much for your cooperation.

12.07 hrs.

### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

47th Report

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the Forty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2610 DATED 4.12.2007 REGARDING 'LOSS SUFFERED BY NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION' ALONGWITH REASONS GIVEN FOR DELAY IN CORRECTING THE REPLY\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (On behalf of Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi)

I beg to correct the reply of Part (b) to Annexure to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2610 answered on 4.12.2007 regarding "Loss suffered by National Film Development Corporation" as follows:

Part of the question answered S.No.	For	Read
Part (b)		
1 ABCL		Deleted
15 Bisawa Creation		Deleted
50 Modern		Deleted
56 Needwise Advt. P. Ltd (AMD)		Deleted
100 Waves Communications (AMD)		Deleted

The inconvenience caused is regretted.

The error in the above mentioned question's<sup>1</sup> reply was noticed on 18/12/2007 by NFDC. Therefore, the correcting reply to the Annexure could not be made as the Session adjourned earlier than scheduled.

Now, a statement will be made in the Lok Sabha on any convenient day of the Budget Session of Parliament.

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the 22nd and 23rd Reports of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay the Statement.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in library see No. LT-8529/08.

In pursuance of the Direction 73A of the Directions by the hon. Speaker (Fifth Edition), I wish to inform the House the status of implementation, indicated in the statement being laid on the Table of the House, of various recommendations contained in the 22nd and 23rd Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Demand for Grants for the year (2007-08) in respect of Department of health and Family Welfare and Department of AYUSH respectively.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now, we take up the matters of urgent public importance.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me now. I know that there are some very important matters. But today we have another most important matter which every section of the House wants to discuss.

Therefore - I believe I can disclose that - it has been agreed that from 12.30 PM, we should start it. I will only allow one or two matters to be raised now. I am not minimising the importance of other matters. I have already told hon. Members that tomorrow I will definitely allow them for half an hour. If anybody wants to wait till the end of the day in regular business, it is all right. Otherwise, tomorrow I will try my best to accommodate them. Please cooperate.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): I had given a notice for Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The very fact that you have agreed to participate in the debate shows that you are not against it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: But, this is the only motion through which we can censure the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. You can do it. Now, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Tripathy, please. I earnestly appeal to you. I am not minimizing the importance of the issue. I know that. I have repeatedly been saying that we should have a structured debate on this issue.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in library see No. LT-8530/08.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What is the fate of our Adjournment Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: The very fact that it has not been admitted so far shows that it is not admitted. Please.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav's observations will be recorded. Please be brief, Mr. Yadav.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I am also saying that the matter which Mr. Yadav is raising, if I get notices, if I get an appropriate notice according to rules, I shall allow it to be discussed. Your submissions should have been admitted, but, unfortunately, Speaker's decision has to prevail. Now, I am waiting to hear one of the best speeches from you today.

12.13 hrs.

**Re: Situation Arising Out of Supreme Court's  
Decision to Exclude Creamy Layer from the  
Purview of Reservation provided to OBC  
Category in Higher Educational Institutions**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a national issue of public importance. The hon'ble supreme court has cleared the provision of 27 percent reservation to OBCs in higher educational institutions. IIT, IIM, medical and engineering colleges. That means social justice has got theoretical recognition and the decision is the victory of social justice. But with the application of creamy layer criteria, the children of 52 percent OBC population of the country will be excluded from the purview of reservation. Once creamy layer people are excluded, 27 per cent reservation to OBC people will be of no use for those

whose children will not be able to complete even matric or Inter. That means it will function as iron filter gate for the provision of reservation. It is not job reservation. It is reservation only for admission in educational institutions. As per the provision in Article 16(4) and 15 (4) of the constitution, this Bill had been unanimously passed by both the Houses of Parliament. It was passed in this House under your speakership and it was also passed unanimously in the other House. In Article 15(5) of the constitution, provision has been made to provide reservation in educational institutions to 52 percent OBC people for their progress who are socially and educationally backward. I would like to submit that though the supreme court has supreme right to interpret the constitution, however, it is unfortunate if social issue is also interpreted by the supreme court. How can any one qualify for jobs if he or she does not get admission. Only 5.7 per cent of OBC quota in IAS and IPS has been filled up. Till now, 27 percent quota has not been filled up. If this quota of OBC children is not filled up, it will be transferred to general quota. So, I would like to submit that it is not poverty alleviation programme. The provision of reservation in educational institution is aimed at providing social and educational status to OBC people. It is aimed at providing equal opportunity to them.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow a full discussion on this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: When the provision of reservation was made in 1992, it was said that reservation should be provided in educational institutions, why is it provided in jobs? Now, when reservation has been provided in education here too, an iron filter gate in the form of creamy layer has been set up. There is no mention of economic criteria anywhere in the constitution...(Interruptions) There is no mention of economic criteria anywhere in Article (15) (4)...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that there is economic criteria of Rs. 2.5 lakh. It is not a poverty alleviation programme. There are four categories A, B, C, and D. After the recommendation of the sixth Pay Commission, the children of even D category employees will be excluded from the purview of reservation. Then

who will get reservation in education? Will reservation be provided to those illiterates who do not know even a, b, c, or K, kh and g...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request only this to the Central Government that it should file review petition in the court...(*Interruptions*) or should set up a JPC...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to demand the Central Government that it should file a review petition on the basis of the Constitution of India...(*Interruptions*) or bring central legislation in this regard and its implementation should be ensured...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well. Please cooperate. I have requested all those Members who have given notices to raise this matter to make only brief submissions. I will allow a full discussion on this matter. I believe all parties are agreeable that till 12.30 p.m. one or two matters can be raised.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice, you please sit down.

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the supreme court has partially approved the 93rd constitutional amendment made by the Parliament and contrary to the expectation of the Government it excluded creamy layer from the purview of 27 percent reservation provided to the OBC category in higher educational institutions. The Supreme Court also observed that after every five year reservation will be reviewed and the people belonging to the creamy later will not be regarded as socially and educationally backward. The issue of creamy layer will be decided as per the notification of the Central Government dated 8 September, 1993.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the Notification of 8 September, 1993, a person having an income of Rs. 1 lakh per annum will be treated as creamy layer. After 11 years this was reviewed in 2004 and while amending this it was stated that an OBC person having the income of Rs. 2.5 lakh per annum or more will be treated as creamy layer.

How can a petty Government official be a creamy layer? As per the rule of land-holding criterion in our country, 85 percent of them are farmers...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Sumanji, the Government have noted the issue that you have raised. A detailed discussion will be held on it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am concluding in one minute. They are those 85 percent farmers who are committing suicide, they might also be under the category of creamy layer.

Hon'ble Arjun Singhji is in much hurry, he says that he will implement this reservation in this session itself. He has no intention to move the Supreme Court. Sir, it is the preogative of the Parliament to amend or to formulate any law. This incomplete reservation which is being implemented in this session is in fact injustice to the OBCs. The Government should take initiative in this regard and remove the confusion pertaining to the reservation...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a brief submission on this matter and associate myself with the matter.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to associate myself with this matter and want to say a few words.

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given notice. I am sorry. All those hon. Members who want to associate themselves with this matter can send slips to the Table. Their names will be recorded as associating with this matter. There will be a full debate on this matter and you can give notices for that.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, in the BAC meeting you said that only the debate on inflation would be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: That does not mean you will not give notice and stand up here.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please record the names of the hon. Members who want to associate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, the long awaited judicial Pronouncement ends the agonizing uncertainty over the fate of the quota system. It has legitimized the very concept of reservation for certain sections of the society. This will open up better opportunities for the OBCs to pursue higher education. But unfortunately, the ruling of the Apex court is not the last word on the many contentious questions raised by the adoption of the Ninety-Third Amendment enabling the Government to reserve the seats for OBCs, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in educational institutions.

The court has firmly denied the benefit of reservations to the creamy layer, economically privileged classes among the OBCs with an annual income of Rs.2.5 lakh or more. It has also made the 27 per cent quota inapplicable to privately owned institutions. The Supreme Court has also said that reservation for OBCs will not be in perpetuity and that the policy has to be reviewed every five years, which means that those OBCs who enter the creamy layer should subsequently be excluded.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is the decision. You all know.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: These are the issues which have been agitating the society.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House that the fixation of the criteria of creamy layer is nothing new. I would say that there is a need for revision of parameters of determining the creamy layer. It was not for the first time that the definition of creamy layer is being done. It already exists. It was first defined by the Department of Personnel and Training.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate. You have mentioned the matter. I am waiting for the notices to come to allow a debate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I will complete within one minute.

The Department of Personnel and Training defined it on September 8, 1993. At that time, the income ceiling for creamy layer was Rs.1 lakh or above. Later on the NBCC decided the list. This was revised on March 9, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Sorry. It is not a debate.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, my point here is that in 2003, it was decided that the annual income will be Rs.2.5 lakh and even now the Supreme Court has clearly fixed it at Rs.2.5 lakh... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, please.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, let me complete.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a debate time.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, there should be a full discussion on this... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I do not know what you are saying.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the issue here is that the Apex court has not enhanced the income level even after five years. When a fixation is there by the court that within five years it will be reviewed. I would only urge upon the Government to go to the court... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav – not present.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I demand the revision of the parameters of determining the creamy layer in every five years' interval instead of ten years... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, there should be a full discussion on the issue... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I will not allow anything to be done like this.

*(Interruptions) ...\**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am only submitting... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not submit. I have not asked you to submit. I have called Shri Ganesh Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow this. I will allow a full debate, but I will not allow like this. Your names have been recorded as associated. I earnestly appeal to you. I respect you. The names of Mr. Kuppusamy, Mr. Krishnaswamy, Prof. Ramadoss, Mr. A. Ravichandran, Mr. C. Krishnan, Mr. Santosh Gangwar, Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Mr. Ramdass Athawale, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Mr. Ratilal Kalidas Verma, Dr. K. Dhanaraju, and Mr. Ganesh Singh will be prominently recorded as associated.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Supreme court...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not in your seat. I have called you. Take the permission of the Chair to speak from there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please allow me to speak from this seat.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given notice for two matters...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, on the drought situation in Madhya Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two third of the total districts of Madhya Pradesh, are in the grip of severe famine, starvation and scarcity of drinking water and it is on account of this that people alongwith their cattle are migrating to other areas. There is drought and severe crisis of drinking water in 38 districts and 163 Tehsils of Madhya Pradesh. A large number of people and domestic animals are migrating to other areas. The worst sufferers are the poor people who, on the one hand, are facing price-rise and on the other hand, the Central Government have reduced their quota of foodgrains. The Central study team has also seen the pathetic condition over there however, on account of political reasons the Central Government have not provided even a single penny. I would like to know whether assistance will be provided after their death due to hunger and thirst. The State Government with its limited resources has started providing drinking water and it is making available wheat at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg and rice at the rate of Rs. 4.50 per k.g. to the people to check the exodus of people due to hunger and thirst. Nearly 50 to 60 percent population of those districts, affected on account of famine and severe crisis of drinking water, has been included under the below poverty line category. I would like to request the Central Government to provide immediate relief. I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me time to speak.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the licence of three important vaccine manufacturing units of our country has not been renewed. One such unit was set up 100 years back; another unit was set up 80 years back; and the third one was set up 60 years back. These vaccine manufacturing units are at Chennai, Kannur and Mumbai.

Sir, they have been asked not to supply vaccines to the hospitals. The immunization programme also will suffer greatly because of not renewing the licence of these three premier vaccine manufacturing units. They are all under the Public Sector Undertakings. Sir, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is promoting the private sector because certain new vaccine manufacturing units have come up under private sector. They are selling vaccine at a much higher price. The poor people are suffering because of the closing down of the Government's own vaccine manufacturing units. The Director of the Central Drug Controller has issued an

\*Not recorded.

Order for closing down of these three vaccine manufacturing units. Sir, I demand that the Order that has been issued by the then Director of the Central Drug Controller should be withdrawn forthwith, the licences of these three units should be renewed, and they should be asked to supply the vaccines for the immunization programme. Sir, these units should not be closed down in the interests of the poor people of this country. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is time for Special Mentions by those hon. Members who gave their notices. We have decided that up to five matters would be allowed. Today, we have a very important discussion, which is to start immediately, and I seek your kind cooperation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I demand an assurance from the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be done now. Shri Acharia, you are here for 30 years and you know that.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we demand an assurance from the Government ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody will answer without my permission. I do not accept.

Now, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I want to associate with him. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Time for association is over.

Only Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava's observation will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, severe damage has occurred due to cold wave in Rajasthan but compensation has not been given as survey in this regard has not yet been completed.

\*Not recorded.

Meanwhile crops of the farmers have got damaged due to hailstorm and heavy rainfall in Rajasthan. The farmers of Rajasthan are very aggrieved. I would like to request the Government to provide compensation to those farmers whose crops have got damaged due to cold wave, though survey in this regard has not yet been completed. The Government of India should amend the law to provide compensation for damaged crops due to hailstorms and heavy rainfall...*(Interruptions)*. The Government of India should amend the provisions of the Calamity Relief funds and the National Disaster Contingency Fund...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be misled by him.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I would like to request the Government that compensation should be provided to the farmers of Rajasthan by amending the law.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to associate myself with it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, very much.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be misled by him.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, very much.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Sir, I associate myself on this very important matter raised by Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Your name will be associated.

Now, the other matters would be taken up at the end of the day, if you are present. Otherwise, I would try to accommodate as many Members as possible tomorrow.

12.30 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed in Today's List of Business may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to provide financial package for improving civic amenities in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): There are many small towns in my parliamentary constituency Banaskantha where urban development schemes are not being implemented and it is on account of this that towns are littered with garbage and in the absence of sewerage facility, filth remains scattered here and there. There is acute shortage of houses for poor people in towns and during summer season the people of these towns do not get drinking water and women have to cover several km. distance to fetch water. The roads in towns are in bad shape. The financial position of municipal corporation functioning here is not sound. There is a need to provide financial package by the Central Government to municipal corporation for improving civic amenities in rural area of my Parliamentary constituency Banaskantha.

Through the House, I would like to request the Government that it should seriously ponder over this matter.

- (ii) **Need to release funds for rehabilitation of Flood affected people in Godda and Deoghar districts of Jharkhand.**

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): It is on account of heavy rainfall and flood occurring continuously for last two years that 18600 houses of poor people have collapsed in Deoghar and other districts of Jharkhand state and the people have become homeless.

The Jharkhand Government has demanded Rs. 100 crore from the Government of India for the construction of houses and paying compensation especially to the affected people of these two districts. It is on account

of non provision of fund by the Central Government that the houses of poor people could not be constructed and so their condition is very pathetic.

So, the Central Government should immediately take necessary step in this regard.

- (iii) **Need to ensure adequate supply of LPG and Kerosene in Uttarakhand**

SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the demand of the quota of cooking gas and kerosene in Uttarakhand.

Sir, much of Uttarakhand is covered by forests and hills. There is a need to increase in the quota of Petroleum products viz. cooking gas and kerosene to meet the shortage of these products. The people of the State have to depend on forests due to the non availability of other option of fuel in the area. Cutting of forests for fuel is causing a serious problem of environmental pollution today. We will have to ponder over seriously to stop the use of wood as fuel to check the environmental pollution. Petroleum products including Kerosene will have to be made available in ample quality at cheaper rate to the poor people of the far flung areas of the state covered by forest. Additional quota of Kerosene has to be made available in the far flung areas where it is difficult to supply the gas.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that alongwith the adequate supply of cooking gas and kerosene their prices should be reduced in Uttarakhand.

- (iv) **Need to release funds from Central Road Fund for proper repair and maintenance of roads intersecting N.H.-8 and linking Alwar, Rajasthan with Rewari, Haryana**

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is heavy traffic on National Highway No. 8 from Kasaula Chowk (Gadhi Bolni Chowk) to Gadhi Bolni (Haryana) via Kotkasim-Bibirani to Kishangarh (Alwar). This road connects Alwar, Rajasthan with Rewari Haryana and is in dilapidated condition. I would like to request hon. Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways to allocate the amount from Central Road Fund for widening and renovation of whole stretch.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

**(v) Need to exempt Agriculture Produce Market Committee of Unjha, Mehsana district of Gujarat from Income Tax**

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL (Mehsana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an international spices market in my Parliamentary Constituency Mehsana and Coriander, Cumin seed Kadiari mole and diwalia etc. are exported all over the world from here. A cooperative society APMC of the farmers is functioning for this purpose which plays an important role in the production of spices and their exports. This society functions on no loss no profit basis and provides help to the farmers in getting loans and conducting research work on spices, but the Central Government charges income tax on APMC which is injustice to the farmers.

Through this House, I would like to urge the Government to immediately exempt APMC from Income Tax being charged.

**(vi) Need to enhance the share of funds provided by the Central Government for Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme in Rajasthan**

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than 90 per cent of the water supply schemes pertaining to Rajasthan are based on ground water. Due to over exploitation of ground water and lesser rainfall the water table of the State is continuously depleting. As a result out of 237 blocks only 30 blocks are fit for exploitation of ground water. The quality of ground water is deteriorating day by day. The result of habitation survey conducted in 2003 shows that 34,183 habitations in the State are facing the problem of potable water.

The ground water resources are not reliable resources for long term solution of water supply. Keeping all available options in mind and on the basis of studies on changing activities of ground water storage, the State Government have taken the policy decision that non ground based resources are reliable and permanent resources for potable water schemes. There are very few surface based resources which can supply water continuously and the Chambal and its tributaries, Indira Gandhi Canal System and Narmada Canal etc. are considered as reliable resources for water supply schemes. Due to this limitation the mega projects benefiting the group of villages and towns by the distant surface based sources are the only alternative available for solution of the villages facing the scarcity of potable water. This type of mega projects are comparatively more

expensive due to long pipe line distribution system. The potable water schemes of habitations facing the scarcity of potable water are being funded by the Government under Rajiv Gandhi potable water supply mission. Such schemes are financed by the Government of India and State Government in the proportion of 75 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. There is a need to increase the share of Government of India allocation to tackle the problem of poor quality of potable water keeping in view the comparatively high cost of potable water schemes and limited amount available under State head due to scarcity of reliable sources of water.

The Government of India proposes hundred per cent financing for the schemes under ARWSP (Quality) keeping in view the grave problem of poor quality of potable water resources in the State of Rajasthan and the first installment of Union Government's share should be enhanced to 75 per cent from 50 per cent.

**(vii) Need to construct a railway line linking Bilaspur-Mandla in Chhattisgarh with Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Sir, Chhattisgarh is a newly created State and it has a population of 2 crore out of which scheduled tribe population is 80-90 lakh. The survey work of railway line from Bilaspur-Mandla and Jabalpur started in 1971, but still survey work has not been completed. This should be referred to Planning Commission because laying of this 125 km long railway line will provide bread and butter to the lakhs of people. It would be a source of earning for these people. Coal, Bauxite and Dolomite etc. are found and these minerals would create income for the State Government, Union Government and the Railways. For this, I would like to request that Bilaspur-Mandla Bilaspur new railway line should be sanctioned without any delay.

**(viii) Need to run Rajdhani Express between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar via Keonjhar**

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Bhubaneswar, the State Capital of Orissa is connected by Rajdhani Express from New Delhi for only five days in a week. The train no. 2421-2422 goes on Kharagpur-Adra route and train no. 2443-2444 go via Kharagpur and Tatanagar route. Both these Rajdhani Express trains join on separate days at Gaya and then go to New Delhi. There is no Rajdhani

Express between New Delhi and Bhubaneswar on the remaining two days.

Since the completion of Banspani-Daitari line now there is a direct rail route from Tatanagar and Jajpur Road via Banspani and Keonjhar. This line touches upon major portion of Singhbhum and Keonjhar districts which are abundant with mineral resources besides large number of steel plants/sponge iron plants and other mining industries are located in these districts. The people of these two districts also visit New Delhi for some vocation or the other. So there is a justification for connecting Rajdhani Express from these districts. If the Rajdhani Express diverts from Tatanagar for Keonjhar and joins at Jajpur-Keonjhar Road and from there goes to Bhubaneswar, two backward districts of Orissa and Jharkhand will have a direct train to New Delhi. A large number of people will be benefited thereby and this will generate a good amount of revenue for Railways as it is in the case of freight.

As such, I demand that Bhubaneswar and New Delhi may be connected by Rajdhani Express on the remaining two days via Keonjhar without any further delay.

**(ix) Need to enhance the share of financial assistance provided by Government of India under "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan".**

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Govt. of India has already decided to financially assist the State Govt. to increase the access rate for Secondary education by establishing new schools. Under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' Govt. of India proposes to provide assistance to construct infrastructure wherein 50% financial assistance is proposed and the same need to be aligned with the SSA programme of Primary education for which finance is provided by Govt. of India and State Governments at the rate of 75% and 25% of total expenditure. This proportion was existing till last year for Primary Education and it has recently changed to 65% and 35% for reasons unknown.

I urge the Govt. of India to increase its share to 75% or above.

**(x) Need to introduce a flight between Delhi and Bhubaneswar via Varanasi**

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundergarh): A large number of foreign as well as domestic tourists visit places of tourist interest in Orissa. The places of religious attraction like

Bhubaneswar, Puri, Konark, and Dhauli, Ratangiri-Udaygiri-Lalitgiri and La.ngudi, the Buddhist Centres are also located in that state. The tourists and pilgrims who come to visit Varanasi and Buddhist Centre, Bodhgaya also visit Bhubaneswar by air but they face a lot of inconvenience as there is no flight between Varanasi and Bhubaneswar. They can conveniently go to Bhubaneswar, if a direct flight is introduced between Delhi and Bhubaneswar via Varanasi in the morning. They can go back to Delhi from Bhubaneswar if the same flight returns in the evening. This should be in addition to the regular direct flight running between Delhi and Bhubaneswar.

As such, I demand that a flight be introduced between Delhi and Bhubaneswar via Varanasi without any further delay to facilitate the smooth movement of tourists and pilgrims to these places of tourist interest.

**(xi) Need to set up a Central Polytechnic at Melur Taluk in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu**

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Education is in the Concurrent List and it is incumbent on the part of Union Government also to establish institutions in several parts of the country, especially in areas where people from the deprived sections of the society dwell without facilities for technical and technological training and education. For instance, Kottampatti Panchayat Union in Melur Taluk of Madurai District of Tamil Nadu, an economically backward area, does not have a college for higher education and any institute for technical education and training though it has two higher secondary schools and twelve high schools run by Government with about 1200 students passing out every year. Since these children from Backward Class and Scheduled Caste families do not have facilities to have technical education and training in the absence of any Polytechnic or even an Industrial Training Institute, 90 per cent of the school students have to discontinue their schools studies and have to move away as migrant labour to live on daily wages. Considering this need of the youth of this backward area and also the availability of about 350 acres of uncultivated Government land lying vacant in Siambkone Patti, Survey No. 1/1 in Pallapatti village in Kottampatti Panchayat Union in Melur Taluk of Madurai District that has a fertile hilly backdrop with plentiful water resources a higher technical education institute can be conceived. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to establish a Central Polytechnic there to benefit children who hail from the depressed classes of the society.

**(xii) Need to provide relief package to the farmers whose crops have been damaged due to heavy rains in Kerala**

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The heavy rain lashed in Kerala recently was unprecedented in the summer season causing large scale destruction of paddy and other crops in the State, The calculated loss of this unexpected calamity was above Rs. 1091.95 crores. The loss due to the damage of paddy alone is Rs. 161 crores with Kuttanad in Alappuzha District which is considered as the rice bowl of Kerala, suffering a loss of Rs. 62 crores. Besides paddy, all other crops including cash crops suffered heavily due to untimely rains. The total loss of working days of agricultural labourers is 14,05,285. Kerala has been experiencing recurring natural calamities for few years now. The State has requested the Centre to provide relief package for the suffering farmers in the State.

I urge upon the Government, to sanction and release adequate funds.

**(xiii) Need to include Bundelkhandi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bundelkhandi dialect is spoken in almost 26 districts of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Bundelkhand region is surrounded by five rivers namely Chambal, Yamuna, Betwa, Dhasan and Ken. Jhanis Ki Rani and Pandit Parmanand, Deewan Shatrughna Singh, Swami Brahmanand and thousands of other people have played an important role in the independence struggle. People speaking this dialect live all over the country and around the World. This dialect is similar to Brajbhasha dialect. That is why this dialect is spoken in every region of the country. It has been lucidly described in the character of brave women maharani Laxmibai and Valiant fighter Alha-Udal in the famous Alha Kavya. It has been written in the golden letters of history that-

Bundele harbolo ke Munh Hamane Suni Kahani Thi  
Khoob ladi mardani voh to  
Jhansi wali Rani Thi  
Alha-Udal Bade Laraeyya Jise  
Har Gayi Talwar, etc. etc.  
Ek Ke Mare Do Mar Javen,  
Teesara Dekhi Dekha Mar jai.

Late Dr. Ganeshilal Budholia has done research work in Bundelkhandi Far Literature, which has been included in the syllabus of Bundelkhand University. Rastrakavi Maithlishran Gupta, Dr. Vrindavan Lal Verma has written many famous books in the Bundelkhandi language. For example Alha Kavya of Bundelkhand is sung all over the country. People like Alha, Udal were born in the Bundelkhand, the land of warriors. This language is popular in most of the regions of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

I, therefore, request the Government through this House to accord it the status of regional language and include it in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

**(xiv) Need to set up a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Rampur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is not even a single jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in my parliamentary constituency Rampur. I have requested a number of times to the concerned Ministry in this regard. I have come to know that the Government plans to open one Navodaya Vidyalaya in every district. In this regard I have told by the District Administration that it is ready to provide land at proper place, but no action is being taken by the Central Government in this regard.

I, therefore, through this House urge the Government to set up a jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in my parliamentary constituency Rampur.

**(xv) Need to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Fatehpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development towards my parliamentary constituency Fatehpur and say that a large number of people from Fatehpur district are working all over the country in the Public Undertakings under the Government of India and Army, but their families are staying in the district and there is no kendriya Vidyalaya in the Fatehpur district for providing modern education to their children, due to which children are not getting quality education.

I, therefore, urge upon the Minister of Human Resource Development, to take concrete action for setting up Kendriya Vidyalaya in the district at the earliest.

**(xvi) Need to give licences to Sugar Mills in Maharashtra**

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): A number of licences to Sugar Mills have been cancelled in my home State Maharashtra on 19th May, 2007. Central Government has not given any reason in this regard. In view of production of Sugarcane in Maharashtra it is very essential to see that there are sufficient Sugar Mills in the State and they remain operational. Due to cancellation of the licenses of these Sugar Mills, Sugarcane could not be crushed in time and people had to burn their crop of sugarcane. For this Government had to give compensation at the rate of Rs. 2500/- per hectare. Sugar Mills have played an important role in the development of Maharashtra and in improving the conditions of farmers. Government's policy in this regard has not been explained. It is very essential to give licences to open these mills soon. The process in this regard should be implemented immediately in the interest of farmers and Sugar Mills so that these Mills are opened soon.

Through this House, I urge upon the Government to give licences to Sugar Mills in Maharashtra so that crushing is started.

**(xvii) Need to modernize traditional bullock-carts by Ministry of Science and Technology with a view to check cruelty against animals**

[English]

SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): The Ox-Cart or Bullock-cart continues to be used as a mode of transport on which many people residing in rural areas continue to depend for agricultural produce, fodder for animals, carrying fire wood and persons etc. Since time immemorial, the Bullock cart has become a symbol of rural India, the face of which has not changed in the last sixty years of Independence. The benefit of Bullock cart remains with the fact that it can travel where no road exists. However, due to rough and uneven rural roads which further deteriorate during and after the rains, the bullocks used in the cart become exposed to severe beating and cruelty. The wheels of these carts do not have balls or a bearing and do not use the rubber tyres which can reduce the existing stress, considerably on the animals towing the cart. I, therefore, urge the Ministry of Science and Technology to give utmost priority to modernize the traditional Bullock-cart without any delay

and to ensure that the cost of the modernized vehicle does not exceed Rs. 10,000/- Rural artisans who repair the bullock cart can be imparted training for repairing the modernized cart.

**(xviii) Need to de-silt and regulate the flow of river Ichchamati passing through North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal**

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): The river Ichchamati flows through the border area of Bangladesh and mainly through two sub-divisions of North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal and plays an important role in the life of the population settled on the two banks of this river.

Of late, due to improper maintenance and loss of depth this river is playing a havoc with the lives of the population as repeated floods every year are taking place destroying large quantity of agricultural produce rendering people to starvation.

The need of the hour, therefore, is to start the resuscitation works on this river immediately along with increasing its depth. Though some work was undertaken by the West Bengal State Government towards that goal but that was very little and that too was stopped halfway.

In view of the above, I would like to urge upon the Government to take all the necessary measures that are required to save this river along with the life and property of the lakhs of people. I also urge that the Central Government to take up the issue with the Government of Bangladesh in right earnest so that the resuscitation of river Ichchamati is done as early as possible.

**(xix) Need to provide funds for infrastructure development in Pondicherry University**

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Pondicherry University was established by an Act of Parliament in 1985, as a teaching, research and affiliating University. The University has jurisdiction over three Union Territories viz. Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep. The University offers 45 P.G. programmes, 51 M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes and 3 PG Diploma programmes with a total student strength of 2,100 through its 9 schools, 31 Departments, 4 Centres and 2 Chairs. It was the first University in India to have offered courses through Choice-Based-Credit-System. The number of Courses and Programmes offered, at present,

in the 74 affiliated colleges is 203, besides the 16 courses run through the Community College. Though the University was established with the vision of growing into an institution of excellence in this backward region, it did not receive adequate funding. Even the basic norms prescribed by the statutory bodies like UGC and AICTE etc. for class rooms and laboratories could not be met by the University, so far. Even when compared with the only other Central University located in South viz. the Non-Affiliating Hyderabad University, Pondicherry University, though is an affiliating University, has far less built-up area and receives much less development grants, which are seriously hampering its growth. The University is in dire need of additional funds (i) to meet its basic needs to provide the minimum basic infrastructure at par with other Central Universities and (ii) to cater to its growth and development as a Centre of Excellence in emerging areas of Science & Technology in this region. The estimated cost of infrastructure development for the University is Rs. 195 crores and this may kindly be sanctioned by the Government of India in the light of its efforts to promote Higher Education in India.

**(xx) Need to construct a Road Over-bridge at Railway level crossing No. 427 on National Highway between Sivakasi and Srivilliputtur in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPICARAI (Sivakasi): Sivakasi is a fastest growing town in my constituency. More than 2000 industrial units are located in Sivakasi town itself. In western side of Sivakasi town, a National Highway Road between Sivakasi and Srivilliputtur is passing over Railway level crossing No. 427. There is a heavy traffic on this Road and near the level crossing. So, there is an urgent need for a Road over bridge in this Railway level crossing No. 427. I, therefore, urge the Railway Ministry to kindly take up this issue urgently.

12.31 hrs

**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

**Rise in the Prices of Essential Commodities and Steps taken by the Government in Regard Thereto**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 31 – Discussion under Rule 193 regarding rise in the prices of essential commodities and the steps taken by the

Government. The time allotted is six hours, which had been agreed to. After that, the Railway Budget will be taken up.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think, I have waited in vain because this matter had come up for discussion in August, 2007. Nearly, after eight months, I got the permission and the consent of the House to be able to raise it for urgent public discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: It was on the List earlier but could not be taken up for the reasons best known to you.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not blame the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No, Sir. That is why I said that I got the consent of the House.

The question is that there are many issues before the country. There are innumerable issues before the country. But today, the most crucial and national issue is the issue of price rise.

There are two features to be noted by the House, by the country and by the Government. The first feature is unprecedented sufferings of the common people because of galloping price rise. The second feature is callous failure of the Government to rein in the price level. If price rise is a disaster — let us agree that it is — then it is failure of the Government. I call, it is a total outrage. When price rise is a disaster, it is an outrage; then I would say callous has been the attitude of the Government towards this national issue.

Inflation is unabated, unbearable; and the galloping price rise has spiraled to 7.41 per cent. It is the highest in 40 months. But as you know, the wholesale price does not rule the market. It is the retail price that rules the market; and the retail price is nearly 4 per cent more than the wholesale price. Therefore, the country is confronted with dangerous double digit inflation.

Sir, what was the WPI on 8th March, 2008? It was 5.92. On 15th March, it was 6.68. Then, it was 7. And, finally, it is 7.41, which means the price rise is uninterrupted. If we say that there is a difference between WPI and the retail price, then it is nearly 12 per cent retail price inflation that the country is faced today. The

market is in flame; and most shamefully the inflation is led by increase in the prices of food articles. May I submit that the monetary measures have failed, the Monitoring Committee set up by the Government did not work and the RBI did not do the job? This is the situation in the background of which the price rise is becoming the most agonizing ordeal for the common people of the country.

Sir, let me give you some bare truths to enlighten the hon. Minister and to enlighten the Government. I am speaking of *dal* and *chapati*, or *roti* and *dal*, which are the common food for the people. What about *chapati*, *roti*? It costs Rs.4 in Mumbai and Rs.3 in Lakhisarai, a downtown in Bihar. It is priced at Rs.2.50 in Delhi. A frugal lunch with a few *chapatis*, watery *dal* and brinjal like *subji*, is priced at Rs.20 in NOIDA, the high rise industrial town near Delhi. Imagine the hardship of the common people. One *chapati* costs Rs.4. A frugal lunch costs Rs.20. It is free for all, and it is the curse of the speculative economy that the Government has set up in the country.

Let us just look at Delhi. There is galloping price rise in Delhi. On 13th March, prices of mustard oil increased by 58.2 per cent; Vanaapati increased by 41 per cent; rice increased by 20 per cent; *tur dal* increased by 20 per cent; potato increased by 12.5 per cent; wheat by 8.3 per cent; and *atta* by seven per cent. This is the inflation. This is the price rise. This is the dimension. This is the agony. This is the emergency. Has the Government acted?

The point is, if you look at the Consumer Price Index, it is another way to calculate the impact of inflation. The Consumer Price Index for the agricultural labour and the farm labour has the highest growth in Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. It is 9 and 8. If you look at the table of Consumer Price Index, Haryana tops the list and Manipur is at the bottom. It is 448 for Haryana and 336 for Manipur. Despite the truth that Consumer Price Index is faulty; the calculation is unscientific; the basket is arbitrary, even in that case, the faulty consumer indexing has not been able to cover up the price explosion of the country.

Let us look at the Report of the Government Committee. I am not looking to any newspaper circulated by any Left Party. The Government Committee chaired by Mr. Sengupta said that 77 per cent of the people do or are able to spend only Rs.8 to Rs.20 per day for

consumption of food. The rural poor spend 55 per cent of their income on food. The urban poor spend 45 per cent of their income on food. If this is the situation, then the sky high price is doing distress to the overwhelming majority of the people.

Let me come to *dal*. I have spoken of *chapati*. Regarding *dal*, I must thank not only the Minister but also the entire Government because they have succeeded in excluding *dal* from the ordinary food menu of the common citizens. Now, *dal* is considered to be a sumptuous food item in a festival dinner. What is the price? It is between Rs.50 and Rs.80. This is the situation the Government has brought the country to.

I, now, come to the second part. What is the Government's response to the situation in emerging scenario of the hazard of a burning inflation that is sweeping across the country? Hon. Minister of Finance presented the Budget. After the Budget was presented, there was 20 per cent across the table increase in the price of food articles. Should I thank the hon. Minister of Finance or should I thank the Budget or should I thank the policy of the Government because they led to inflation and they made the inflation acute and they made the people poorer? ... ..(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your thanks are due to, for this result, for the benefit it will cause to you.

... (*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: With a single inverted comma. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I must thank them because they have done their job. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, you are aware, in the Business Advisory Committee we have made a request that at least the hon. Minister of Finance should be present in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait. It is a six-hour debate.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: At least the Minister of State for Finance should have been here.

MR. SPEAKER: We have here a very very senior and competent hon. Minister.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We thank him for that. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the same subject is being discussed in the other House. The hon. Minister of Finance is there. He informed that he would come here.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. We have a very competent, hon. Senior Minister here.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the food production this year has been a little better, little more than one per cent compared to last year. More production, more supply and more price – what is the economics in this? The supply is more. Production is more. But the price is more. It does mean that the demand and supply do not interact to determine the market price in this country at the present moment. Economics fails. The price is arbitrary, the price is dictated and the price is determined by the hoarders and blackmarketeers.

May I ask the hon. Minister as to how do you target the business houses who are suspected of manipulating the price of the foodstuff of the country to the great detriment of the interests of the nation?

My next point is this, and this is where the hon. Minister of Finance should have been here. I completely agree with my young friend.

MR. SPEAKER: He is perpetually young.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please carry on.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is that in other countries when the price rise is there and the market is heated, administrative price is not increased, it is postponed so that the market is not overheated. We did just the opposite. Successive increase in the price of petroleum products hiked the production cost, increased the transport cost and inflated the market.

You never listened to our friends. They never listened to our friends. Let it be made clear. They totally ignored the advice of the Left. Let it be made clear that they have totally ignored the suggestions of the trade unions. 'Go alone' is their policy as if they can run the Government on their own. *Ekla chalo bhai*. They ignored

us. What is the impact? If they had listened to us, if they reduced the tax, the loss of revenue could have been compensated by levying tax on the other sectors, those who have a capacity to pay. They did not listen to us.

Sir, on top of everything, the Public Distribution System should have been strengthened, as a measure of direct intervention to cripple the hoarders and bring down the prices because subsidised Public Distribution System results in income transfer and seeks to insulate the people from the hazard of price rise. What is the position? Take poor West Bengal. Our food quota has been cut. Still poorer is Kerala. Some 80 or 82 per cent of their quota has been cut. ... (*Interruptions*) The same is the case with Bihar, Orissa etc. In most of the States it has been cut.

Sir, agricultural subsidy has been more or less withdrawn. Uneatables are being supplied. I was shown the quality in Mumbai. The supply is erratic; there is diversion to black-market; and pilferage is taking place. As a result, the Public Distribution System is in a shambles. Hon. Mr. Minister, you have disarmed yourself by withdrawing from the market and bringing Public Distribution System in a shambles. What has this Government done? This Government has been in power for four years. It is not too short a period for a Government to carry out its task. What has this Government done to revive the agriculture? What has this Government done to increase food production?

Sir, agricultural subsidy has been more or less withdrawn. Public investment is dwindling and bank credit has faltered. That is why, I am constrained to say and I accuse the Government of completely neglecting agriculture and food production of the country, and creating a situation – I do not say 'famine' – where there may be food riots due to scarcity and high price that is emerging in the whole India. Where is your fire-fighting machinery? When the market is on flame, what is your fire-fighting policy, what are your fire-fighting steps? I again accuse that the Government should have taken pre-emptive measures to ensure that the price crisis does not become so critical.

Sir, let me refer, with your kind permission, to two statements of two hon. Ministers, including the Prime Minister of India. Hon. Prime Minister, an Economist himself, believes in market economy. He has made a statement, as we read in the Press, that it is difficult to

control inflation. What signal does it give to the nation? It is a philosophical statement, of course. He offers no relief, but he makes the country panic-stricken. I am panic-stricken. The entire country is panic-stricken because the Prime Minister says that price is difficult to be controlled. Just imagine if the Prime Minister of the country is so powerless as to plead helplessness and admit that his Government is unable to control the price, what does it mean to the nation? The point is that as a result, there is a flare up of foul play. As a result, black-marketeers and hoarders are doing their job with greater vengeance. If the hon. Prime Minister speaks like this, should the people have confidence in the Government or should not the people lose confidence in them? I am respectful to the Prime Minister, but I am compelled to say that this is a shameful surrender to the delinquent market forces of the country. It is a shame. The Prime Minister should regret. If he does not want to express his regret and he is not ready to say that we have faulted, it is an unintelligent effort on the part of the Prime Minister to hide behind the cover of the global price rise.

Shri Kapil Sibal has gone little further. What has he said? He has said that Government has no magic wand to bring down the price. We do not want the Minister to be a magician. We never wanted him, and particularly because he is a Minister of Science and Technology, we want him to make a scientific analysis of the rise in price.

Sir, I must say that this is a senile sarcasm on the part of the Minister to defend the despicable inaction of the Government. I would like to repeat that if price rise is a disaster, then the Government's inaction is an outrage. ... (*Interruptions*) The question comes ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am concluding my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): They have called Senile still these people are not saying any thing.

MR. SPEAKER: He has Senile, not I.

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, senile is not an unparliamentary word. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): The regional friends are being tolerated. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He is tolerating me or we are tolerating them, that is the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is whom the people will tolerate.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Exactly, and that will be proved ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody seems to represent the entire country.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The people will not tolerate either of them.

MD. SALIM: Sir, he is becoming intolerant.

MR. SPEAKER: We all speak in the name of the people, but the people think we do not know.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sometimes laughter also is a sign of indictment. Anyway, the point is different.

MR. SPEAKER: It may also be a sign of senility in the present context.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The point is this. What have you done during the last four years? I charge the Government. Public investment in agriculture has declined to 1.9 per cent in 2005-2006 when you were in power, and it is less than 2.2 per cent in 2000-2001. Public investment in agriculture is coming down when agriculture is in a crisis. The criminality of the Government knows no bound, and anger and protest is bound to take place and bound to be spontaneously expressed in a situation when we lost our food sovereignty as we are importing from outside. We have made our economy vulnerable to international price instability. Who is responsible for it? Imported inflation theory is a concoction.

Why have you made the Indian economy susceptible to foreign instability of prices? It is because you do not produce; because you fail to produce; and because you reduced the investment. The share of rural development expenditure, as a percentage of GDP, in 2007-2008 is below 2002-2003. Investment has come down; rural expenditure has come down; and you expect inflation not to rise.

What is the condition with regard to irrigation? How to increase the food production? I am not accusing the

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

Government in vacuum. Let them refute it. Irrigated area in our country is 47 million hectares, and they are producing 52 per cent of the agricultural output. There is 2/3rd unirrigated land, that is, 96 million hectares that are also producing half. It means that productivity has come down because of lack of irrigation facilities. Nearly 1/3rd of the land is producing half of the output, and 2/3rd of the land is being able to produce another half. Who is responsible for it? Why irrigation did not improve in the country?

Before concluding my speech, may I tell you that during the BJP Government — should I get the answer from my friends on my right — procurement was privatized, and stock-piling was privatized? It means that private people could procure and stock-pile. What was your commitment? Your commitment was that you will undo the wrong. Did you do it? You spent all your time convincing us that you are against BJP. What was your role on this issue? They allowed privatization of procurement; they allowed privatization of stock-piling of food; and they opened the door to hoarders, black-marketeers and corporate sector. Did you close it? ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Yet the prices were perfectly reasonable. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to do it. You cannot go on talking while sitting here. It is disrespect to the House.

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Sir, I am sorry.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Did you undo it? Now, food trade is becoming the most lucrative and profitable trade.

Look at the bank credits: hon. Minister should ask his counterpart to find out the bank credit for food trade. In 2005-06, food credit by the bank was Rs. 40,000 crore; the latest bank credit for food trade is Rs. 46,521 crore. More than Rs. 6,000 crore people's money has been advanced to the unscrupulous food traders to cheat the people. People's money is being used to exploit the people. Where does the Government stand?

What about the agricultural loan? Have you asked your colleague to find out as to what is the agricultural loan that is given? In March, 2006, Rs. 1,12,000 crore was the direct agricultural loan. It was 11 per cent of the total bank credit, and the total loan to agriculture

was 15 per cent in March, 2006. In March, 2007, direct agricultural loan remains 11 per cent; bank credit remains constant; price is going through the roof, but bank credit is remaining constant and agricultural credit remains at 15 per cent. What do you say?

Sir, I have a feeling, I may be excused for speaking the truth, there is a market economy, there are corporates, there are Special Economic Zones, there are foreign exchange reserves, but it seems there is no Government. There is no Government in place; it has been left to the market economy to do hell, and to the market forces to exploit the people. You are responsible for the exploitation; you are responsible for making the country totally vulnerable to foreign instability of price; you are responsible for creating a situation where agriculture does not improve; you must justify your existence, Mr. Minister.

I conclude by saying that the Government of Manmohan Singh must establish justification of its existence.

[Translation]

Government will have to prove that they are in power. It should not remain helpless.

[English]

People will then believe that you are the person who is going to do good to the people. I am sorry, Sir, we have supported them for four years. I am constrained to say that the experiment might have failed; the Government is really out of place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, by 'you', you did not mean 'me'! There will be no lunch recess and I believe all of you will agree.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, what about me? My name is there in the list.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be come in due course.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, in the Calling Attention...

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a Calling Attention matter. Your name will come in due course, Mr. Acharia. You have to have some patience.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: When will I get the chance?

MR. SPEAKER: You will get the chance after the ruling party Member. After Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, I will have to call one Member from this side of the ruling party.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Had the Calling Attention Notice was taken up, then, I could have participated immediately after Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

MR. SPEAKER: Then you have to go back to that period of Calling Attention. You are questioning the Speaker's decision, Mr. Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: No, Sir, I am not.

MR. SPEAKER: Please accept my decision in good grace.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: They will oppose the Government, and then again support the Government. What is the necessity of their speaking at all?

MR. SPEAKER: That is right, why should you speak at all. Let us hear a very respectable Member from the Opposition.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I wish to speak only one sentence. My friend in the BJP wants very quickly to come to power so that we throw them out. History does not take a turn like that; you will have to wait for more time. Your Prime Minister-in-waiting will have to wait for more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more to be recorded. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Respected Gurudas Dasgupta is very senior to me. I would like to tell him that we are waiting for elections, then at least we can imagine to come to power but you can't ever dream to come to power at the Centre.

MR. SALIM (Calcutta North-East): The discussion is on rising of prices but you are getting distracted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us treat it seriously.

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\*Not recorded.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on rising price but still I cannot forget the women living in my neighbourhood who always had a smiling face and used to say that she will face all the hardships of life happily and tried to remain actually happy. Before coming to the Parliament, I just went to see her and found that she was sitting on a chair like clueless person. On being asked, she told me that she was left with limited money and she had a list of things to be purchased but she was thinking to buy flour only leaving aside the idea of purchasing pulses and oil.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

13.01 hrs.

Whether to buy some vegetables or not or to deposit school fee of her children from that money. However, the school fee of children has also increased, their books are to be purchased as classes are getting started from April 1st. The prices of books have also gone up. therefore, she can neither buy books nor think about ration and in the meantime, her mother-in-law has been informed that she needs to be operated upon and her father-in-law is already ill. If she thinks to buy medicines she will have to reduce some quantity in ration, but school fee of children has also to be deposited. If she does not buy medicines she has to worry for her father-in-law and mother-in-law is also to be operated upon in near future. However, both of them told her yesterday that they have grown old and should be left to die and she should not buy medicines for them or think about operation. She should think only for her children. She is at her wits end how to cope with everything? Whether the human within allow her to let her mother-in-law and father-in-law die without medicines, how can the mother within her let her children go to school without having any food. The lady told that she was reminded of Sumitrajhi who used to tell that once the mother of Ashwathama tried to give him water mixed with flour in the absence of milk and told her son to drink it as milk. But today there are so many Ashwathamas who don't have even flour to mix it in water. In such circumstances how can I laugh and enjoy life. I am depicting the real picture, there is no exaggeration in it.

There is even no need to speak on the way prices are soaring now-a-days. You get the index printed in

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

newspapers and keep telling after every 15 days that index has gone up to 7 per cent or more than that. However, a common woman like me daily feels the pinch of rising prices. Apart from ration there comes one more problem that if we have told the landlord that we shall construct our own house after one year then today we cannot do it as the prices of cement and iron have steeply gone up. We can neither construct our own house nor can we feed our children properly. Whether prices have gone up in one day? Such rise in price and the price index coming after every 15 day show that prices of all commodities, wheat or flour or oil have gone up. It will take a lot of time if I start reading out the prices of items of daily need but if we look at the prices of main items where the prices of milk has reached? What was the price of milk four-five years ago and what is it today? Hon'ble Gurudas Dasguptaji informed us about the prices of many commodities, but I see them daily.

How dearer pulses have become today, their prices have gone up from Rs. 40 to 42, then 45 and now it is Rs. 48 per k.g. One thing I cannot understand is the tall claims made by the Government. I would like to tell hon'ble Sharad Pawar ji that he had played enough cricket, now he should pay little attention towards the game being played in the field of supply of essential commodities. How the people of this country are being played with and why it is being done? The Finance Minister of our country tells the people to remain vigilant as the prices are to go up. Has he been appointed the Minister of Finance to inform that prices will necessarily rise and also the WPI. Has anybody ever seen the difference between wholesale price index and consumer Price Index? Whether anybody has tried to see the rates at which flour, oil or pulses are available in the market. If we see the price index and growth rate, I can't understand the manner in which the Minister of Finance talks. Today the rate of inflation has gone up to 7.41 per cent. At times, the tenure of NDA is talked about. The Government has not done anything in the last four years. It has not been able to check the price rise. The prices are going up each year. Our Prime Minister, had been the Minister of Finance earlier and is a famous Economist, but when he says that they have got it in legacy, it is beyond my understanding. If the prices have gone up as a result of the policies of the previous Government, why did you remain unaware for the last four years. If we look at the rate of inflation during NDA rule, we find that it had come down to 3.8 per cent from 4.7 per cent. But with the beginning of your rule it has now reached up to

7.41 per cent from 5.7 per cent in 2004-05. It is likely to have increased further because you give figures after a gap of 15 days.

Sir, I would like to say about the replies that are being given that they do not have a magic wand. If they do not have a magic wand did Atalji have one with which we checked the rising prices? Have you ever thought about it? Go through the Economic Survey report of 2003-04 presented by yourself. In that you have said that economic base seems very strong. The balance of payment is strong, though there is temporary pressure on prices but the potential for the year is good, this is your report. We had done it. Before that what we has got in legacy. From the year 1991 to 1996, Hon'ble Manmohan Singh was the Minister of Finance and the rate of inflation had gone up to 10 per cent. After that, when we came to power, we controlled it. There was drought even during our rule, but we were able to tackle it because our foodgrain production in 2001-02 was about 21 crore tones, which came down by 17 crore tones in the year 2002-03 but we made up that shortage. The godowns of foodgrains were full and that is why we were able to keep control on prices at the time of drought and we succeeded in it. I cannot understand why they are facing problem? Why don't they keep godowns of foodgrain full? Procurement is not made. They are saying that we had increased the support price a little. Though we did not increase it very little, it was fixed as per requirement and people having faith in us had purchased substantial quantity of foodgrains. During our rule the godowns of foodgrains were full and even we could have made exports but why foodgrain godowns are now empty? Why do you import foodgrains paying high prices. When the wheat of farmers is about to come in the market then announcement is made. Even now the farmers have been promised that their wheat will be procured. Today the wheat is in the market. Why don't you purchase this wheat from the market by paying good support price? Why it cannot be done, but they do not have the will to do it. Today, the way price index or consumer prices are increasing everything has become costlier in the market. Shri Chidambaram says that it is global phenomena.

Sharad Pawar Ji, you had been a farmer. Has the country lost capacity of production? We call our country the country of villages and farmers. Why such a situation has arisen today? At home my young grandson asks me whether the prices of tomatoes have been rising due to global phenomena. Can even this be attributed to the global phenomena? It is not so. Some-where we are

unable to control it. This control is not a matter of today. During Nehru ji's time we heard that he used to say that the black marketeers be hanged in full public view but we have not seen that any blackmarketer was ever dragged on the road or punished. One more thing worth noting has been giving rise to questions in the minds of the people. A lady also asked me "Sumitraji, please think-why there is such a price spiral whenever the Congress comes to power?" This is the question worth pondering. You have constituted Committees on many issues. You have also constituted high level Committee on price rise. (*Interruptions*) Bansal ji, do not laugh at it. Ask your President of the Party that when she has embarked on streamlining organization in a very well planned manner then certainly High Power Committee needs to be set up for this purpose also. Why such a spurt in prices is always witnessed whenever the Government of the Congress comes to power. I would like to cite an example. Corruption was rampant during Emergency. They have been accustomed to answer ever since that time. At that time, Hon'ble Prime Minister Indiraji had stated in her reply that corruption was a global phenomena. Is it necessary that every global phenomena must reach our shores and we have no option but to face it, are we unable to control it, can there be no culture or policy of ours? The same was the situation at that time. Slogans used to be raised 'Hungry oxen of the Congress have gulped down all sugar and oil, then it was the turn of cow and her calf, when we used to say that this was a peculiar type of cow who fed her calf only, without providing anything to the people. Slogan of 'garibi hatao' was floated, but it is the poor people that are being sought to be eradicated instead. All these catchy phrases were prevalent when they were in power. In 1977, the Government of Janata Party came to power. Gurudas ji, please tell me, did the people not begin to say that put your shoes on one side of the balance and sugar in the other and you would get it in the market. Why did it happen? The situation before the Government came to power was that one had to be in a queue to have one kilogram of sugar. As soon as the Janta Party Government came to power, there was control, Why? There is something wrong somewhere. You are not able to control that wrong. You will have to make an amendment in it. After that, I told about what happened during the Government ruled by Atalji. He had one thing in his mind that if the country is a rural country, if this is a country of farmers, the way to development should reach them. The idea of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yozana did not occur to your mind even after ruling the country for

about fifty years, but he thought of it, because he had the feel of the common man's misery somewhere in his heart. I do not understand, what rules and regulations you have adopted today. Today suddenly you ask to minimize duty on some article, to stop the export of Basmati rice, the price is not going to be controlled through such petty measures. You did not adopt any policy in the four years time. The farmers have the problems of seeds. Which problem of the farmers have you attended to? From where the farmers will increase his production. The farmers have the problems of seeds but you brought termination seed. In India, the farmer was accustomed to indigenous seed production. Tell me Sharad Pawarji, Today what a wretched condition has been thrust upon the farmer, we have made him dependent for each and every thing. We have been importing different types of phosphates for our agricultural land and thus paving the way for decrease in its capacity of production. Which policy did you formulate? Which policy did you have for support price. The control in the rise of prices cannot be had only in a day, we also accept it. Which policy did you formulate in order to strengthen the P.D.S. ? Rather you have destroyed the whole of the P.D.S.

You talked about the second green revolution. I would like to have answers to my questions. What kind of green revolution did you effect? Today, our Finance Minister says that America changed her land use or effected some change in its policy, which led to the rise in prices. You should also have some restraint while saying something. You are not able to say as to what you did. There was firing on the farmers in Nandigram, but what did you achieve by this. You also used some English-word "senile" your party does not have less responsibility in this matter, you should also keep this thing in your mind...(*Interruptions*) What did you do? When it was the question of SEZ, you were opposed to SEZ also. But you said about that policy that it is a vehicle of economic development. What did you do with that? That become a development project of real estate. If you forcefully acquire the fertile land of farmers and construct SEZ over it, what benefit the nation will get by doing so. You were also not able to work out a well planned project of it. Here, we do not seek to hinder development. This is not a question of checking development, but the policy which ought to be formed keeping in view the fertility of the land of the farmers by keeping it safe and secure for them, was not considered anymore in your time.

[Smt. Sumitra Mahajan]

Mr. Chairman Sir, foreign investment has started following in here. All right, you also said, we have formed a policy. We have always been saying for retail business and small industries that no policy was adopted to protect them and this is what happened today that big industrial houses are being provided with land, they purchase it directly from the farmers. But I would like to say that the farmers are not getting the rates corresponding to the rise in prices in the market. If I am ready to pay an amount of Rs. 25 to 30 for one litre of milk. If I buy a litre of milk for rupees 32 and the farmer gets rupees 20 to 25 for this quantity of milk. We are ready. But the farmer does not get that rate, all is usurped the middlemen.

Sharad Pawarji, there has been a record production of potatoes in my constituency, but godowns and cold storages have already been booked. The farmer does not get space to store stock of potatoes in the cold storage, so he had no option but to sell his potatoes to them, this is the situation. You are not in a position to control it. The whole of our system and policy have become such that we are unable to it.

The Finance Minister is boasting of growth. He says that the rate of growth is rising. When he talks about rate of growth and says that growth rate is so high, the growth rate seems to me like a son of a middle class couple who goes abroad. He went abroad, and the couple here think that their son has gone to earn money, he has made a lot of development, he has gone abroad and here nobody is present from whom his parents may ask for water. If they become ill, they should wait for the arrival of money from their son to have a treatment for themselves, they should keep on waiting for him. In the same way the rate of growth in the Government is being talked about. Till then hold your breath. Can they hold their breath till then? Can a common man survive till then? I am not just talking about deaths in the wake of the rise in prices. If a human being dies here, humanity will cease to exist when this will be the scene that on the one hand there are big malls, because I was also observing that if big industrial houses are counted in the list of millionaires, we will have to see that we are in the list of millionaires. In 2006, 25 Indians have a property amounting to rupees 4000 crore. In 2007, their number increased to 48. Ten Indians become trillionaires and on the other hand, lakhs of farmers are committing suicides.

Which stage have we brought India to? What have we done in four years? We do not conduct national sample survey. Have you ever tried to know that one third of rural India lives on rupees 12 to 26? 10 percent Indians are living only on Rs. nine a day. Can you imagine what they will eat in exchange for an amount of rupees nine only? Out of the total number of urban poor 30 percent are living on rupees nineteen only. This is your national sample survey. Have we ever thought of this? Just think over it before making big statements. What is the condition today? What to talk of the price rise with one of their Ministers saying like this, we do not even know when will the meeting for controlling rise in prices is going to take place. On the one hand people have been dying here and their meetings are in the pipeline and due to lack of mutual coordination it is not clear when these meetings are likely to be held?

We are now in such a situation today. I still remember an old time movie named Roti, Kpda aur Makan which had a message. But I could not grasp the message of the movie at that time. In that movie a girl who goes to fetch flour, is raped on the heap of flour and she does not get even two pieces of bread. This is the situation today. I am talking about the social imbalance. I am afraid that the social imbalance will intensify further.

Sir, education is beyond anyone's reach today. The prices of medicines and health care facilities are getting costlier. The people are afraid of disease. Today situation is such that people in general are afraid of hunger, education, diseases. The medical treatment is not available. This Government is responsible for all these things and by giving this statement they are adding fuel to the fire. We write to our Prime Minister. A super Prime Minister writes letters to Prime Minister to bring down price. Is this the manner to redress the problem? I want to prove and it will be established that your wrong policies, your corrupt policies and your inactions all have crippled both the country and countrymen today and since you cannot give them relief and life, they ask you to relinquish the power. Why have you stuck to it? Let others step in. You may ask, other means we. This is not a question. Let the people decide but do not stick with it because your policies are killing not only human beings but also humanity and some day social values will be destroyed and it will be due to your inaction only.

So, I request you to please check the corruption. Adopt some good policies. I did not present any data about the price rise because everyone has that data with

him/her and you also declare only figures after a gap of 15 days. Please do not declare figures. Please do something to check this growing figures. Do something to feed the poor. Waiving of loans of crores of rupees alone will not do everything. Please formulate such policies so that people may not have to raise loans. Bring some policies to make people happy, only then we will approve. If you cannot do that. You can tell us. You should give up the power. Instead of cursing you should introspect yourself. This is our request.

*[English]*

SHRI SACHIN PILOT (Dausa): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise today to speak on what I think is a very important and a serious issue of price rise that we are facing today. Before me, my senior colleague, respected Shri Dasgupta spoke as usual very passionately but, in my view, in a slightly exaggerated way. Nevertheless, I want to emphasise that the problems that we face today are felt not just by one section of our country, but by and large the entire nation.

I want to tell the House, through you, that the UPA Government is very serious on many issues. In this House I have seen debates on internal security and energy security. But to my mind, the most important debate today is about the food security. The commitment and the resolve of the UPA Government stands, as it was, firmly behind the common man of India.

With your indulgence, I would like to take a few minutes to talk about the brief history as to why we are where we are today. The inflation rate of first three years of the UPA Government was a moderate four to five per cent. When the NDA was voted out, the inflation rate was 4.5 per cent. So, it is not wrong to say that we did inherit inflation.

Inflationary price rise is a very worrying global trend. The FAO, that is the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN has put 36 countries as requiring external assistance in food. Food shortages and crises have been reported in Africa, Mexico, Philippines and Italy. Global food shortages are a known phenomena and the food stocks are the lowest since the eighties. Global food prices have risen eighty per cent in the last three years and forty per cent just in the last one year. The prices of copper, iron ore, lead, nickel, tin, zinc have either doubled or tripled in the last three or four years. In the case of iron ore, especially, the prices have quadrupled since

2004. The price of crude oil, which was 34 US dollars per barrel in 2004 is hovering around 110 US dollars per barrel. Despite the increase – I want to break it up and make sure that the people of this country know – of Rs. 3,000 per barrel in the last four years, this Government has only made marginal increase in the price of petrol and diesel by Re.1 or Rs. 2 or Rs. 3. In spite of so much increase, we have not touched the price of kerosene. As you know, Mr. Chairman, kerosene is used by the most under-privileged and weaker sections of our society.

India is one of the largest producers of wheat. This year we are estimated to produce 75 million tonnes. In terms of area under cultivation in wheat, India is the world leader. Thirteen per cent of the total world acreage of wheat is in India. But the worrying aspect is that in terms of productivity, India's rank is 57 in terms of wheat per hectare. That is why I would urge the Government and the House to work towards what is being referred to as an "Ever Green Revolution" and not just the one that we had 25 years ago. The world fertilizer prices have risen by 200 per cent just in the last one year.

The Government has two objectives. One is to ensure that our farmers get the best price possible. The other is to make sure that food items are within the reasonable reach of the people of India. To meet the first objective, the Government of UPA has increased the MSP of wheat to Rs. 1,000 per quintal. It was Rs. 630 in 2003-04. I would also like to mention that the NDA in its five or six years of tenure increased the MSP by just Rs. 5 or Rs. 10, which is a pittance. But it is historical that the UPA Government wanted to put the money in the hands of the farmers. It has raised the MSP of wheat to Rs. 1,000 per quintal. In the case of rice, the MSP was increased to Rs. 645 plus Rs. 100 bonus. Many reasons have been cited for the price rise.

I think the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Prime Minister, on several occasions, have pointed out that the growing demand for bio-fuel has also added to the rise of prices of food items. In this case, in particular, I would like to agree with my friends on the Left that the US policies have been wrong in this regard. They have diverted the land and foodgrains into bio-fuel which has caused a distortion in food prices across the world and we, not only we, but most of the developing countries are suffering because of that.

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

Sir the problem that I see is two-fold. One is that the prices are increasing of food items, of essential commodities, of wheat, of rice, of flour, of edible oils and the consumer is paying quite a high price for these commodities. But the actual grower and the farmer who is harvesting and putting his blood and soul into producing these products is hardly getting 10 to 15 per cent of that price. I think, no Indian in this country would say that he or she does not want to pay enough money or remunerative prices to the farmers. But the problem is that they are not being given the money that the customer is paying. That is why, I think, it is important to point out that private players, middlemen, wholesalers, traders, retailers who are pocketing between 65 to 80 per cent of the prices that the consumer is paying, we have to put a check on that.

Sir, I would also like to point out that the Government has taken several steps to check inflation. One of the suggestions which have been given is to increase the interest rates. I think, the hon. Minister of Finance has also noted that. We do not mind increasing interest rate even though it might hurt growth. We are growing at about nine per cent a year and the country can sustain a little less growth if the prices can be checked. The other option is to let the rupee appreciate. That will make the import cheaper. We will be able to import edible oil and fuel at lower prices. But when that happens our exporters lose out.

Sir, the people in this country who are involved in manufacturing especially in textile industry, when they are exporting, they are the once who are losers in this bargain. Sir, last year, the rupee has appreciated 12 per cent against US dollar.

Sir, I would also like to read out what the FCI has said.

"A safe buffer stock is a 4 million tonnes of wheat."

As on date, we have got 5-1/2 million tonnes of wheat. I would like to tell the House that in spite of the adverse conditions that this Government has faced in terms of global prices, we have kept our heart, our soul, our mind and our energies directed towards the poor and the most marginalized of our lot. The role of the Central Government has come under attack by the two earlier speakers. I do not think that the Government is going to shy away from its responsibility. We have been

voted in by the people of India and we will discharge our responsibility with utmost diligence. But there is also a fact that the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 empowers Governments to detain people who indulge in blackmarketing and hoarding. As of 31st December, 2007, 119 detentions were made by the State Governments More than 2,07,000 raids were conducted, 4004 people were prosecuted and only 348 were convicted. The hon. Prime Minister has written twice to various State Governments to take harsher steps to stop this blackmarketing and hoarding because there are people amongst us who will take advantage of the situation and try and make illegal money.

[*Translation*]

I want to make humble request to the member of our opposition party through you. Every party has a support base in the society. It is true that farmers, people of weaker section, forward class, backward class, youth are the support base of Congress Party. It is possible that some trade unions might support the left parties, but I would like to urge upon the blackmarketeers and hoarders which constitute the backbone of BJP, to dissolve the supporters and leaders of BJP from playing politics at this juncture and there would be opportunities for playing politics later. The election will take place after an year gap and when you get some issues of the other, we will fight election with each other but today the poor are dying of hunger in India This country will be grateful to them if they request their supporters to unlock their godowns for the country and hoarded foodgrains are given to the people. I request this through you...(*Interruptions*) I would like to request this also that State Governments have been given powers by the Union Government to formulate rules for stock limits, to raid, to arrest the blackmarketers and hoarders and put them behind the bars.

I want to cite examples that yesterday Maharashtra Government conducted raids in Akola and Beed districts and arrested the people involved. Pulses worth Rs. 2.75 crores have been seized there and hoarders have been sent to jail. Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, State Governments have been given so comprehensive powers. This is really ironical that in legislative sphere the State Governments of different political parties keep on demanding for making our structure more federal in nature. I agree that State Governments should be given wideranging power. The Planning Commission allot ever more fund than what State Governments ask for but they do not function with responsibility. To cite an example for corroborating my point I would like to say that a film

having mass audience appeal is exempted from tax, step that also favours as well as film producers as well but the State Governments have yet to take such step that will reduce the prices and help the poor. I request to give direction to these States.

*[English]*

Sir, the Government of India has realised the urgency. We have banned the export of wheat. We have banned the export of non-basmati rice, increased the minimum export price on basmati from \$ 1100 to \$ 1200.

Regarding the Central issue price, I would submit that it has not been increased since 2002. For the BPL families, wheat is available at Rs.4 a kilogram and rice at Rs.5 a kilogram. Under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana, wheat is available at Rs.2 a kilogram and rice at Rs. 3 a kilogram. So, to protect the poor, the Targeted PDS has been launched. Wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are allocated to States to distribute them through the Fair Price Shops. It is a known fact that the PDS needs overhauling. But, to my mind, just increasing the amount of money and foodgrains to PDS is not the solution. The solution – both short-term and long-term – is to make sure that the delivery mechanism is more effective, there are checks and balances and every State Government is accountable to tell on record, in tangible terms, how much food grain was lifted, at what price and how much was given through the Fair Price Shop to the most needy and the most poor people.

Now, I want to state one of the few steps taken in this regard. I do not want to get into the whole network of numbers and data. But it is important for the House to know that the customs duty on import of pulses was made zero. For maize, the customs duty was reduced from 15 per cent to zero. Export of pulses was banned. The import duty on crude, edible oil was made zero. The import duty on refined oil and vegetable oil was reduced to 7.5 per cent. The customs duty on ghee and butter was reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.

The other aspect in which the RBI also has helped to a certain extent is by reducing the liquidity. The Cash Reserve Ratio was increased from seven to seven-and-a-half per cent. This resulted in taking away Rs.30,000 crore of liquidity from the market to bring down inflation.

*[Translation]*

There has been a lot of discussion on future market. A Commission has been set up to study modalities for the market but the Government have already put ban on future trading of both wheat and rice. The economists are of the view that future trading does not affect the prices but some people say that it will affect their prices.

Sir, in my view we should study it continuously but a message must be conveyed that both the Government and Parliament are concerned with the price hike. Whether the future trading affect it or not but I request the Government to put ban on it and study it later. If it is found flawless, it can be resumed again, but the message should be conveyed in the country that the Government have taken strict measures to check the price rise. I request the Government for that.

Sir, we all are concerned over this and I want to tell the Parliament and the whole country through you that UPA Government is in power at Delhi today. When we came into power we came with a commitment that we would remain with common man and would serve the poor. It is true that price rise is there before us but it is also true that this Government have left no stone unturned to check the price rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the opposition parties put huge hoardings, curse their rivals on television to politicize something, deliver long speeches, in order to get support of the people and misguide the people, and find fault with the works done by Ministers, people know it very well who is politicizing issue and who is genuinely working for people. I have presented data before you. With a view to help common man The Government put ban on custom duty, import duty. The fact is that when there is price rise, the middle class or the upper class can manage by adjusting their budget but as Shri Gurudas Dasgupt said, the poor living below the BPL, have to suffer most. The worst victims are not voters of any party. They are not the voters of BJP, Left Parties and Congress, they are the citizens of the country and it is the constitutional obligation of the Government to protect and provide them food security.

I would like to give you assurance to this effect that the Government shall never shun its responsibilities.

Sir, it is a Government led by the Congress Party. When the Government was formed, the Congress Party

[Shri Sachin Pilot]

clearly remembered that Indira Gandhi had during her regime in this country, given the slogan of 'garibi hatao' and it was she who had earlier nationalized the banks. It was Indira Gandhi who stood by the side of the poor. It was Indira Gandhi who sounded the death knell of autocracy in the country by abolishing the privy purses. Our Government, our thinking, the UPA Government led by the Congress, Party, our commitment and our promises are with the people. I assure you that with full responsibility and commitment we shall check the rising prices in coming time with the help of State Governments and this House.

Sir, I would like to thank this House for raising such an issue which touches the nerve of the people. If we shall take action collectively forgetting our politics, jugglery of figures, allegations and counter allegations then the entire country will understand it and it is a good opportunity to improve the image of politicians. I, through you, would like to request that State governments, irrespective of their party affiliations, must realize that they too have a role to play in it and the entire country is watching how all of us and political parties together can fight the soaring prices and check it.

In the end I would like to thank you profusely for giving me time.

[English.]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Pilot, I hope you will remain present in the House when we reply to your question.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: I will not yield. But you can speak.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The mandate of the people in 2004 Lok Sabha elections was not in favour of any particular political formation, but it was clear that people of our country gave mandate for change of the policy, the anti-people policy that was being pursued by the NDA Government. But the UPA Government failed to implement or honour the mandate of the people of our country. Sir, the greatest failure, the biggest failure of UPA government is that it is not able to control and contain the rising prices of almost all the essential commodities. The prices of essential commodities are increasing every day. Even after the presentation of the Budget, there had been an increase of 10 to 20 per cent

in respect of all the essential commodities and the suffering of the majority of the working people, most of whom are in the unorganized sector which numbers 37 crores, has increased. They do not have any protection from inflation. Inflation is rising. When this discussion was admitted, the inflation was only 4.11 per cent, at that point of time. Today, when the House has taken up this issue, it has risen to 7.41 per cent.

Sir, inflation is increasing every week. What has the Government done so far? They have convened a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Prices to take a decision to ban export of certain commodities and reduction of customs duty on certain other commodities. But that decision has no impact on the prices of essential commodities.

Sir, the price rise is a direct outcome of new liberal policy of the Government which is being pursued since 1991 when the policy of economic reforms was adopted. There has been wilful neglect of agriculture under this new liberal policy. What has happened to our agriculture sector? Why is there a crisis in the agrarian sector? For years together under the NDA regime, the capital formation on agriculture was reduced. There has been stagnation in the expansion of irrigation and it had its impact on our agricultural production. The growth in agricultural production came down by less than 2 per cent. In one year it was 1.87 per cent less than the growth in population. This has happened because of neglect of agriculture in our country and during these years 8 million hectares of agricultural land where foodgrains were grown have been shifted for other cultivation. As a result of this, there has been deceleration in agricultural production and so there is a crisis in the agriculture sector now. Even today, farmers are committing suicide in our country. Due to the crisis in agriculture and also because of deceleration in the growth of agriculture sector, there has been stagnation in the production of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and also vegetables. In 2007-08 there has been an increase in the production of wheat, but despite that there has not been enough procurement by the Food Corporation of India.

The second point I would like to make is – it has been raised in this House a number of times - with regard to the weakening and virtual destruction of the Public Distribution System. It started in 1990s when the population was divided as APL and BPL. From Universal Public Distribution System it was converted into Targeted

Public Distribution System. What had been done during the NDA regime since 1998? The prices of wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene which are supplied through the Public Distribution System were increased. In the case of APL people, we consider that the estimate of poverty is done under a flawed system.

Sir, what happened during the NDA regime? How was the price of wheat for APL consumers worked out? The price was fixed by calculating the full expenditure, the complete economic cost for procurement, for storage and for distribution.

What we have seen in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 was that the price of wheat or rice supplied through Public Distribution system for Above Poverty Line people was more than the market price. Gradually, the allotment under the Public Distribution System was also reduced in one year. Around 137.6 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 was drastically cut in one year.

The Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government promised that the UPA Government would work out, in the next three months, a comprehensive medium or strategy for food and nutrition security and the objective would be to move towards universal food security over time, if possible. Four years later, this remains unfulfilled. Then again, it has been stated in the Common Minimum Programme that all efforts should be made to strengthen the Public Distribution System.

What is happening today is that although the price has not been increased, the food subsidy is gradually being reduced. Although, there is an increase of food subsidy of 3.5 per cent over last year in the Budget presented by the Finance Minister for the year 2008-09, it is in the backdrop of 7.41 per cent of inflation. That means, in actual terms, the food subsidy that is being provided has been reduced.

The Central allocation has also been drastically cut, particularly for West Bengal and Kerala. It is not only true for these two States, but it is true for other States also. In the case of West Bengal, the reduction in wheat allocation was done to the extent of 50 per cent and in the case of Kerala the reduction in rice is to the extent of 82 per cent.

Sir, you know, Kerala does not produce more rice. They have to depend on the Central allocation and if 82 per cent is deducted then how will the Government be able to control the rising prices.

The main purpose is to exclude a substantial percentage of population from the Public Distribution System, which was started from National Democratic Alliance regime. The section of population that constitutes the entire APL category is now virtually out of the food security system.

The National Sample Survey has released the data and it shows that 70.5 per cent of the rural households, 52 per cent of all agricultural workers' households, 60.7 per cent of rural Scheduled Castes' households and 55.4 per cent of tribal households either have no ration cards or only APL cards.

Sir, it has thus effectively excluded them from the Public Distribution system. There is a massive exclusion. Seventy per cent of the population which is excluded from the Public Distribution System can be reversed by universalising the Public Distribution System and this has been committed under the Common Minimum Programme.

Sir, the methodology of poverty estimation followed by the Government and the process of identification of families below poverty line are deeply flawed. That is why, the Left Parties are consistently demanding that there should be a change in the process of identifying BPL category population. According to the estimate of the Planning Commission, only 27.5 per cent of our population is BPL. This has been done in 2004-05. The National Commission of Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector, under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, made an estimate on the basis of the National Sample Survey data of 2004-05. They have noted that 77 per cent of India's total population, that is 83.6 crore persons, spends less than Rs. 20 per head per day.

Recently, the National Family Health Survey have also shown that 40 per cent of India's population under three years of age and more than one-third of women are underweight, and 70 per cent of the children and 55 per cent women in India are anaemic.

I would like to quote the Report of the National Commission of Enterprises:

"From 1993 to 2005, the share of marginal group has hardly changed while the share of the vulnerable increased from 32 per cent to 36 per cent. The overall gain has been quite limited from a staggering 82 per cent to just 77 per cent. Given the increase in population, even this gain has not meant a

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

decrease in the total burden because the total population of the poor and vulnerable increased from 733 million to 836 million. Much of the reduction in poor is in the groups of extremely poor and the poor but they remained within the overall category of the marginal and vulnerable."

The Report says: "77 per cent, totaling 836 million people, with an income roughly Rs. 20/-, as the poor and the vulnerable segment of the Indian population. Thus, the estimation methodology for poverty line, which is being adopted, is a flawed system of methodology. There is a need for a change in the methodology of determining or identifying people living below the poverty line.

Sir, there has a persistent demand for withdrawal of forward and future trading.

14.00 hrs.

There is a Standing Committee on Food and Consumer Affairs, whose Chairman is Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Today, he has presented the Report, where he has reiterated the earlier recommendation that the Future and Forward Trading for 25 essential commodities should be withdrawn. But while presenting the Budget for 2007-08, the Finance Minister announced the withdrawal of Future and Forward Trading in case of only two commodities. He appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Abhijit Sen. I do not know whether that Committee has submitted its Report or not. But what is happening today? When there is a demand from this House and when there is a unanimous recommendation from the Standing Committee on Food and Consumer Affairs, why is the Government so hesitant to withdraw them from the Future and Forward Trading? Why is the Government not taking a firm stand in regard to withdrawal of 25 essential commodities from the Future and Forward Trading? Just because of this, there is a speculation going on. There is a hoarding and black-marketing going on.

The Essential Commodities Act was diluted during the NDA Government regime. There is a consistent demand to strengthen this Act so that the State Governments could be strengthened to act against the hoarding and black-marketing. Why is the Government hesitant to amend this Act, to strengthen this Act and enforce this Act so that the hoarding and black-marketing could be stopped?

Moreover, the Food Corporation of India is not coming forward; it is not acting properly to procure the food grains.

Last year, the Food Corporation of India could procure only 35 per cent of its target. Now, a substantial percentage of food grains produced in our country is being cornered by certain corporate sector and certain private sector. There is no limit for their Central stock as to how much they can keep. That is why in its 23rd Report, the Standing Committee has categorically recommended that there should be some ceiling. But no action is being taken against those who are hoarding and artificially increasing the prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, you have already spoken for 20 minutes. How much time do you require? Do you require all the six hours?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I want another 10-11 minutes.

The prices of petrol and diesel were increased eight times. Was there a need for increase in the prices of petrol and diesel? We, particularly, the Left parties have been suggesting in this regard that there should be restructuring of duty and cess. Now, in one year in 2007-08, the Government of India collected Rs. 40,000 crore on import duties on oil, which is more than what was budgeted. We demanded, suggested and asked that these Rs. 40,000 crore should be given to the nationalized oil companies so that the retail price of petrol and diesel would not have to be increased.

We have also suggested that the Government should reconsider the *ad valorem* structure of customs and excise duty increase in the prices of petroleum products. What is happening? Whenever there is an increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, the Government also gets more revenue because of *ad valorem* excise duty and cess. So, the Government has not agreed to our suggestion. It is because the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel has its cascading effect on other commodities. So, what we demand is that the Government should consider changing or restructuring the tax and cess in case of petrol and diesel.

The situation is very grave as far as the lots of the people are concerned. Today, they go to bed in empty stomach. The prices increase at such a rate that you will find there is increase in the prices of all the vegetables and pulses. A situation has come that today the *per capita* availability of pulses has gone down. The *per capita* availability of pulses has come to such a situation as it was available at the time of Second World War. Pulses

are the poor man's protein. If the prices of all the pulses increase, starting from Rs.50 to Rs.80, how can 70 per cent of the population survive? Can the Government remain indifferent to such a situation?

Today we have seen the Statement of the Finance Minister. He says he does not know when again the Cabinet Committee on Prices will be convened. He is hopeful that inflation can be contained and controlled. You will remember while replying to a debate on 23rd May, 2005, the Finance Minister assured this House that Government would take every effort not only to make essential commodities available to the people of our country but also at affordable prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Essential Commodities Act is in the cold storage.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. That is why, we are demanding that the Government should come forward to bring amendment and strengthen the Act. Why?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Your State has not taken any action.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is not the recent development. This House had discussed it for the first time on 4th of December, 2004. I initiated the debate. Then, again a number of times, while replying, assurances were given but no concrete action has ever been taken by the United Progressive Alliance Government to control and contain the prices, although it has committed.

Sir, we are extending support. We are giving support. The Left Parties are giving support to this Government to implement what is contained in the Common Minimum Programme. The Common Minimum Programme in an unambiguous language has stated on food security, universalisation etc. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They said they would do it in three months not three years. They said about comprehensive medium term strategy for food and nutrition security. I would like to know from hon. Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji as to how much time this Government will take for a comprehensive medium term strategy for food and nutrition security. What steps Government has taken in this regard? I would like to know this from the Government.

Sir, what is needed to have an assault on the rising prices of essential commodities is the expansion of the Public Distribution System. More and more commodities, not only wheat and rice, but also some other items like pulses, edible oil – all these are to be included in the list of Public Distribution System. Fifteen items should be included in the Public Distribution System. You have assured this House that the Government will take steps not only to strengthen but to increase the number of items to be supplied through Public Distribution System.

What is required is universalisation; this APL and BPL, above and below poverty line things should be abolished and 85 per cent of the population should be brought under the Public Distribution System. They should be supplied with essential commodities at a cheaper rate.

Sir, I would like to suggest to this Government that the Public Distribution System should be strengthened and it should be universalised. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is possible only if there is intervention in the market. Government is not intervening.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I am talking of Kerala and other States. My suggestion is this. You restore cut in foodgrain allocation to the States under the Public Distribution System and include 15 essential commodities including pulses, edible oil and sugar in the Public Distribution System.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Secondly, you ban future' trading in 25 agricultural commodities as proposed by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System under the Chairmanship of Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.

My third suggestion is, you cut custom and excise duties on oil and reduce retail prices of petrol and diesel. My next and the most important suggestion is – take stringent action against hoarding of essential commodities and strengthen the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act to empower the State Governments to deal with hoarding and blackmarketing.

Sir, people of this country have voted out NDA Government because they wanted a change in the

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

economic policy. During these four years, this Government also is pursuing the same new liberal economic policies and because of that it had its adverse impact on the prices also, on agricultural and other fronts also. ...  
(Interruptions)

Therefore, the Government should re-think about it. There is a need for introspection also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I demand that the Government should come forward and tell us what action they would take in regard to the four suggestions which we have made. We have been making suggestions for several months to contain and control the prices so that poorer section and the middle-class section of our country, whose real income is not increasing, does not face any problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken 35 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Today, what has happened to the middle-class people? Their monthly budget has increased because of increase in prices of essential commodities, but there is no increase in their real income. Their monthly budget has increased by Rs. 845. So, there is an urgent need that the Government should not sleep over the suffering of the people. Now the country is divided between suffering India and millionaire India. Now, 85 per cent people are adversely affected because of rising inflation, because of rise in prices of essential commodities. There is a need to take an urgent action.

We are not here for the sake of discussion only. We demand that while replying to the debate, either the Finance Minister or the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution tells us and assures us about the action to be taken on the suggestions made by us in regard to tackling the problem of price rise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is not better than the price rise. We can tolerate price rise, but your speech is taking too much time.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mohan Singh. I think, you will be very tolerable and reasonable.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you should not worry. Just as the hoarders and profiteers have no fear of this Government, similarly, we should not fear Gurudas Dasgupta ji and Shri Acharia ji because they are people who believe in only saying, not in doing.

The House debates the issue of rising prices each year routinely. Each time these people thunder at the peak of their voices, but no result comes out of it. Had they threatened the Government on the issue of price rise just as they threatened it on the issue of nuclear deal, I think the price rise would have been checked and its speed would have slowed down. In my view Government alone is not responsible for it but the crutches on which it rests as to be blamed more for it.

The Government have no control over anything in this country because when they changed their economic policies and accepted an open economy then how one can talk about exercising control over anything. The Government has no reply to it. Last year when the prices of cement started going up, the Government on its behalf extended concessions to cement manufactures and also threatened if the prices of cement do not come down it will withdraw the concessions. The Minister of Finance himself and Minister of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with the cement producers of this country. Alongwith the facilities given to them, the Government also warned them but all cement producers denied the existence of Government. They said that they would not reduce the price of cement at any cost but Government took it lying down. The same thing happened this year too. The Minister of Steel threatens daily that a regulatory authority will be set up regarding the issue of steel. He held a meeting and threatened to impose ESMA. They dared him to go ahead he could afford to do that. The result was that the price of steel roads rose by two and half times from rupees three hundred per quintal to more than?? rupees five thousand per quintal. I think the Government have no control over anything. Nobody holds it in awe. The reason for it is that the Government have issued divergent statements regarding price rise from time to time. The Deputy of hon'ble Minister of Agriculture issued a statement that food habits of the people of India have changed that is why consumption of foodgrains has increased in the country and prices are rising. If we take the figures of the world into consideration, we find that in our country a person gets half of the diet required for good health in comparison to the diet provided in

countries like China, America and Canada. Whose food habits have changed? Even today the poor people of village have to survive on a potato and a loaf, many people don't even have a potato they take their roti with salt. What changes have come in their food habits? The Government of this country moves around those prosperous families who have everything and the Government does everything for their comfort. So, we are concerned that the price of pulses available for the poor people has gone up to Rs. 80 per k.g. They say that it is a temporary phase, in the next few days prices will come down from Rs. 80 per k.g. to Rs. 75 per k.g., the poor people will get a relief of Rs. 5 per k.g. and Government will go to a sound sleep thinking that the poor got a relief of Rs. 5 per k.g. I, through you, would like to request that Government must awake and stop giving message that it is an international phenomenon; the prices of essential commodities are going up across the world. I would like to ask whether the prices of wheat is same in India as it is in Canada. We have been seeing for the last 40 years that when the farmer harvests wheat crop, the prices of wheat come down in the market. But for the first time we are hearing that the prices of rabi grains are skyrocketing even after arrival of rabi crop in the market. When pulse crop came to our house, their prices are skyrocketing. It means all the theories of economics till date are being belied during the rule of this Government. The House needs to think seriously over it.

Repeating the same thing again and again to the effect that in order to stop hoarding and to arrest blackmarketeers is the responsibility of the State governments alone will not do. When you legally authorize the future trading in foodgrains except two-four food grains, how can you arrest hoarders? If you arrest them, they will get bail tomorrow. The Essential Commodities Act has been made defunct, it is not even used. Therefore, I request the Government to control future trading within one week and stabilize it. It is self-destructive for them both. I may personally say that foodgrain traders are also getting bankrupt. The farmers, through future trading, were assured of remunerative prices. I think it is not being done.

The second thing is that a non-government agency issued figures of the Government that four lakh tonnes of foodgrain of this country was sent to Nepal during the last 6 months. Indo-Nepal border is open. There is acute shortage of foodgrains in our neighbouring countries.

There is shortage of food grains in Burma, Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan.

*[Translation]*

I think you cannot stop the black-marketing of foodgrains unless and until the Government of India do understand the legal responsibility of food-security in those country. Almost all of those involved in the forward trading have sent foodgrains to other countries.

Another thing, I want to say is that there is no food security in our country but their prices are increasing everyday. You may go to market and purchase as much pulses, flowers, rice, as you want. This year, there has been surplus production of rice in our country. There is more than two crores of buffer stock of rice in our country, but do not know as to why its prices are increasing? I know that these black marketers are least bothered about the law. They are increasing the prices of their items arbitrarily. The Government of India were presenting their budget in this House. They had promised the people to give a dream budget and had also claimed to that there would be peace and security in our country and Indian economy will grow by leaps and bounds in the world. But the very next day, the prices of all these commodities started increasing in this country.

I support all those my friends who initiated this debate and at the same time, I would also request the Government to take note of it. We are the supporter of the Government and not against it, but if the Government fails to obviate the sufferings of people like this then the Government will have to bear the brunt of their wrath also and their supporters will also have to pay the price. Hon. Minister, Sir, I want to alert you that if menace of poverty, shortage of foodgrains and spiraling inflation continues to rise together, then, I think future of your Government, your allied parties and your party colleagues, who represents the people, seems to be very bleak. I urge the Government to take care and not panic. But if a person holding a high position like that of the Prime Minister says that inflation is going up in the country due to the rising prices of everything in the global market, then, I think, it sends a wrong message to the black-marketeters in this country. I am of the opinion that such an irresponsible statement should not come from the persons sitting at higher positions during the crisis period.

With this appeal, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Sir, hon. Members have expressed their concern over the rising prices. I think Gurudasji has raised several issues. Increasing prices is a matter of grave concern for this country because it affects almost everybody. Steep rising prices remain uncontrolled and unchecked. The Government have taken several steps to control it but those steps have proved ineffective. This is a serious question.

Second thing is that what are the reasons for this steep rise in prices and what should be the remedies therefore. We had lengthy discussion on price rise and how the prices of foodgrain have increased.

14.29 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

How the prices of Karkhania (factory) products have increased and how we need to control the rising prices is a challenge before the Government. Price rise is measured on the basis of Wholesale Price Index in our country.

Sir, this is not the right method to measure the increase in prices. If the price increase is measured on the basis of Wholesale Price Index, then it would not be the correct measurement. Increase in prices does not get correctly reflected through the Wholesale Price Index. Other developed countries use Consumer Price Index to measure the inflation. The Consumer Price Index reflects price rise correctly. Inflation was at 9% in the decade of 80s, while the GDP was only 5 per cent. Two years ago, growth rate had reached 8 per cent, even though inflation remained limited only 4 per cent. Many a times tricks with data are played. Therefore, I want to say and want to know as to what are the actual reasons for price rise? Is the high growth rate responsible for price rise? The Government should find out all the factors responsible for price rise because this is not right to say that only high growth rate is responsible for price rise and if it is correct, then it will be very difficult to tame the price rise to give to the people. Priority should be given to control rising prices.

Population is increasing but the production of foodgrains has not increased in that proportion. We are not laying much thrust on the production of foodgrains. Economists are giving new logics. Our Minister of Finance is a great economist. Prices are increasing due to the

gap between demand and supply. So many logics are being given which are beyond our understanding. Whatever hon. Minister has said, is being discussed in this House. He said that there is no magic stick to bring down the prices. I don't want to dwell on it now but want to know as to what are reasons therefor? Private traders have been allowed to make procurement of limited stock for unlimited time, is this one of the reasons? And if so, efforts should be made to do away with it. Procurement of limited stock for an unlimited time had been given during the NDA regime. Taking undue advantage of that, hoarders are creating artificial crisis of commodities. Thus, there is no direct Government control on the mechanism outside market. Directives have also been issued under Essential Commodities Act to nab hoarders and to conduct raids. States should be taken in confidence to implement this law strictly. Because our structure is federal, therefore, states should be taken in confidence. Efforts have been made to take the states into confidence. As of now, 11 states are yet to give their consent in this regard. When efforts have been made to limit the stock, then so many states have not given their consent therefore. Efforts should be made to persuade these states. Now I have got the information that in order to ensure the availability of foodgrains at reasonable prices, especially in U.Ts., the validity of Central directives has been extended for another 6 months on 15th March, 2008 so that effective action is taken against those found indulging in hoarding activities. I would like to say that 13 states, including some Union Territories have issued notification requiring the traders to make a declaration of their stock limit in respect of wheat and pulses. Rest of other 11 states have so far not issued notification in this regard to determine the stock limit of traders. Five other states are keeping mum on this issue. The Union Government should exert pressure on all states to implement the Central directives in this regard so that common man is saved from such hoarders and black marketeers. We need to do it urgently. For this, Government should take states in confidence and hold a meeting of their Food Ministers or Chief Ministers. The way the prices of essential commodities are increasing is a challenge and matter of concern not only for the Union Government but for all the State governments because all of us are suffering together from price rise. The Government is taking some action and they have cut duties. What are its result? I want to cite an example. On 20 March, 2008 the Government of India reduced the duty on crude palm oil and edible oil by 115 dollar, per ton so that its impact is felt in the country and prices come down. What is the

result? On 24th March, 2008, Indonesia imposed an export tax @ 140 dollar per ton. You reduced the duty by 115 dollar per ton to benefit the consumers. 90 per cent of crude palm oil is imported from Indonesia. We are importing 40 per cent of edible oil into the country.

*(Translation)*

Sixty per cent domestic consumption of edible oils is fulfilled from indigenous production while we are required to import the remaining forty per cent. Ninety per cent of the above forty per cent is imported from Indonesia.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From Malaysia.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Out of this 40 per cent we import 10 per cent from Malaysia and 90 per cent from Indonesia. India has to import it every year. I would like to say that it has a direct impact on the consumers. The Government reduced the duty and later on the duty on edible oils stood at zero per cent. The duty on edible oil was reduced on 30 March, 2008 and today i.e. on 16 April, 2008 we are discussing it. It means that it was 15 days back however, the consequence was that Indonesia increased its export tax in the same proportion. Thus, about Rs. 7,000 crores went into the coffers of Indonesia from India. Has the above Rs. 7,000 crores spent on the farmers growing oil seeds, the country could have become self-reliant in this regard. We can find a solution of edible oils and supply it according to the demand. But, the same is not taking place. I think that the Government should change its attitude in this regard. To depend on import is not good. If we fulfil the domestic consumption by import and continue with the same attitude, we can not succeed in controlling the prices. Therefore, I have mentioned about the result of reducing the import.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is fervently said that production is highly imperative. As you know very well that the Union Government has taken a number of effective steps to check price rise. These include ban on export of pulses and wheat, withdrawal of custom duty on import of pulses, import of wheat, pulses, oilseeds and edible oils for domestic consumption and also withdrawal of duty on wheat imported by private traders. Therefore, the Government has made efforts to reduce the prices of foodgrains. But, the Government has failed to fulfil the norms of minimum buffer stock for food security last year. Last year, the private traders procured 92 lakhs

52 thousand metric tones wheat. And so the private traders, Kargil company and multinational companies procured 92 lakhs 50 thousand metric tonnes wheat. But, the buffer stock norms were not fulfilled and as a result of it the Government had to import 50 lakhs metric tonnes of wheat. Therefore, we should pay attention towards the causes of rising prices of foodgrains. We should fix maximum stock limit for private traders. Only issuing circular in this regard is not suffice. The States should be taken into confidence in this regard. We should follow the due procedure or a diplomatic way out be adopted in this matter. There should definitely be a stock limit for private traders and they should not be allowed to procure the foodgrains for an unlimited period, but there should be a ban on procurement of foodgrains after a specific period. There are various agencies which procure the foodgrains. FCI is the procurement agency of the Government of India, Nafed is the agency of the State Government and in addition to it there are agencies of agriculture cooperatives which will have to face the problems in the absence of a specific period prescribed for procurement by private traders. They would not provide foodgrains to the Central pool. If there is shortage of foodgrains in the Central pool, the buffer stock norms can not be fulfilled. If we do not fulfil the norms of buffer stock, we can not successfully face the droughts, floods and cyclones affecting the country. It is a policy based thing and that is why I have mentioned it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you mention about Dr. Lohia quite often in House. Therefore, I have a great respect for you. Dr. Lohia has talked of Fixed Price Policy. The factory goods should not be hiked more than 1 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  times. What is the condition of factory goods today? People are crying of price rise. When the prices of agriculture produce rise, it is opposed. It is natural because all the people have a direct connection with agriculture and foodgrains. But the people also have a link with cement, steel manure, cloth, medicine and salt.

These are factory made goods. people do not raise their voice when the prices of factory made goods rise four times. But, people raise their voice against the price rise in foodgrains. Because, food is essential to allviate the pongs of empty stomach among human being. Therefore is slight rise in its prices, then the people will raise their voice. The price rise of diesel has a direct impact on the farmers, but the people do not raise their voice over this issue. Some statements of the leaders of the left parties are published in the press.

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

The Government has allowed to set up SEZ as a result of it the agriculture land is reducing. Only 10 per cent agriculture land can be acquired for setting up of SEZ. It is repeatedly said that wasteland should be acquired for setting up of SEZ. Arable land, irrigated land should not be acquired for setting up of industries and SEZ. So far as SEZ is concerned, the State Governments have become private property dealer. If any company wants to purchase land in a particular State either it may be Tata or Reliance and other company, the concerned state Government becomes a private property dealer. We have never heard such things happening earlier. Those who want to purchase land, they should directly talk to the farmers and pay them the reasonable compensation in lieu of the land. They should acquire waste land for setting up the SEZ. We should keep in mind that arable land should not be acquired for SEZ.

Sir, I am talking about causes of price rise. If agriculture land is reduced, it will have an impact on the national production. If the national production reduce the common man will have to bear the brunt of price rise. It will have ill effects on crores of people. Land is being acquired while a provision has been made that only ten per cent agriculture land can be acquired for setting up of SEZ. When the State Governments have become private property dealer, the entire land would be acquired by the Government for the private companies. Therefore, land acquired for SEZ is also badly affecting the production. Today, the people are purchasing industrial goods petrol, cement, steel, medicine etc. at 20 to 30 times higher rates in comparison to the prices prevalent in the year 1966. We should think whether the price of agriculture produce has risen in that proportion. I demand formation of a price determination commission. So as to strike a balance in the prices of agriculture produce and price rise of industrial products, it is essential that there should be proportionate balance between prices and rise of pay and allowances in order to maintain the ratio of agricultural produce. I would like to say that the country men must get the food at cheaper rates. Even, the farmers must get commodities at cheaper rates Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia believed in the policy of price control. The factory goods should not be priced at more than 1 and 1/2 times of its cost. There should not be rise of more than 10 per cent in the price of a crop till the next crop comes in the market. A Price Determination Commission must determine the prices of factory goods. Industrialists would charge exorbitant prices and the farmer would also continue to be get robbed till the prices of

factory goods are not checked. Therefore, my submission is that this issue needs serious consideration.

Lastly, I would like to Submit as to what the forward trading is. It was said that forward trading is meant for improving the condition of the farmers. During the NDA regime in April, 2003 we were opposing forward trading.

Forward trading was resorted in April, 2003 during the NDA regime. The major cause of price rise is forward trading. Forward Trading Contract Regulation Act, 1952 was enforced after independence. Later on, Forward Market Commission was set up in Mumbai as a regulator. Forward trading had to be banned in 1960 when sharp price rise was experienced. It was restored in April, 2003 during NDA regime with the purpose of improving the condition of farmers. Forward trading was restored to protect the farmers from adverse effects in trade. But when this forward trading was restored, farmers were not allowed to participate in 24 commodity exchanges of the country. There was one commodity exchange in Muzaffar nagar in Uttar Pradesh. There are two national commodity Exchanges in Mumbai and one such exchange is in Ahmedabad. It is being said that the commodity exchange will help the farmers in price management in forward trading. NCDF said that it will advance information to the farmers regarding crop price as a result of which the farmers will get help in selecting the crop to be grown in the next crop season. But it is not the ground reality. I would like to know as to many small and medium farmers have computers. But small and medium farmers having two and half acre land have to sell their produce in distress sale. The above farmer has to purchase saree, salt, soap and books for his children and he is not in a position to store the foodgrain. Therefore, he sells his produce at cheaper rates on the spot under compulsions. Therefore, the small and medium farmers do not get any benefit from such trading. Only 10 percent farmers would have been getting benefit from this trading and the remaining 90 percent farmers do not get any benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally, I would like to say that inflation circulation is rising in the forward trading under artificial scarcity situation. Therefore, entire agricultural products should be kept out of the ambit of forward trading. Pulses, edible oil and sugar should be kept out of the ambit of forward trading immediately. My suggestion is that all these things should be kept out of the ambit of forward trading so as to protect the nation from the evil of price rise.

SHRI RAMESH DUBEY (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, some hon'ble Members have expressed their views in the House to check the price rise. I would like to participate in this discussion. Today the price rise situation is so grim that lakhs of poor are forced to sleep without any food. It is witnessed in the villages that intoxicating objects are being used to make the children asleep. The people are forced to bear the brunt of price rise. Today the price of mustard oil is Rs. 100/- per kg and the price of Tur dal is Rs. 70-75/- per kg. Food items are selling at a price of Rs. 30-40 per kg. The poor and the farmers both are bearing the brunt of price rise. What the farmers are getting after price rise of essential commodities? In spite of steep hike in the prices farmers are not getting increased prices of their produce and middlemen are reaping benefits. What steps the Government have taken to tackle their situation and whether these steps are being taken sternly. I think there is lack of political will to take concrete steps in this regard. There is loud lamentation everywhere. Farmers are neither getting water nor fertilizers and seeds. On time. And when their crops are ready they have to face fury of the nature in the form of hailstorms and heavy rainfall. The Government do not think about farmers. During elections in south India alluring slogans are being raised that they will get Rs. 2 per kg rice and get loan at 3 percent rate of interest. Can money be realized from the farmers in this manner? Farmers are producing the crops and they are not getting remunerative price of their produce, then what profit will they get from the commodity exchange? What to think about and do about price rise when the farmers are to getting appropriate price of their produce? We cannot check price rise by importing the commodity whose prices rise. Items provided through PDS are black marketed and not reaching the poor in the villages.

There is no stringent law which can create fear in the minds of the people as a result of which black marketing is taking place at large scale. The foodgrains meant for the poor people are also not reaching them. Identify as to where it is going. The poor are not getting foodgrains in the villages. I, through you, request the Government that items provided through PDS should reach the people. The Government should take steps to contain price rise in the interest of farmers so that they can produce more crops.

With these words, I support the views expressed by my friends on the issue of price rise.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The prices of essential commodities are shoring up in the country. It is now in a very alarming situation. The poor and the common man are being cheated by this Congress-led UPA Government at the Centre. With the galloping price rise, their campaign for *aam admi* has become a mockery now. The Union Government has miserably failed to control the rising prices of the essential commodities that have hit the poor man badly.

The UPA Government which has assured, in the National Common Minimum Programme, to keep stable the prices of essential commodities, has miserably failed in its assurance. What has happened to the slogan of the Congress, "*Congress ka hath aam admi ke saath*" ? It is a big joke now. The prices of almost all the essential commodities, like rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, red chilli, gram, mustard, edible oil, milk, fruits, vegetables, drugs, medicines have risen massively. But it is a pity that the Government is not serious or concerned with the continuous rise in prices of food articles and other essential commodities.

Skewed Government policies are responsible for shoring of prices of essential commodities. It is clear that the Government is bungling in food policy. The policy towards forward trading, failure of the PDS, and hoarding are the major reasons behind this price rise.

Previously, there was a provision under the Essential Commodities Act to deal with the black marketers and the hoarders. That provision was for Constitution of "Special Courts." That was there under the provision of the Act in Section 12(a)(a). Under that provision, only the "Special Court" was competent to deal with the bail applications. That is no more there in the Act. It is not functioning now. It is no more in operation.

So, I would urge upon this Government to revive this provision so that there will be fear in the minds of hoarders and black marketers as they will not be able to get bail in the lower courts. Only the "Special Courts" could consider bail applications. That is there no more. Now also the cooperative sector is not functioning. They are not in existence any more in the country That is why three National Commodity Exchanges, NCDEX, MCX, and NMCE have been witnessing now huge volumes of these commodities amidst hectic speculation. Part of this volatility

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

in the commodity market can be traced to a new breed of investors – day traders. This segment of investors, very common in the stock market, divert their money into commodities sensing a hidden treasure and by this measure, these day-traders jack-up the prices of essential commodities and they are getting good profit out of this. The Government should consider this aspect as this is happening now.

Sir, the rising of price index of essential commodities is the reflection of the Government's performance of its fiscal management. Now it is very much concern for us that the country is moving from a surplus food economy to one of the shortages. If nature will be cruel to us and the rainfall this year will turn out to be poor, then crop output would get affected and thus lead to an inflationary pressure in the whole economy.

Sir, the RBI may likely to tighten the policy to complement the fiscal measures. But monetary intervention would not produce immediate results as the current spike is driven by supply constraint and not by demand-pull inflation.

Sir I would like to quote some figures about the prices of food items from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. The price of rice in March, 2007 was Rs. 15/- per kg now in March, 2008, it is Rs. 18/- per kg and the increase is 20 per cent. The price of wheat in March, 2007 was Rs. 12/- per kg and now it is Rs. 13/- per kg and the increase is 8 per cent. The price of black gram (urad) in March, 2007 was Rs. 32/- kg and now it is Rs. 39/- per kg and the increase is 22 per cent. The price of tur dal in March, 2007 was Rs. 35/- and now it is Rs. 42/- per kg and the increase is 20 per cent. The price of groundnut oil was Rs. 98/- per kg, now it is Rs. 121/- per kg and the increase is 23 per cent. The price of mustard oil in March, 2007 was Rs. 56/- per kg and now it is Rs. 80/- per kg and the increase is 43 per cent. The price of sugar in March, 2007 was Rs. 16/- per kg and now it is Rs. 18/- per kg and the increase is 12.5 per cent.

Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance while delivering his Budget Speech has mentioned about the prices of cement and steel. The retail cement price in January, 2007 was Rs. 165/- per bag and in January, 2008 it is Rs. 206/- per bag and there is a 20 per cent increase. As far as steel- hot rolled, cold rolled and flat rolled coils are concerned, from January 2007 to January, 2008, the increase is 14 per cent, 9 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. If we compare this price with the price of 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, the rise will be sky high.

Sir, for quite some time inflation has been the most pressing concern of the macro economy. Even so, when the data for March 15, 2008 showed inflation at a 13 month high of 6.68 per cent on a point to point basis, alarm bells started ringing. The rate has since gone up to seven per cent in the next week and further reached 7.41 per cent in the week-end 29th March, 2008. So you can see as to how the prices have increased in two months. The RBI has projected inflation rates between 4.5 per cent and 5 per cent during 2007-08, but the provisional inflation estimate for the week end March 29th, stood at a 14 month high of 7.41 per cent.

15.00 hrs.

High inflation is widely believed to impede economic growth and it is inimical to social justice. The entire country is suffering from this high inflation.

Now, inflation measured in terms of Consumer Price Index is also higher in comparison to the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Accompanying the data was the final revision of the Wholesale Price Index estimate for the week 2nd February. The revision, a steep 67 basis points, pushed the inflation rate up to 4.74 per cent. For the five weeks from January 5th to February 2nd, the average revision in the Wholesale Price Index was 57 basis points. If you take the base year 1990-91 as 100 points, the Wholesale Price Index of manufactured products has gone up from 183.8 in March 24, 2007 to 195.4 in March 22, 2008. The primary products' index has gone up from 215.3 to 234.6 and, in respect of fuel, power, lights and lubricants, it has gone up from 326.6 to 341.4 and the index in respect of all commodities has gone up from 201.1 to 224.8 points during the same period.

15.02 hrs

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Economists also expect the sharp revision to continue further. It is now necessary that Government should come forward to make stringent laws to control the hoarders and the black-marketeers. PDS has to be made universal, effective and some more essential commodities be included in its ambit. It is also necessary to ban futures trading in the important agricultural commodities and take measures for restructuring of customs and excise duties on oil and lowering of retail prices for petrol and diesel.

To combat inflation, it is also necessary to lower all Government duties on petroleum fuels, letting the rupee strengthen against the dollar and lowering interest rates. There should be more investment in agriculture.

Further, the Special Court is no more functioning. So, the Special Court is to be revived again to control hoarders and black-marketeers.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I hope good sense will prevail on this Government and the Government will take necessary steps to control the rising prices.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of price rise. I, through you, would like to know from the UPA Government as to what it has done in the last four years. A serious situation has been created in the country due to price rise. Poor, rich and middle class all are affected by price rise. The Members of Parliament belonging to treasury benches as well as opposition are also affected. The Members of Parliament from Governments side have met the UPA Chairperson and the Prime Minister and they have expressed their concern on price rise. But they have shown their inability in the matter by saying that they don't have a magic stick.

Sir, the UPA Government has not chalked out any plan to check price rise. Therefore, prices are rising massively. In 2004, this Government came into power and prior to it there was NDA Government at the center. I would like to tell about the steep price rise which has taken place during the UPA Government regime vis-a-vis the NDA Government.

Sir, I saw a note on a website. I will read out the same here. It says that the four metros have witnessed 40 percent rise in retail prices. Delhi has witnessed the maximum price rise.

*[English]*

The maximum sugar in food prices has been witnessed in the National Capital followed by Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai as per the analysis of the detailed price data of 14 essential items maintained by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

*[Translation]*

Ministry of Consumer Affairs said that it has happened and therefore

*[English]*

Delhi is worst hit by price rise among metros because it does not have a connected hinterland for food supply. The rise in oil prices, logistics and transportation cost are fuelling the food prices further.

*[Translation]*

I said that no planning was made and as a result of this serious situation has emerged in the country.

I would like to tell you the quantum of increase taken place in the prices of essential commodities in comparison to the prices that were prevalent during the NDA regime. During the NDA regime in May, 2004 the price of wheat was Rs. 9 per kg now it is Rs. 14 per kg. The price of wheat flour was Rs. 10 per kg now it is Rs. 18 per kg. It has witnessed rise of Rs. 8. The price of Maida was Rs. 12 per kg now it is Rs. 20 per kg. The price of rice was Rs. 10 per kg now it is Rs. 28 per kg. The price of bread was Rs. 8 now it is Rs. 15. The price of sugar was Rs. 14 per kg now it is Rs. 24 per kg. The price of tea has increased from Rs. 80 to Rs. 180. The price of mustard oil has increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80 today. The price of Dalda has increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 68 today and thus it has witnessed an increase of Rs. 28. The price of desi ghee has increased from Rs. 130 to Rs. 225. The price of moong dal has increased from Rs. 24 to Rs. 42 today.

The prices of other pulses like arhar and masoor also increased significantly. Today price of chana dal increased from twenty-five rupees to thirty seven rupees. We all eat rajma in Delhi. The price of rajma was rupees twenty eight per kilo during NDA regime in May 2004 but now it has increased to rupees fifty five. The price of gud has also increased to rupees twenty from rupees fourteen. The price of besan has also increased from rupees twenty to rupees forty eight. The price of milk was rupees fourteen per litre and now it is rupees twenty four. The price of paneer was rupees sixty two and now it is rupees one hundred forty per kilo. The price of kerosene was rupees eighteen per litre and today it is rupees twenty eight. The price of LPG has increased from rupees two hundred forty to rupees two hundred

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

ninety five. Petrol was rupees 33.15 per litre and today it is rupees forty seven and it is more dearer in many places. The price of diesel has increased from rupees twenty-two to rupees thirty-two. The price of cement has increased from rupees one hundred twenty five to rupees two hundred forty and you know the rate of steel. The prices of cement and steel have increased to such an extent that poor people can not build their houses. The price of steel was rupees twenty three thousand and today it is rupees forty four thousand per ton and rather it is more than that. In the mean time the price of steel has increased to rupees forty nine thousand as per the morning news. The price of bricks has increased from rupees one thousand eight hundred to rupees two thousand five hundred per thousand bricks and it is not possible for poor people to build the house. The responsibility of our Government is to provide bread, clothing and shelter but UPA Government have failed in it and could not do anything.

UPA Government have presented budget on 29th February and it was acclaimed for waiving loan of farmers having five acres land cleared but today farmers having five acres land are weeping. Hon'ble Sharad Pawarji and our Udhav Thackeray said after visiting many places and talking to farmers that big farmers should be done. Production will not increase if we will not provide incentive to farmers for farming. You might have seen that SEZ, are being setup. If farmers do not undertake farming then productivity of agriculture will come down and certainly it can accelerate shortage and more price rice.

Today we are promoting industries in the name of SEZ. Today our farmers also see that let the land be owned by SEZ as they are getting good rate. The Government have also said that industrialist can deal directly with the farmers. Due to this the farmers get greedy and due to greed they sell the land in ten lakh rupees even if rate is two lakh rupees per acre and thus they will stop farming works and migrate elsewhere in the village. If this role is played by farmers then production will come down. It should also be controlled. It is my submission to honourable Sharad Pawar and the Minister who is sitting here that we will have to control it also. What was figure on 4th March after presenting the budget on 29th February. The price of rajma increased from rupees 40-42 per kilo to rupees 44-50 per kilogram. It means that price increased by two-three rupees. Every commodity has increased by two-three rupees after the budget. The prices of arhar dal, moong dhuli, moong

chhilka, urad chhilka, chana dal, masoor dal have increased. The price of moong dal increased from rupees thirty to thirty-eight. The prices of all commodities have increased by three four rupees after budget. What is the reason behind it. We should control those person who have stock...*(Interruptions)*

Some friends have said that State Governments do not cooperate. Why State Governments will not-co-operate when did you coordinate with State Governments? It would have been better if they had co-ordinated with state governments. Today, I would like to say with pride that when our Government was there under the leadership of Baba Saheb Thackeray in Maharashtra, we did not increase the prices of five essential commodities for five years and we provided the commodities to public at the same rate. The price of wheat was five rupees per kilo at that time and it was four rupees per kilo in other areas, three rupees per kilo in tribal areas and it was eleven rupees per kilo in the market. The price of rice was rupees 7.90 and rupees 7.50. The price of sugar was nine rupees five paise and price of edible oil was thirty-two rupees. We did not increase the prices of these items for five years. If State Government can control in such a way then why Central Government can not control it. They are contemplating to give subsidy worth one lakh crore rupees to fertilizers companies. Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji is giving statement in this regard. Problems may arise due to this in forthcoming crops season. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You give suggestion please.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: They have decreased their production due to not getting subsidy. It means that the farmers will suffer severely next time...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that the farmers should be given incentives. Today raids are being conducted on small traders in Maharashtra and many other places for keeping more stocks in their premises. Why raids are not conducted on big malls traders. Several companies like Adani Exports and Reliance etc are engaged in export and have heavy stocks. No officer checks stock by visiting their premises...*(Interruptions)* I would like to say that forward trading should be stopped and there should be control on malls...*(Interruptions)* Honourable Shivraj Patil said about high level committee...*(Interruptions)* The progress will happen only when high level Committee is serious and reverse otherwise they will simply visit and will not perform. A separate department should be opened in this regard to monitor increase in prices of commodities on daily basis. Nexus between farmers and traders should be ended...*(Interruptions)*

State Government performe its duty but Central Government should also co-ordinate. Today public is wandering for food, clothing and shelter due to not having any planning by UPA Government. I would like to say, through you that agitation will continue if price rise is not controlled. Our NDA Government's friends used to say that we have presented very good budget. But due to price rise it is not benefiting. ...(*Interruptions*) I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you very much for giving very good suggestions.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This matter is very serious. UPA people will have to face agitation everywhere in the country...(*Interruptions*)

*(English)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, inflation is a covert tax imposed upon the unsuspecting common man, that is, the *Aam Admi*. Inflation not only reduces the level of business investment but also the efficiency with which production factors are put to use. Let us now see how the representatives of the Government react to the ugly phenomenon of price rise.

When the hon. Member from the Congress Party, Shri Sachin Pilot was speaking, he is a new Member, I did not intervene. I had requested him to remain present after his speech because I knew that he would not remain present after his speech. I did not reply to him at that time, but I had requested him to wait and listen when we speak. But as usual, he is not present. He said that the price rise has propped up its ugly face because of the traders and because of the black-marketeers and hoarders who form the backbone of BJP. That is what he said.

I remember, in 1998, when BJP was in power, the price of onion went up to Rs.60 per kg. During Delhi State election, the Congress people had the garlands of onions and moved around everywhere saying that the onion prices have gone up. We lost the election. After some days the prices of leather went up. I was wondering whether the Congress people would wear the garlands of shoes around their necks and would move around. They did not do that.

Now, I would request them that since the prices of cement has gone up, they should wear the garlands of

cement bags, we will help them, and move around as they have already shown the example in 1998.

Sir, see the reaction of the Government starting from the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister says that it is difficult to stop the inflation. The hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal says that there is no magic wand to stop it. Just like that, during Emergency, Madam Indira Gandhi said that the corruption was a world-wide phenomenon. We cannot stop that.

The Prime Minister also said that because of the waiver of the farmers' loans, the UPA Government is paying for the unpaid bills left by the NDA Government. This is the reaction of the Government. One representative of the Government said that the price rise is seasonal. The other said that it is a natural consequence of rapid economic growth.

Sir, China has made rapid economic growth for the last one or two decades, but its inflation currently is below two per cent. How do they say that it has been able to remain at a very low level? Is not it that they are also having high growth since last so many years?

Now, they talk about supply constraint, supply-demand mis-match and all these things. This is the language that they are using now that it is supply-side constraint. These are the reasons given for the hike in prices. But I will say that this Government cannot escape the responsibility for its gross failure in containing inflation. It cannot because the rise in inflation and price rise is a direct result of the policy, the flip-flops of this Government.

On March 15th, the inflation was 6.68 per cent, and on the week-ending on March 22, it was 7 per cent and on March 29th, it was 7.41 per cent. Here, I am putting another question to the Government. Is the WPI, the Wholesale Price Index, also correct? Is the data collected by the WPI correct?

The Government itself says the same thing that in the market the price of rice has gone up by 20 per cent, the price of edible oil has gone up by 40 per cent, price of milk products has gone up by 12 per cent, and the price of pulses has gone up by 20 per cent. How do they say that the inflation is only 7.4 per cent? It is much more.

It is because they have not taken into calculation many of the items whose price remained high for the

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last so many months. Due to lack of time, I will not give the details as to which are those items. The price of daily useable items like biscuits, grocery, electrical machineries, electrical appliances, drugs and medicines is high for the last several months. Now, what has the Government done? It has banned the export of wheat and pulses. The export duty on rice per tonne has gone up. The Government has increased it by 1,000 dollars. The Government has imposed a ban on non-basmati rice. Instead of protecting the Indian farmers from cheap imports, the Government is encouraging import of so many food items in order to curb inflation.

Now, the Government will have to set its priorities right. What is its policy? In one way the Government wants to benefit the farmer and in the other way it wants to contain the inflation. What is to be done? If you give more to the farmer, then naturally there will be an inflationary trend. If you do not want inflation, then why are you talking about giving much benefit to the farmer? The Government probably thinks that if there is hoarding by some people, it is bad for the nation. But if there is hoarding by the nation by banning export, then it is good for the world. The Government itself is saying that because there is a worldwide phenomenon of increase in food price, and that is the reason why India is being affected. Now, you see as to why there is a worldwide increase in the price of food items. It is because there is a shortage of food items everywhere. Everybody says that one-third of corn and one-third of sugarcane in America are utilised not for food stock but for bio-fuel. That is what we are saying. Take the case of Africa. They are suffering. There are so many food riots in Africa. Take the case of Burkino Faso, Gabon and other countries, about which we never heard. You are again saying that you are stopping export. It will further increase the food prices in the world, and the further increase in food price in the world will also impact India. The farmers of India know as to what is the market price all over the world. So, they will hoard wheat and rice, and whenever the price of wheat and rice picks up, they will release them into the market. Then, what will be the impact? That means, the food procurement by the Government will fail. It has already failed. So, this is the confusing state of mind that this Government is having. It does not know whether to contain inflation or to give more price to the farmers.

Sir, I now come to another point. Now, the Government has banned the export of basmati rice. How does the export market work? ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Non-basmati rice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I am sorry. The Government has banned the export of non-basmati rice. How does the export market work? Orders are placed well in advance, and exporters are expected to adhere to their commitments. So, you have allowed the farmers to export it and they have made a commitment in the world market. Now, all of a sudden, you have stopped it. Then, what will happen to the farmer? This is the confusion. Once you thought that you should allow the farmer to get his fair price even outside this country, you have allowed him and he made a commitment. Now, all of a sudden you have asked the farmer not to export it.

So, that is their confusion, which I am just placing before you. When there is a glut, the Government prefers to call India a Free Economy and refuses to provide better Minimum Support Price because the stock is in plenty; when prices are strong internationally, the Indian exports are also strong and the Government bans the exports. So, I am accusing this Government of this confusion, which it is having.

Sir, when the UPA Government came to power, there was a triangle of three great economists, namely, the hon. Prime Minister himself, the hon. Finance Minister and the Deputy-Chairman, Planning Commission, Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia. But what was their policy with regard to agriculture? The agricultural commodity market is littered with Government bungling and policy flip-flops. That has now reached its crescendo. From time to time, all that the Government has done is to just ban the exports including non-basmati rice, suspend the Future Trading on some commodities and increase the Minimum Support Price. This is the only thing, which this Government has done. It is only some panic reactions, and nothing else, which this Government has done. The Government has not bothered to address the issue of declining acreage. It has failed to meet the rising demand; it has failed to anticipate it.

Sir, as regards global production scenario, about seven-eight days back, there was a news-item in *The Telegraph*, which is published from Kolkata, saying that since last two years, the hon. Prime Minister has indicated to the hon. Agriculture Minister to look into these cases. But he did not. That was the news-item published in *The*

*Telegraph*. You cannot say that it is the BJP's paper, which has made this allegation. This was the allegation made by *The Telegraph*. All the time, the hon. Agriculture Minister is saying that it is all because of the changing consumption of commodities and services in India. He is saying that the food habits have changed; nowadays, even the South Indian people are eating *roti*; they are also demanding wheat. He also cited the reasons that there is a fluctuation in the world production of wheat, supply-demand mismatch, and the private trade offering prices above Minimum Support Price due to which the prices of food commodities have been increasing.

Sir, the overall food production in 2007-08 was expected to reach some sort of a target but it has fallen to reach the target by 2.2 million tonnes. The production of wheat has plateaued since 1999-2000. At that time, it was 76 million tonnes, and in 2006-07, it had come down to 72.5 million tonnes. During 1990-2007, the growth of food grain production has decelerated by 1.2 per cent. But the growth of population is 1.9 per cent. Now, the population is increasing but the food grain production is not increasing in proportion to increase in population. So, there is a mismatch. And, this Government is there at the Centre for the last four years. If they do not anticipate it, if they do not foresee it, then who will do it? They are merely saying that the States are not doing anything, the States are not going after the hoarders. Did they say the same thing in 1998? What did their Governments in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan or Delhi do at that time? They said: "The price of onion has gone up to Rs. 60 a kilo in the regime of NDA Government. Let us come back again in the States." They did not think on the same lines as to what they are saying now, that is, they are doing their best, they cannot do anything more. We also said the same thing at that time. But what did they tell the people? At that time, they told the people that 'it was because of the hoarders, the *marwadis* of the BJP only that the prices have gone up. They are also playing the same old broken record now.

Your speakers are also saying this. Lastly, before I conclude, I will come to one or two points.

There should be production. This is very clear that if you want to contain inflation and reduce the prices of food, increasing the productivity in the agricultural sector is the only way to bring down the prices of food. There is no other way. So, we have to look at the stagnant acreage hindering the increase in production. More and more farmers are suffering or shifting away from cereals

and foodgrains to cash crops, such as cotton, sugarcane, cardamom, jute, etc.

Please give me two or three minutes more. The hon. Agriculture Minister, the very capable Minister, is sitting in front of me. I am asking him this question. Now are the farmers committing suicide? Which farmers are committing suicide? No farmer commits suicide in Orissa, West Bengal and in Bihar. Those farmers, who grow paddy, do not commit suicide. It is rather the better off farmers only in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, who grow cotton, jute and sugarcane, commit suicide. They are the people who are committing suicide, not the grain growers and the growers of wheat. Nobody commits suicide in Punjab or in Haryana or in Orissa or in West Bengal. So, let us find out the reason why the farmer is committing suicide.

This year's *Economic Survey* says that the production-target set by the Government for jute, sugarcane and cotton has gone beyond the target. Production is more. That is why, they are not fetching the price, and they are committing suicide. So, my appeal is this. The hon. Agriculture Minister is there, and one of the very influential Ministers, the Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil is also there.

I have several times fought with everybody in the Standing Committee on Finance. What about the Crop Insurance Scheme? In regard to Crop Insurance Scheme, your rule says that the entire block is a unit. If the crop is destroyed all over the block, then only the farmer will get the benefit of insurance claim. When the crop loan is being given to the farmer, two per cent insurance dividend is being cut by every cooperative bank from his penny, from the money that is being given to him. This is happening in the cooperative banks and not in the commercial banks. You take the installment from him in advance. But when his crop is lost, you do not give him a single penny because you say that the crop is not lost in the entire block. So, we demand, and we have demanded several times before the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Finance Minister, that you make the Gram Panchayat a unit. But the officers, in the Standing Committee and everywhere, said that they did not have people with crop cutting experience. If you cannot do the crop cutting, then leave it to the State Governments. Give it to the Panchayat Samiti. Let them do it.

You are capable of giving Rs.60,000 crore of loan waiver but you cannot give Rs.10,000 or something for

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the Crop Insurance Scheme. You cannot provide that. How much have you provided? It is Rs.200 crore or Rs.300 crore. So, why do you not do that? My appeal to you is that this Government should seriously consider it.

There was a point raised with regard to PDS. My appeal, through you, to this Government is that you simply eliminate the control dealership business. Why should there be a control dealer? Everybody is coming to you saying make me the control dealer. Why? It is because he will sell everything in the black-market. So, my point is this. Why do you not introduce something like a food coupon? The Jammu and Kashmir Government has done it. The Bihar Government has also introduced it. It is necessary so that the PDS rice and PDS wheat could be targeted. The right person will get it. The real BPL person will get it. It will not be taken by the black-marketeers. It will not be sold in Bangladesh or in Nepal as the reports just come. So, my appeal to you is that you kindly do this.

A point was raised on forward trading by hon. Yadavji. I do not think that because of the forward trading the prices are rising. Forward trading is a system through which the Government gets an indication as to how much of food grains the Government is going to expect in future. I do not think that merely by saying that because of the forward trading the prices are increasing is correct. I do not agree with that. The Government should seriously consider it.

Finally, I will say that the food production in India has not stagnated. You go to China and see how much food production is being done in China and how much is the acreage. You will see that there is a scope of 50 per cent increase in food production in India. If you try you can do that.

Lastly, when the Government says, when the hon. Prime Minister himself says that it is very difficult to contain the price rise, it means that there is a serious economic crisis and the Government is incapable of dealing with this economic crisis. So, it is better that this Government is thrown out of the *gaddi*. The sooner this Government goes, a new Government comes the better it is; they will check the inflation so that the real *aam aadmi* will be benefited once they go out. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. Shri Sandeep Dixit to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am participating in a very important discussion today. I was listening with rapt attention to the speeches of my colleagues. Gurudas ji initiated this discussion on an emotional note and hon. members from different parties also chipped in. Whenever Shri Swain rises to speak, I listen to him with keen interest. On many occasions I learn from him, but, today, I am a bit confused with what he has said. I do not know whether views expressed by him just now, were his personal views or that of his party. Many times, I have heard leaders of his party saying again and again that prices can not be stabilized unless the export of foodgrains or other items is stopped. Swainji has pioneered an alternative economic policy in this House. Swainji has allowed that there is confusion within the Government but I think confusion within the BJP has been reflected prominently in his speech. The vociferous speaker from BJP is saying something different and earlier whatever Sumitrajji said was completely contradictory. Swainji, I am not speaking to correct you, but I would like to say that currently inflation rate in China is about 8.27 per cent. For some of our colleagues China is a role model, but I would like to add that China's rate of inflation is much higher than India's.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since morning discussion is going on about alarming proportion of inflation in the country. Everybody presented his views quoting personal experience as well as Government's figures. I have clear conception about two things—Rice and Wheat are our two staple foods. Their prices have increased. My experience is about markets of Delhi where I come from, whether it is Shahdara market or Narela market or New Ashok Nagar market, the prices of food items have increased but not to that extent as is being projected here time and again. The reason behind it is that some sort of investment has been made at least in agriculture during the last few years the Government has made efforts to plug the loop holes the lack of investment and other things in agriculture. Today, there may be steep price rise of other items in the world, prices of wheat have increased nearly by 90 percent, prices, of Paddy or Rice, perhaps 110 percent, prices of some other items increased by 200 percent, but in our country prices of flour and rice are under control. I accept that prices may have gone up from Rs. 13 to Rs. 14, Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 but the situation is not that much worse as these people are presenting here. I want to present these facts only for record.

The Most debatable commodity is edible oils and there is a reason for that. We depend on other countries for 30 to 40 percent import of it. The most serious situation is in the case of steel and cement. The Government has taken steps for all these things. As far as steel, cement or other items are concerned ever since we have adopted the policy of liberalization, privatization and globalisation, some sort of arrogance is being seen in the private sector. Our leftist friends or Mohan Singh Ji has said that there in need to bring to surface the face of the Government that sometimes becomes the target of brickbats from the public it does something against the interest of people and they will not shy away in doing so. Despite the direction given or argument advanced by the Government that rates of cement may be increased only by Rs. 14-15 per sack and not by Rs. 40 per sack, the steel and cement industry openly says that whether you like it or not, we will not reduce the prices. Capitalists say to the Government that they will not listen to what the Government say then in such circumstances I will apprise the Government that it has many powers. The Government should put up a tough face which is not liked by the people of the country. The Government does have that power at it is command. The Government has shown that face of the industry whenever such a situation has arisen. During the last two three years it has been very liberal. Now this liberal approach has to be left behind. If the Government shows its firmness in even a single sector, then the prices will come down automatically. It has happened. It was being asked again and again whether the state Governments have performed their duties? When references were being made about raids, then Swain saheb gave the example that the then State Government conducted no raids in 1998. It is false. At that time BJP was in power in Rajasthan and Delhi. Had both the state Governments conducted raids in their respective states then it would have been better. When the Congress Government took over in Delhi, raids were conducted immediately on onion dealers and prices came down within 15 days. Had the same been done by those Governments then the electoral history of Delhi and Rajasthan would have been different. Today, it has made the difference. I want to cite examples. Repeatedly very body has given examples of their own states. Therefore, I would like to give the example of Delhi and I have figures of Delhi as well. It has been said why other state Governments have not been taken into confidence? This is wrong. The Prime Minister had written a letter to all the Chief Ministers to act immediately under ESMA. I would like to give a small example of Delhi. In Delhi raids were conducted at 200 places in a

span of 5-6 days out of which 96 were LPG godowns and 30-35 were big godowns. In these raids two thousand quintal wheat, three lakh quintal rice, one lakh nine thousand litre oil and more than ten thousand quintal pulses were recovered in Delhi from hoarders. I am quoting from paper. I am not saying anything on my own. These are the same papers which show again and again that our Government has failed in checking price rise, the same paper says that.

*[English]*

"In Delhi, spot prices of chana have fallen 7.7 per cent... of rice and wheat have fallen substantially by over 20 per cent following the raids done all over Delhi's godowns."

*[Translation]*

The Government can control this if it has the will power. Raids have been conducted in Maharashtra and Delhi. I do not know whether or not raids have been conducted in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and other states. Why raids are not being conducted there? I suspect that perhaps the Governments of these states sometimes put party politics ahead of the interests of the country and the poor. Have raids ever been conducted in these states? Can he tell me the names of goods alongwith the names of godowns wherefrom these have been recovered. Delhi is a small state and if one and a half lakh litre oil can be recovered in a state within three days then why should we presume that hoarding is not being done in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat? If hoarding is not being done in these states then it may be told why hoarding is not being done in those states? Whether it is the State Government or the Government of India both the Governments work hand in hand on the issue of price rise...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to West Bengal as well Same thing happens there too. Friends from West Bengal are sitting here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Price rise is not the fallout of hoarding.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has not yielded. This is an important debate. Let every Party has its say.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: You mean that hoarding does not cause price rise, these are two different aspects.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking well.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: It is an unfortunate comment, like the hon. Prime Minister, keeping in mind the system once said that it was difficult to control inflation and you are stretching that point. You say that any Prime Minister should not use these words. I am disappointed at this time, if you say that prices don't increase due to hoarding. In a country, which has faced poverty for forty years, due to black marketing and if you say in the House that hoarding is not the reason for price rise, then it is very unfortunate. The country which has been held on ransom by black marketeers and whose politics is based on the fact that we are against black marketeers and hoarding. Today, your party is supporting them. Today, you say that hoarding is not the reason for price rise. It is very unfortunate...(Interruptions) I have heard this thing for the first time...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you feeling disturbed? Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Please do not do this.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, this is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Mr. Pathak, suddenly starts speaking in between...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have got other Members to speak from your party. Let them reply to it, you cannot disturb a Member

...(Interruptions)

*(Translation)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What their Members have not said...(Interruptions)

*[English]*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): We did not disturb them when they were leveling charges against up...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to reply. Nothing else is being recorded. *(Translation)* It is not fair.

...(Interruptions)\*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have got other Members to speak from your party.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record one word except the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mistry, do not disturb your own Member. *[Translation]* It is not fair. He is giving a fine speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is a young Member. We must all encourage him. I am not saying about the content, but certainly he is doing his best for his party.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: I am saying that the kind of steps that have been taken in Delhi, should be taken in other States too. I would like to request one thing.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance and Minister of Home Affairs are sitting here. If the Government of India thinks that our State Governments are not ready for conducting raids and if Governments of India does not have the power under the ESMA, then this House must immediately take steps to provide such power to the Government of India. If our CBI and Income Tax Officials can conduct door to door raids and we think that our State Governments are not so sensitive towards prices and inflation, then Government of India should have that power. I am sure that this House will support this Government and it will also give that power to the Government of India. I feel, the way the BJP is thinking today, it would also definitely support the Government.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Definitely, we will support...(*Interruptions*)

15.49 hrs.

[SHRI MOHAN SINGH *in the Chair*]

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Sir, there is one point, which is being repeated time and again in this period of price rise and there is also a fact involved in that. Earlier, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta negated what he said that price rise at international level is influencing prices in India. He said that he doesn't approve the fact. Maybe he does not fully agree with that. But, this argument is also a sound argument.

Today, there is unprecedented price rise worldwide. Some say that it has increased up to 83 per cent. I have seen same figures, which are quite disturbing. There has been 76 per cent increase in the prices of rice and the price of palm oil has increased around 100 per cent. Wheat prices are up by 161 per cent. Today, if we are trying to bring this world together, we will have to face the impact of international price rise. The Minister of Agriculture is not here right now, but other Ministers in the Government are sitting here. I would like to know one thing and in my opinion the Government should take the countrymen into confidence and tell them the reasons. When we will be able to bring down the prices of wheat and rice, then why prices of some remaining items are beyond our control. I would like to give the example of vegetables. There is a increase and decrease in prices of vegetables. I agree that prices of vegetables rise in every season. Sometimes there is an increase of Rs. 5/- and sometimes there is a decrease of Rs. 5/-. But the prices of vegetables are suddenly going up everywhere.

the Government should clarify the situation. We will also be able to know and we can tell our respective State Governments as to what effective steps we can take to maintain prices of vegetables to a normal level. Prices of onion and potato are at normal level but there are certain vegetables whose prices have been increased.

Previously, there was abnormal increase in the prices of pulses. Pulses, which were available at Rs. 30/- have increased to Rs. 38/- and the pulses, which were being sold at Rs. 35/- are now at being sold at Rs. 42 or Rs. 44. Pulses which were available at Rs. 40/- per kg are now available up to Rs. 55 or 60. Presently there is an increase of Rs. 5 or 10 in the prices of pulses everywhere. But I would like to put forth the stand of the Government that despite the huge production of pulses, the way the Government has managed to control the prices of pulses, it should also control other items in the same way. It only indicates that whenever our Government decides to control the prices of any particular commodity, it becomes successful in that. The Minister of Finance is sitting here and the Minister of Agriculture is about to come. I would like to tell everyone that my three or four small suggestions may be useful to some extent

As regards to crude oil, petrol and diesel is being sold at Rs. 42 or 45 there has been a long standing demand that reduction of excise duty on both these products would perhaps give an indication. Many economists say when you give an indication in economic policy, then it does not matter now major is this indication but its impact is far reaching. When BJP Government was in power, constant demands were made to NDA Government to reduce excise duty but they paid no heed to it. At that time, price of crude oil was 38 dollars per barrel. Today, it is being sold at 113 or 115 dollar per barrel and we have increased the price from Rs. 32 or 35 to Rs. 42 or Rs. 43. but, if the Minister of Finance sees this and at least, for a period when prices are rising rapidly at international level, whether he can show some flexibility in some of such areas? Our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance have made a very important point that we can sacrifice growth also to control the price rise if needed. I would like to compliment them. This is an important statement of both of our leaders. Therefore, in the same breath, I would like to request them that if you think it is needed, you should also say something about reducing the prices of petrol. I would like to submit one more point, if we think that steel and cement industry don't listen to the Government of India, then Government of India has a weapon and in 1967-68.

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

Government had used this weapon. Therefore, when there is a need, the Government should also show that country has a good weapon called nationalization. If we think that our private companies in steel and cement sector are not showing sympathy towards our countrymen, then this Government should develop a thinking with regard to nationalization and they should also give an indication to industrialists in the country, that if you are a partner in the country's progress and help us in construction work of our houses and roads and as long as you are acting as an associate, the Government is with you but if you are going to show the face of a plunderer then this Government can also use its oppressive powers. With these small suggestions, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, it is sad to note that inflation has reached a 40-month high of 7.41 per cent. Price rise in essential commodities like food grains, pulses and vegetables may affect the people particularly the common man, poorer sections of the society. In fact, the price rise is a global phenomenon at present. Several countries are facing the similar inflationary trends.

The Union Government has taken a host of steps to contain inflation such as banning of export of non-basmati rice, pulses, edible oil and cement. However, inflation had gone above the tolerance level of seven per cent from four per cent in December 2007 which has resulted in higher food, fuel and commodity prices, particularly metals. The Minister of Steel has persuaded major steel companies in the country to roll back the prices of long steel products, but the steel prices have doubled in the last one year.

However, common man is facing a lot of hardships to construct even a small house because of the price rise in steel and cement. Even after the above measures, the current inflation level is a major cause for worry. Several reasons may be adduced for this abnormal inflationary trend. Middlemen and hoarders play a major role in price rise of essential commodities. Strict surveillance has to be kept on these market forces and preventive steps should be taken by the agencies concerned by keeping vigil on these unscrupulous persons.

Speculation is another factor contributing to price rise. For example, on seeing the pay hikes recommended by

the Sixth Pay Commission, prices of several essential commodities and services have been increased several folds even before the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission. Benefits of the Pay Commission Recommendations will go only to the Government servants but the burden of price hikes has to be shared by the entire population, particularly the downtrodden and the poor and common people. A Central mechanism has to be created to deal firmly with the speculative forces. On-line trading on essential commodities such as vegetables and pulses should be banned as it often leads to increase in prices on speculation basis.

Globalisation even though has brought in several advantages to the country, such as creation of job opportunities etc., simultaneously it has made the country vulnerable to the international market forces, which is one of the reasons for the current inflationary tendencies in the country. The Union Government should initiate appropriate protective measures to curb inflation in this country. Sir, the Government has taken several steps to curb the inflation, such as, scrapping of import duty on crude, edible oils to nil and refined edible oils at 7.5 per cent; ban on export of non-Basmati rice and increasing the export price of Basmati; ban on export of finished steel products and cement; decision to create 5 MT of strategic reserves - 3 MT of rice and 2 MT of wheat - in addition to the buffer that the Government maintains to meet PDS requirements. Even then, inflation continues.

Now, I would like to register two or three points on the impact of inflation. A rise in inflation reduces the purchasing power of the people; we can buy less of goods and services if prices go up. So, inflation makes people poorer; makes manufactured exports less competitive in the world markets; higher inflation rate in India *vis-à-vis* her trading partners make Indian goods relatively expensive resulting in slower growth of exports; Government's revenue collections are not indexed to inflation whereas a large part of expenditure - wage bill of Government employees - is inflation indexed leading to escalation in expenditure and higher fiscal deficit.

Sir, today, the burden of inflation has been shifted from State Government to Central Government, Central Government to State Government and from Central Government to the world market. Whatever be the case, in today's scenario, people do not bother about the growth of the country or GDP of this country. In fact, common people do not know what is GDP and what is growth. They are sensitive to day to day life commodities. They

are worried that the prices of their day to day provisions have gone up twice. Hence, I urge upon the Central Government, particularly the Finance Minister, to take serious steps in this regard.

Public Distribution System should be made very effective in all the States as it has been done by our respected Chief Minister, Dr. *Kalaignar* Karunanidhi in the State of Tamil Nadu by taking serious steps to curb the price rise in essential commodities by distributing rice, pulses, edible oil etc. through PDS. Much before the current inflationary tendencies, our Chief Minister implemented a scheme with foresight by way of distribution of 400 bags of cement through PDS at the rate of Rs.200 per bag to those who want to build houses up to the size of 1000 square feet. Such visionary steps really check the prices of essential commodities. Union Government may similarly provide Central subsidy for distribution of steel through PDS for construction of houses. This step would not only check the steel prices but also would ensure easy availability of steel for construction of houses for the poor masses.

16.00 hrs.

I, therefore, once again urge upon the Government not to shift the burden of inflation from one Government to other or from this Government to the world market. Kindly take it up seriously and initiate urgent measures on valid suggestion of imposition of price ceiling on essential commodities like food-grains, pulses, vegetables, edible oil, milk, etc. to contain inflation.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Whether the minister is intervening.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The debate will continue. He is intervening only.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I will intervene and then go to the other House. The Agriculture Minister will finally reply to the debate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry I was not here for most part of the debate but to the best of my ability I have gathered the most important points from my colleague, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance. The Agriculture Minister has also briefed me. While he will reply to the debate finally, I am intervening to answer a few points which hon. Members have made.

Sir, whether we like it or not and irrespective of ideology, India is affected by global trends. A question was raised, I believe, why are we comparing ourselves to what is happening in the rest of the world; why do we claim that we are affected by what is happening in the world. No country is self-sufficient in every item; or every good or every service. If we were completely self-sufficient in food, oil, or commodities surely we will not be affected by what is happening in the world nor we need be concerned about what is happening in the world. But all of us know we are a major importer of oil. Seventy-five per cent of our crude oil requirement is imported. We are a marginal importer of wheat. For some years we did not import wheat but now we are a marginal importer of wheat. We are a large importer of edible oils. We are a significant importer of pulses. We are a very large importer of fertilizers. We are also a large consumer and a large importer of a number of commodities including metals.

If India's economy was growing by about three or four per cent a year, as it was for the first 30 years after Independence, we would not need to consume so much; we would not need to import so much. But our economy today - and I hope that is a point on which all of us can be happy about - is indeed growing by over eight per cent a year. In fact, for the last four years the average has been 8.8 per cent. In order to sustain this growth we need to consume large quantities of not only food but also non-food commodities. That is why our import bills for crude oil and fertiliser are rising. If we are a large importer we also have to be a large exporter, otherwise how will we pay for our imports? We have to pay for imports in currencies of that country. And if we have to pay for those imports we have to be an exporter too. That is why there is a Ministry whose primary function is to promote exports so that we can pay for the imports. If we are a large importer and we desire to be a large exporter too, we will be affected by the world trends. There is simply no other way and I do not think anyone of us is so innocent as to believe that we are completely insulated from the world trends.

I have with me an article written by two economists. Not that I entirely agree with them always, but since this will strike a chord in some sections of the House let me read what the two economists C.P. Chandrasekhar and Jayati Ghosh have written.

"To understand this (that is the forces behind the rise in prices) it is necessary to examine the forces behind the price rises for different commodities. In the case of food there are more than just demand forces at work.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Although: it is certainly true that rising incomes in Asia and other parts of the developing world have led to increased demand for food....."

"Five major aspects affecting supply conditions have been crucial in changing global market conditions for food crops."

Sir, I will not read the whole of it. I will read part of each of the ideas.

"First, there is the impact of high oil prices which affect agricultural costs directly because of the significance of energy as an input in the cultivation process itself through fertilizer and irrigation costs as well as in transporting food. Second, there is impact of both oil prices and Government policies in the US, Europe, Brazil and elsewhere that promoted bio-fuel as an alternative to petroleum. Third, impact of policy neglect of agriculture over the past two decades. Fourth, there is impact of changes in the market structure which allow for greater international speculation in commodities. Finally, primary commodity markets are also attracting financial speculators."

Sir, the world trends are affecting us and as a result while things were more or less comfortable until January suddenly there has been a complete change in the landscape. I know hon. Members, my friends, on that side will claim that when they were in office inflation was under control. My short answer is, time has a way of playing tricks on memories. I will remind them about their inflation. But that is not the point I am making. It is not my inflation *versus* your inflation. The point is, what was the world situation, a benign situation when they were in office and how has the world situation taken a dramatic change today?

Sir, let us look at the prices in 2004, prices in March, 2007 and March, 2008. I can read the figures for year after year. But let us look at these three landmark prices – in 2004; in March 2007 and March 2008. First, let us take Crude Oil. It was 37.7 dollars a barrel which increased to 60 dollars a barrel last year and in March it was 102 dollars a barrel and this morning it is 112 dollars a barrel. Is there a solution that anybody can suggest for me to reverse the prices of crude oil?

Next, let us look at Palm oil. It was 471 dollars a MT in 2004. In March, 2007 it was 622 dollars a MT and in March, 2008 it was 1248 dollars a MT. In one year Palm oil prices have doubled. The principal reason is that they are diverting palm oil for producing ethanol. I ask, is there a way I can reverse this price? Look at

urea. We are large importer of urea. It was 175 dollars a MT in 2004; it was 318 dollars in March 2007 and 378 dollars in March, 2008. Is there a way I can roll back this price?

Sir, let us take iron ore. We have iron ore. But since we export iron ore, iron ore finds a level at international prices. Millions of jobs are dependent on iron ore excavations and export. It is true we have imposed export duty in order to contain export of iron ore. But iron ore fines and low quality iron ore is being exported. We can look at other options. But the price rises to international price levels. In 2004 it was 37.9 dollars c/dmtu, that is the unit, in March 2007 it was 77 dollars and in March 2008 it was 140 dollars.

Sir, the point that I am making is about what is happening in the world today. I was in Washington a couple of days ago and I was extremely critical about what was happening in the Western countries, the developed countries. Many of them agreed with me and said that the points we are making on behalf of the developing countries are absolutely correct. Some of it was reported in the newspapers. I said diverting food to fuel is a crime against humanity. When there is so much hunger and poverty in the world, how can you divert 20 per cent of your corn to produce bio fuel? How can you convert palm oil into ethanol? The point is, we are impacted by this price rise and there is very little we can do to roll back these prices because we are importers of these commodities and many of these commodities will rise to find international prices. Take a thing like chana or pulses. In 1997-98, we go back ten years ago, desi channa was Rs. 16, 400 a tonne and today, it is Rs. 26, 200 per tonne. *Masur* was available at Rs. 18,600 a tonne and today, it is Rs. 39,200 a tonne. Yellow peas, mutter vattana was at Rs. 10,900 a tonne and today, it is Rs. 21,200 a tonne. Therefore, there are some things that are within our control and I am grateful to the hon. Members for their suggestions including the last speaker. There are some things which are not within our control and we therefore have to take other steps in order to moderate the impact of these high prices.

Sir, in fact, inflation that we are witnessing in the last six weeks, to the best of my study, understanding and discussion, is qualitatively different from the kind of inflation that we had a few years ago or even a few months ago. This is not the first time that we are having inflation of over seven per cent and this is qualitatively different and I will come to it in a moment. But let me first remind the hon. Members that for many years, this country had high inflation. Those, according to me, were because of policy mistakes. We had a highly protected economy and in a highly protected economy, the price

setter really sets the prices. In a liberal and competitive economy, inflation will be lower as we have seen in the last ten years. In the 1980s and 1970s, inflation was always over ten per cent. Inflation did moderate though there have been spurts in inflation during the last ten years.

For example, in 1998-99, inflation was over seven per cent in ten weeks of that year. In 2000-01 which was the worst period in recent times, inflation was over six per cent for 48 weeks of that year. In 22 of those weeks, it was over seven per cent. In 12 of those weeks, it was over eight per cent. It is possible that today's bad news wipes away yesterday's bad news. Time plays tricks on memory but the fact remains that in 2000-01, inflation was over eight per cent in 12 successive weeks. Again, inflation moderated. I concede that. In 2004-05, when this Government came into office, inflation was on the rise. In fact, the day we took office, inflation had already touched seven per cent. It remained over seven per cent for about 16 weeks and then moderated. It moderated in 2005-06 and 2006-07 and it came to 3.11 per cent in November, 2007. Since November, 2007, it has been steadily rising and it was well under four per cent but beginning January, it has risen rather sharply and the sharpest rise has been in the last six weeks. This is the story of inflation. As I said, the financial turbulence in the world has also cast its shadow on other markets like commodity markets, credit markets, food markets, etc. All the crises seem to be coming together. Food crisis, energy price crisis and financial turbulence crisis seem to be coming together.

This has really triggered the very difficult situation that we face in the last six weeks. I concede all this is of little comfort to common man. This is simply an explanation so that hon. Members will join me in trying to understand the forces that are at play and what we are confronting so that we can, sitting together, decide on the course of action. I am open to suggestions. I am sure my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, is also open to suggestions. We are as concerned about inflation as anyone else. But we must understand the forces that are triggering this inflation so that we can attack the causes of inflation rather than symptoms. The WPI is a symptom. We must go to the underlying causes of inflation. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chidambaram wants to say that nothing can be done. ... (*Interruptions*) You want to say that nothing can be done, there is price rise all over the world. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Prof. Malhotra ji do not be in hurry. Please sit down. You walk in when I am talking. You stand up and immediately make a point. This is not fair. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Malhotra ji first listen what is said. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You walk in the middle of my speech and you immediately interrupt what I said. Let me complete this point. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You don't worry about his message, you should worry about year message. The message he is giving in also beneficial for you, then why are you getting worried.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Hon. Chairman, I would like to be assured that the hon. Finance Minister will be here to answer my point. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not yielding. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear the hon. Finance Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The reply will be given by the Minister of Agriculture. I am intervening to answer as many points as possible. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not yielding. Shri Dasgupta, you are a senior Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have to be in two Houses. I am intervening in this debate.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am intervening. The Minister of Agriculture will reply. In the other House I will reply. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is unfortunate that national policy has no role in this. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am not yielding. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government will answer. ... *(Interruptions)* Shri Dasgupta cannot decide who will answer. The Government will answer. ... *(Interruptions)* I am saying that the Government will answer. ... *(Interruptions)* As I am replying to some aspects, the Government will answer. ... *(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister should be here to answer our questions. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, the question is what is that we can do now. What are the steps that are possible? What are the steps that the Government has taken? What are the steps that the Government is contemplating? Some decisions are yet to be taken. We can intervene through fiscal policy, through monetary policy and through supply side measures. A number of supply side measures have been taken. The investment in agriculture has increased from 10.2 per cent to 12.5 per cent in the last four years. It is our goal to raise it to 16 per cent of the GDP. But this will take some time to materialize. We have announced the National Food Security Mission at the cost of Rs. 25,000 crore; and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana at the cost of Rs. 4,882 crore. The goal is to raise the rice production by 10 million tones; wheat production by eight million tones; pulses production by two million tones. There is a National Horticulture Mission; Rainfed Area Development Mission. But all this will take some time to yield results. I had introduced AIBP in the United Front Government in 1996-98. We have vastly increased the allocation for AIBP in the last four years. We have set up the Irrigation and Water Resources Corporation in order to find more funds for irrigation. In the last Five Year Plan we were able to bring about 8.8 million hectares of land under irrigation. But the potential that is being used is only about 70 per cent..

A number of steps are being taken in order to augment production so that we will not be dependent on importing essential food items. So, while we import food items, we are actually importing inflation and while we import commodities, we are actually importing inflation.

As I have said on some other occasion also, production had virtually stagnated over a period of ten years. This is why the entire Plan is now skewed in favour of agriculture so that agriculture production increases dramatically and agriculture sector grows by at

least four per cent a year. For example, during the NDA period, the lowest year in which we had rice production was 2002-03 at 71 million tonnes, the highest was 93 million tonnes in 2006-07 it was again 93 million tonnes in 2007-08 and it is expected to be 94 million tonnes now. The point I am making is that despite all the efforts taken, we are not able to cross the peak of about 93 or 94 million tonnes. In the case of wheat, in the NDA period there was a year when we had 65 million tonnes of wheat, the highest was 76 million tonnes; in 2006-07, it was 75.81 million tonnes and this year we expect another 75 million tonnes. Again, it is plateau at about 75 million tonnes. If you look at pulses, during the NDA regime, the lowest was 11 million tonnes, the highest was 14.91 million tonnes and this year we expect 14.34 million tonnes. This is again a plateau. Over the years we have not been able to increase productivity per hectare of either wheat or rice or pulses. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): That is the question he must answer. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Therefore, a number of steps are being taken and when the Minister of Agriculture replies, he will explain in much greater detail what steps we are taking in order to become self-sufficient in at least the essential food items, which is one of the major contributors to the current inflation. As I said, this is the situation that we find after ten years and despite massive investment, we have to make a breakthrough. That is why a number of scientists have said that we have to make a breakthrough in water, seeds, and fertilizers in order to break through this so-called glass ceiling which we seem to have run into. Unless we become self-sufficient in essential food items, I am afraid we will be under pressure of international increase in food prices.

As far as non-food items are concerned, Dr. Bimal Jalan made a speech in the other House. It is really a question of managing demand side and managing inflationary expectations. In my Budget Speech at paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 I had anticipated pressure on prices and I said that we have to be vigilant on prices. Later on in the Speech, I had pointed out to cartelization in cement and steel.

There is demand today. There is a demand for housing, demand for cement and demand for construction, demand for steel and demand for various products. What has happened is that this demand is being sustained over a period of four years because of high growth. That is good. The high demand is also good. But unless supply catches up with demand, there will be pressure on prices and in some cases even when supply catches up with demand, if it is a monopolistic or oligopolistic situation,

cartels will be formed and they will determine prices. In fact, I am on record and I have no hesitation in repeating it. I think, the cement manufacturers are behaving like a cartel. There are signs today that even the steel manufacturers are behaving like a cartel. But if we talk to the steel people, they will tell you that gas prices have gone up from 4 dollars to 16 dollars, iron ore prices have gone up from Rs 2,000/- a tonne to Rs. 6,000/- a tonne and, therefore, steel prices are going up. So somewhere we have to break this logjam. This logjam cannot continue. Many commodities will indeed reflect international prices because they are imported and exported.

This capacity to exploit supply-demand mismatches or capacity to exploit excess demand in the economy must indeed be addressed by fiscal and monetary measures as well as some administrative measures. I have addressed it on the fiscal side. Anticipating this, I cut the CENVAT duty from 16 per cent to 14 per cent. I cut excise duties on a large number of items. Post-Budget, we have cut customs duties on a number of items. On the monetary side, the Reserve Bank of India has taken a number of steps. It has increased the CRR on eight occasions. It has increased the reverse repo. I am sure, the Governor of the RBI will take appropriate monetary steps shortly. We also have to address issues of liquidity and money supply. These are addressed largely by monetary steps. I am sure, the Governor will address the issues of liquidity and money supply also shortly. But I want to add that we have to take some administrative measures too. We cannot entirely rely upon the fiscal measures and monetary measures. We have to take such administrative measures that restrain the proclivity of producers to increase prices simply because the situation allows itself to be exploited.

I have already spoken of the need to take tough steps if the behaviour does not change. I wish to state on the floor of the House that if the behaviour of the economic players in some sectors does not change and if they do not understand the gravity of the situation and behave responsibly, Government will not hesitate to take tough administrative measures.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): When will you take steps? Already, four years passed. You take the steps and we will support you.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When we take the measures, we will come and tell you. ... (*Interruptions*) I did not ask you what administrative measures you took when inflation was over 8 per cent for 12 weeks in 2000-

01.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I am saying this on the floor of the House. Please do not reduce this to a slanging-match I am saying on the floor of the House that apart from the fiscal measures and the monetary measures, if the behaviour of some players in some sectors does not change, Government will not hesitate to take tough administrative measures.... (*Interruptions*)

On the essential commodities side, I want to point out that all the powers are vesting with the State Governments.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Whole the country is crying. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not yielding. Why does he interrupt me like this? Just because we point to the State Governments, he cannot rise and protest. ... (*Interruptions*) Please look at the law. On the essential commodities, the entire power is with the State Governments. I say that with full responsibility. Please sit down.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Why didn't you call the meeting of food Ministers and Chief Ministers so far?....

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is the NDA Government which passed the order withdrawing the power of the State Governments under the EC Act and said that any control order had to be passed only with the prior approval of the Central Government. We reversed that and said: "We will give powers to the State Governments. You pass the control orders and you take whatever measures you want for de-hoarding, for dealing with speculators and hoarders." I have got a list here of what action the State Governments have taken. After full powers are available to the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, some State Governments – I will not mention the names but if necessary, I will – have imposed licensing requirements. Nothing more. Just take out a licence. Some State Governments have imposed stock-limits. But when it comes to taking action, there have been 348 cases of conviction throughout the year 2007; 251 have been in one State; 76 in another State; one or two in two or three States and in most of the States, not even one person has been convicted. When it comes to raids and searches, the bulk of the raids and searches is in exactly five States. There are States which go through the pretence of causing a few raids and hardly

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

anybody is arrested; hardly anybody is prosecuted and nobody is convicted. If State Governments are serious about essential commodities, I appeal to them on the floor of this House - the Prime Minister has also written a letter to them only yesterday - please invoke the powers under the Essential Commodities Act.

First of all, you must take action before you prosecute. You do not even take action. Under the Essential Commodities Act, all powers are with the State Governments. The first thing you should do is that you should impose severe stock limits and raid people who hoard stocks above the stock limit and prosecute people, convict them quickly so that they are held out as examples. What is the difficulty in getting the conviction of a person who has a stock above the prescribed stock limit? There is nothing difficult to prove. Only thing is that you have to seize the stock, take him to the Magistrate with a witness and say that this is the stock that we have seized from him. Why are our State Governments reluctant to do this? It is as simple as that. If I had the power, I will do that tomorrow. Unfortunately, the ECA does not give the power to us.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the statement of the Minister

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You are wrong. The power is with the State Governments. ... (Interruptions) I am not passing the buck. I am passing the buck to all of you including your State Government. ... (Interruptions) Sorry. Mr. Salim, it seems like you did not listen to what I said earlier. I said that we will take fiscal and monetary measures.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you sit down: whatever you are saying is not going on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tripathi ji please you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The Government of Delhi raided people only in the last week and large quantities

of food items were unearthed.... (Interruptions) Mr. Harin Pathak, do not interrupt me like that. If you interrupt, how do I answer? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHARMAN: First, you listen to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ministerji, please you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Government of India has the responsibility to take steps. We have taken fiscal steps. ... (Interruptions) I have already given you a list. I am just explaining. I am answering. Please sit down for a moment. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not yield but first listen what Minister says.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: From where do you get all these numbers? Who is giving credit?... (Interruptions)

Sir, the Government of India has taken a number of fiscal steps and I have said that we will even sacrifice revenues if that is an inevitable consequence of more fiscal steps. Fiscal steps will be taken in addition to the fiscal steps already taken. Monetary measures have been taken and I have said that the RBI will certainly assess the situation and take monetary steps. I have also said... (Interruptions) Radhakrishnanji, please listen to me. ... (Interruptions) Sir, I am not yielding. He is not allowing me to complete what I want to say. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Radhakrishnanji, you are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: On the third side, I have said that if the behaviour does not change, we will take administrative steps. Having said that, I am asking State Governments respectfully and politely to please use their powers under the Essential Commodities Act and take steps against hoarders, black marketeers and exploiters.

Now, as far as PDS is concerned, the Agriculture Minister will deal with it in great detail, but let me just give you the facts. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, why don't they listen to me? ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not yielding. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (JADAVPUR): Sir, he is trying to confuse us. ... (*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: He is confused. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not confused. I am convinced that what we are doing is right. I am not confused and I will not get confused. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the real test of the PDS is how much food grains is actually lifted from the Public Distribution System. Let us look at the figures now. Between 1998-99 and 2003-04, the total quantity of wheat and rice lifted from the PDS varied from 138 lakh tonnes to 239 lakh tonnes per year.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Uneatable items have been given. ... (*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: Sir, PDS is for crisis period. When there is a shortage, you are cutting the quota.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, what is wrong with Salim today, I cannot understand.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You have reduced the State's quota. You are talking of PDS, but you have reduced the State's quota... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You sit down. Your party will also be given time to speak. You people sit down. Nothing will go on record except the statement of hon'ble Minister what is the use of your speaking like this. Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever the hon'ble Minister is saying listen to it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all listen to the Minister.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the BJP does not want to listen to facts and the Left also does not want to listen ... (*Interruptions*)

16.38 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with the reply of the Finance Minister. So we are walking out in protest.

16.38<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

*At this stage, Md. Salim and some other hon. Members left the House.*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, we also walk out as we are not satisfied with his reply.

16.38<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and some other hon. Members left the House.*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, we are not satisfied with the statement made by the hon'ble Finance Minister. Therefore, we are staging a walk out from the House.

16.38<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

*(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is an important debate. You will have your say, but you will not allow the Government to reply, this is very unfortunate.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this is typical of the BJP. They will make their speeches, but they will not listen to the reply.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, the hon'ble Minister has not given any convincing reply of the discussion held, therefore, our party is also staging a walk out from the House.

16.39 hrs.

*(Shri Mohan Singh and some other hon. Members then left the House)*

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not satisfied with his reply. So we also walk out.

16.39<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri P. C. Thomas and another hon. Member left the House)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, between 1998-99 and 2003-04, the maximum quantity of wheat and rice that was taken out from the PDS was 239 lakh tonnes. After the UPA Government came, in 2004-05, it was 293 lakh tonnes, in 2005-06 it was 310 lakh tonnes and in 2006-07 it was 313 lakh tonnes.

The Agriculture Minister will explain what steps he is taking to keep the PDS fully supplied. We have provided more rice and more wheat to the PDS than ever before. We have to procure and we have supplied. The numbers speak for themselves. If they do not wish to listen to the numbers then there is nothing that I can do. The point that I am making is that it never exceeded 239 lakh tonnes in the six years. Our numbers are 293 lakh tonnes, 310 lakh tonnes and 313 lakh tonnes.

Sir, the Agriculture Minister has said that he will come and reply to the debate, I am intervening to explain that a number of fiscal steps have been taken, a number of monetary steps have been taken and I expect that they will be taking and we will also not hesitate to take administrative steps. But unless the State Governments also cooperate, it is not possible to tide over this difficult period of inflation.

This inflation is largely triggered by international prices, rising relentlessly in food, fuel and commodity. In the opening part of my intervention I explained how we are big importers of these items and while we import them, we are actually importing inflation. But if we have to tide over the crisis, we cannot panic, we cannot lose our nerve, we must show that we can beat back inflationary expectation and I am confident that the steps that we take, despite the relentless global prices, which is well documented and well understood all over the world, this inflation is reflected in many countries of the world, from China to Venezuela, we must beat back inflationary expectation by holding firm on our path and by taking appropriate fiscal, monetary, supply and administrative measures. I am confident that our Government will be able to deliver on the promise that we have made.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity given to me to speak on a very sensitive issue... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I must thank them for coming back.

MR. SPEAKER: Limited protest.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I concede with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members that inflationary forces today are operating, which are either imported or supply side constraints and so on and so forth... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I wish to lay my speech.

MR. SPEAKER: How can it be according to your sweet will? You cannot disturb another hon. Member speaking. You have to wait. It is not as per your convenience. It is at my convenience that you may lay it.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, if it is either the responsibility of the international factors or the responsibility of the States, then what this Government is doing?

MR. SPEAKER: You belong to which area? Neither national nor State!

... *(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Sir, we are not averse to the Members. We are listening to the hon. Members. We are angry with the response of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: The anger was half-hearted. You should have heard him fully then have gone out.

MD. SALIM: We have heard him fully.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, I am not there. It is for you to make your judgement. Yes, Prof. Ramadass, please continue.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, it is an indisputable fact... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, they must have seen the concluding remarks on the TV and then come back... (*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: He should not laugh on the sufferings of the people. The people will have the last laugh.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: They must have been satisfied with the reply, that is why they have come back... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it. It is over now. Today, we are very much educated, highly. I hope the price rise comes down tomorrow. Please carry on, Mr. Ramadass.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, it is a fact beyond doubt that today inflation is of a run-away inflation, although it is not a galloping inflation, as some Members have made it out to be. This inflation, whether it is run-away or galloping, affects the common man, the fixed income group people and in fact, it affects the whole process of growth.

In my view, planning in the midst of inflation is like writing on the sea sand, which is being constantly washed away by sea waters. Therefore, the situation is alarming, is serious and the Government is also aware of the situation. Just now, the hon. Finance Minister has explained all the factors which are working at this kind of inflation, which is a very difficult exercise now.

There are factors which are beyond our control, and the hon. Finance Minister has explained all the measures that he has taken. We should also understand that inflation is more an economic phenomenon than a political phenomenon. Although we may use this opportunity to placate the people or to get a political advantage of it, but taking a realistic view, we should know that price is a manifestation of supply and demand in the market. We have, knowingly or unknowingly, left the price mechanism to the market forces, and the market forces of not only the national forces but also the international forces are in operation. Therefore, when the market forces are not equilibrating, the price rise is an inevitable consequence of it. This is what we will have to understand. The Government is responsible to some extent but not fully responsible for this. This is an objective view of how the inflation can happen.

Sir, in the last two years, one prominent factor which, I think, the hon. Finance Minister also has not mentioned is that there is a tremendous increase in the liquidity in the economy today. The increase in the liquidity has come because of the remittances that we are getting from foreign countries which come in the form of infrastructure investment here. A lot of investment is made but all this investment is of long-time gestation-oriented investment. You invest Rs. 100 crore today and the output of this Rs. 100 crore will come only after two years or three years. But this amount of Rs. 100 crore goes into the market immediately, as a mean of purchasing power the demand increases and, therefore, we cannot stop this inflow of remittances all on a sudden and reduce the liquidity in the market.

Not only that, in the last two years the UPA Government has infused a lot of expenditure in the economy. A number of innovative schemes have been taken and a number of welfare measures have been taken. To give you one statistics, in 2006-07, the total expenditure of the Government was Rs. 6,45,304 crore, and the budgetary expenditure in 2008-2009 was Rs. 8,82,983 crore. That means, in these two years, the increase in expenditure was to the extent of 36 per cent. So, there is an inflow of money to the extent of 36 per cent, and this goes into the economy. This goes into the money circulated in the economy which leads to increasing demand or liquidity in the economy. So, this increasing liquidity is one of the factors responsible.

Today, there is a situation where the common man, the poor man is enabled to earn his income through the

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

purchasing power. You take the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, under which each household, rural poverty-ridden household, is empowered with Rs.8,000 as an income. Who are these people? These people did not have two meals a day or a single meal a day earlier but today with their increasing power, they go to the market immediately, purchase and satisfy their basic needs. In the economic parlance, we say that the elasticity of income for food grains is almost one in the case of poor people. Therefore, this causes a spurt in the prices of commodities when the stocks are not available. Last year, we have spent about Rs. 12,000 crore, and this amount of Rs. 12,000 crore is in the hands of the poorer people today but the output has not commensurately increased to the extent of Rs.12,000 crore. Therefore, there is a lag between supply and demand which reflects in the manifestation of higher prices. Not only that, the food habits among the middle-class people today is changing, and they are turning more towards egg, more towards other products, to which also food grains is invested. Therefore, the increasing liquidity is one of the reasons.

Then, you have supply side constraint. No doubt we have had a good monsoon and we have had an increase in food supply but that increase in food supply is lagging behind the increasing demand. So, this is the situation which we should understand. These reasons are beyond the control of the Government. Any Government at this point of time would have not been able to respond to the situation as much as the present UPA Government has done.

Inflation is Government-neutral. We must understand that inflation is Government-neutral, policy-neutral, and we will have to take steps only according to whatever has been done. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is a new economy. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to respond to him. Do not respond to sitting interjection.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Therefore, Sir, we have to admit the fact that these are the factors which are left to the market, and we are globally linked with other countries in the world.

There are benefits of linking with the world countries; and there are bad things as it is happening today. So,

we cannot control the international prices of oil, international prices of food grains, international prices of other things, which we are importing for our development.

As our Finance Minister rightly said, we are on a higher trajectory of growth and we have to import a large number of commodities. We cannot isolate ourselves from the international markets. Therefore, when we import, we have to import inflation also. It is an inevitable consequence. Now, what we will have to do is that we will have to coordinate with the State Governments; we will have to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers, call all the Chief Ministers, explain the measures, which you have taken and which you are proposing to take, and ask the Chief Ministers to fall in line with you and take all administrative measures to curb the prices. So, what is required is a coordination among all the political parties. It is not that the UPA alone is responsible; it is not that the Left Fronts are responsible; or it is not that the BJP alone is responsible for this. We have a national duty at this juncture of the crisis. This is an economic crisis in which we will have to forget the political differences and come out of the cobwebs and then sit and suggest various measures. If my friends from the other side feel that the Government measures are not adequate, they may suggest better measures. That is the best thing that one can do.

I would appeal to the Government that it should immediately constitute a monitoring mechanism both at the State level and at the Central level, and ask this mechanism to report to the Government of India on a weekly basis.

Secondly, we should plug all the loopholes in the Essential Commodities Act, which have empowered the State Governments to strictly monitor the food mechanism, but unfortunately, it is happening otherwise. We should be able to ask the State Governments to use it.

Thirdly, we must strictly impose a ban on the Future Trading. Whether it is a Government or individuals or the private sector people, the Future Trading must be banned. There should be a ban on online trading. The online trading is also causing heavy damage as far as the supply side is concerned, and we are not able to augment supply. We should be able to do that.

We should also strengthen the Public Distribution System. As our friends have said and as Dr. Kalaignar in Tamil Nadu has done it, you bring more commodities

in the Public Distribution System. You may bring as many as 10 or 15 essential commodities so that the people can be ensured of food supply. Even in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, today we are paying cash to the people who are employed there. It would be better as in the previous case, to give a part of the wage in terms of food grains so that the common man could be benefited and retrieved from the situation of inflation by getting that.

We should also be unmindful of the revenue losses. As the hon. Finance Minister as already said, we have created enough fiscal space for any kind of uncertainties or any kind of exigencies. In the case of many of the imported commodities, the duties may be reduced or curtailed so that it can be met from the fiscal space that we have created.

The stock limit restriction must be re-imposed and the State Governments must be asked to prosecute those people who do not comply with that. We must realise that the invisible hand of Adam Smith or the market forces of demand and supply are good as far as everybody works in public welfare. But normally, market forces do not work for the common benefit of men. The largest happiness of the largest number does not happen in the case of the market forces and, therefore, the Government will have to be eternally vigilant, monitor the situation on a day-to-day basis and protect the common man. All our statistics, all our arguments, all our theoretical pinnings, underpinnings will have no meaning to the common man if he is made to pay higher prices everyday. Therefore, we will have to satisfy the common man. Otherwise, all that we have done in terms of Rs. 60,000 crore waiver to the farmers or in terms of all the national schemes that we have made, it will be of no consequence from the common man's point of view; and nobody can take a political advantage of it. Therefore, we will have to take a comprehensive and correct view to correct this picture.

MD. SALIM: He has given a lot of good policy suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: Those hon. Members, who wish to submit their written speeches on the Table of the House, may do so.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Speaker, Sir, a very important discussion is taking place on the

price rise. I am recalling a story of childhood. When the kings used to rule, they used to go out at night to see whether someone was sleeping hungry. The kings's rule has gone. Now, the people's representatives have come and the democracy has come. People choose their representatives and expect them to fulfill the promises, they make time of seeking votes. But it is unfortunate that...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not in your seat. Well, I am prepared to give you retrospective permission but you have to ask for permission to speak from other seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: I want permission to speak from here.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. But in future I will be little more strict. It is not only with you but with everybody. Yes, carry on.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: When congress went to the people with its issues at the time of elections, it primarily made a declaration in its manifesto that congress's hand will be with the poor people. When UPA formed its Government, it was a point in the common minimum programme that UPA will always work for the common man but it is unfortunate that today when the finance Minister was expressing his point, he was feeling helpless. He was feeling himself incompetent to mitigate the miseries of the poors in the country. Repeatedly, he was saying that either international market is responsible for it or the State Government is responsible. The Finance Minister of India is not willing to take any responsibility himself. We have even gone through his speeches on television. The Minister is giving different speeches at different places. The Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawarji says that the people of South have started eating wheat and stopped taking rice, so the prices of wheat have gone up. Mr. Chidambaram was saying something else on television that prices have gone up because food habits of everybody has undergone a change and the purchasing power of men has increased. If the purchasing

[Smt. Kiran Maheswari]

power has increased, people won't incur expenses on the essential items. It may be that people start spending on the more luxurious items but to say that prices of essential items have gone up due to rise in purchasing power, makes him sound a little confused. Here, he is saying that the international market is responsible and he is not responsible at all. To make a statement reflecting that the national policy has no role in the price rise, is not only last amount its misleading the whole House but the whole country as well. To hold the State Government responsible for one's own failure only appears to give the impression that no Finance Minister has ever felt helpless. He is unable to think himself that way and not able to take such steps as to control the rise in prices.

The way all the people in the whole country are feeling the pinch and the prices are touching the sky, I would like to draw your attention to this particularly in respect of the women. These women are now thinking to demonstrate on the roads. They take to agitation only on a very important issue. Today, women at the tehsil level are agitating on the roads against the price rise. Situation has come to such a pose in the country. There is no increase in their income. They are getting the same wages but the prices have gone up to that extent that today when they go to purchase items in the market they are not left with any among they are unable to purchase all the items while there was a time when they used to purchase all the items with the money still available with them. Such circumstances have prevailed due to wrong policies. Just now Chidambaramji was saying that productivity should increase, farming should be more better and the farming of pulses and wheat should increase. To whom he is referring to by saying that since it is not increasing, therefore, this situation is occurring. By himself shirking from his responsibility, he is indirectly hinting at the other Minister to say something about the agricultural policies.

17.00 hrs.

But there appears a total lack of coordination between them that he seems to be forgetting the fact that he is also residing in the country. To say in such a situation that we are unable to increase the productivity, then whose failure it is. If you are sensing the increase in demand, then what have you done to increase the productivity? The farmers are given less minimum support price, but if the same thing is to be purchased from other countries, then we are ready to pay higher price.

17.01 hrs.

[SHRI VARKLALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

It means, today the situation is that on the one hand they are ready to pay higher prices for the cereals you purchase from other countries but if they want to make payment for the cereals to the domestic farmers, they will pay them less. In this condition no farmer will like to increase productivity by investing loan money. The policies formulated are so complicated and wrong that nobody is able to survive under it and the farmers are committing suicides. Such a situation, has occurred in the country. The country, which used to be considered the farmer's country in at one point of time and where 70 to 80 per cent farming used to take place, is facing tough times created by the UPA Government.

They say that we are failing because the productivity is not increasing and on the other hand they say that the state governments are responsible for it. I would say there can be nothing more wrong than the way ministers of Union Government are politicizing the matter. They very easily blame others that there should not be any politics but I am narrating the facts only. There is hue and cry all over the country on price rise. The people of the country are saying that the prices of the commodities are rising. I can understand that a woman of the stature of Sonia Gandhi perhaps might not have not been going to the market for purchasing pulses or rice but at least she would have been going through the newspapers that from 1st March to 31st March the Price have increased by one hundred percent to three hundred percent. It means this much of price rise have taken place after the presentation of budget. The prices of essential commodities have increased by one hundred percent to three hundred percent. At least she would have been going through the newspapers, why she has not been able to feel it and think about controlling it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, the person who are not present in the House should not be named.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Sir, I will speak for some more time. I have just started my speech. If there is any time limit please let me know, otherwise do not interrupt in between.

SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: There is no reason to mention the name of Soniaji here. It is not correct. How she is concerned with it.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: It is correct. But she is a lady and being a lady I am saying so.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else, except the speech of Shrimati Kiran Maheswari, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: When reference about NDA Government are being made here than they have to listen its answer too...*(Interruptions)*. We respect all what you say...*(Interruptions)*. There is nothing wrong in it. Today Hon. Finance Minister have said it...*(Interruptions)*. We are not telling you. We are mentioning the name of UPA's Chairperson and we have the full right to do so.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, please address the Chair.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Sir, I am addressing the chair but why she is disturbing me. I want to say through you only. They talk of state governments and now they are telling that we are playing politics. By blaming over prices rise we are playing politics but today Hon'ble Finance Minister played much politics here when he said that the state governments are responsible for it. I would like to ask him that the Chairperson of UPA visits the BJP ruled states and in her public address she says that the state governments should reduce the prices. Sitting at the Centre she does not have time to listen this debate. Hon'ble Finance Minister does not have time to listen this debate. In spite of that they blame the state government's wrong policies are made here and the measures and steps which they are supposed to take are not being taken by them.

Instead they are blaming the state governments and asking them to do it. So many farmers in Maharashtra have committed suicide, why don't you say there that these should be checked by the Government. So many farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh, why don't you go there and say this. Why don't you say it in Haryana? They are playing politics in the case of price rise while they themselves are responsible for it. They should accept this fact that there is price rise in the country but they blame other for it but this way the problem of price rise would not be solved. It is not that if we accuse others than we have become free from our responsibilities. It is not so. Faulty policies and wrong measures adopted by the Government are responsible for price rising. This Government talk of common man but work for the special ones. They are responsible for it.

Therefore, through this House I would like to say that the Government must accept on moral ground that it has failed to control price rise and good living to the common man. The Government must improve the Public Distribution System. The Government have reduced the quota of everything be it wheat, rice or any other thing given to the BPL families. This Government have no right to create such a situation in the country. Therefore, I would like to say through this House that it is better to leave the work which one can not perform. If the Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram being a Finance Minister can not control the price rise then he should have resigned and say that he does not deserve to be the Finance Minister. According to them International market and state governments are responsible for it. But blaming other and saying that we are not responsible for it is not correct. Public know everything. Public is not fool. The people of the nation know it very well that there have been price rise because of black-marketing. During Atalji's regime LPG Cylinders were easily available and now there is black-marketing of LPG cylinders also. After all it is the Union Government which is responsible for it. Why does this Government not acknowledge it? The people have come to know it very well. If elections are held now they will come to know the reality. The common man wants to know why they are being cheated like this. Concluding my speech I would like to say that this Government should resign on moral grounds and take a fresh mandate. The Government is misguiding the common man by projecting the data but this will not come to their rescue. The poor people are not getting even two meals a day. It would be better for them to feel it by going among the poor people. With these words I conclude.

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar is the only Cabinet Minister here. He is looking after his files.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you really involved in this? Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, you are looking into your files. You are the only Cabinet Minister present in the House.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Sharad Pawar has come. After all, he was looking into his files and not concerned with the discussion. He represented you, but now you have come. It is alright. This is a very important topic of discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must take it seriously. The Government should take it seriously.

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, may I clarify?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the people's issue and it must be taken in the most serious manner, but the Government is not behaving in a proper way.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar was present here. He was looking into his files all along. He is not involved in this discussion. Now, hon. Sharad Pawar has come. Now it is all right.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: No, Sir. Sir, may I clarify? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have my own experience. I know what a Government is.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, this is a very ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, do not do that.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you cannot make anything.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not taken it seriously. You have taken it as a routine matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I had my earphones on my ears and I was listening to the speeches of the hon. Members. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sharad Pawar has come. I understand that it will be taken seriously.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the words of Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, they want to speak something. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can go on speaking.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I am listening to every word that is being said in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mistry, are you speaking?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there was no point on which he had to respond. ... *(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not get agitated. I have spoken the truth.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, so have I.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not mean any ill-will against anybody. I was only mentioning that the issue of price rise is most important in the people's interest. It is the most important thing, and it must be taken in the proper perspective.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: ... \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody can threaten me, and nobody can do anything against me. I have my own experience. You can speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: ... \* I am sitting here with my earphone on my ears and listening to every word, ... \*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Sir, what is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\* )

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, he has insulted the Chair. He has uttered the word ... It is derogatory, and it must be expunged. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be seated. It is not recorded, and it will not go on record. All that he has spoken will not come on record.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, but I have my own experience in these matters for a long time. I have controlled the House several times.

... (*Interruptions*)

\*SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, The prices of food items and all consumer items have gone up to burden the common man with 7.41% inflation. The Government has not taken effective steps required with the long perspective and with immediate measures to suit the situation.

The Statements of the Prime Minister and other ministers in this regard were not at all encouraging. The Prime Minister's view that it is other ministers' statement that there is no magic to stop prices from rising and that price rise is a global phenomenon, have only reiterated the Govt's failure.

What happened to the days when FCI had enough stock of rice and wheat? Has the policy of allowing private players to use FCI Godowns succeeded? The Govt should rethink multinationals and big business houses have no social obligation. Their motive is only profit. The Govt is now unable to supply grains to states who are in high scarcity. My state Kerala is the solid example. Rice Quota to APL Families has been cut by 82%. The State which produces only one third of the domestic need of rice depends mainly on P.D.S. If the centre cannot face it this obligation can the price rise be ever controlled.

The cut in customs duty of Palm Oil and Edible Oils has not served the purpose. It has only seriously affected the purchasing capacity of lakhs of farmers of coconut and other oil seeds. The Big Traders and producers in Malaysia and Indonesia have benefited as they have increased the price of their produces. The Govt of India and farmers are losers. The Price Rice is only continuing even for Edible Oils.

The Price Mechanism of petroleum is also defective. The increase in price of petroleum products on various occasions have also been a major reason for inflation.

Our Liberal Policies have also to be reviewed. If we cannot contain the prices of essential commodities what is the use of opening up and Liberalization. What is the use of claiming Growth and the people suffering a lot.

\*Not recorded.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

If the Centre could not foresee the changes in international level and the Price situations thereof who is now to blame. The Center should now adhere to emergent steps to ride over this dire situation.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I would seek your permission to speak from this place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you are allowed to do so.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am trying to put some of the facts for the notice of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the information of the House. There are about 10 or 12 more speakers. If all of you kindly cooperate by speaking for five minutes each, then we can conclude the debate quickly. Otherwise, it will take two more hours. Therefore, I would request each speaker to kindly conclude in five minutes each.

HRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, kindly allow each Member to speak for 10 minutes.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I rise to speak on the debate on price rise. I am really concerned about the rise in prices. Nonetheless, instead of suggesting how it should be curtailed, since morning we have been accused of a number of things like cutting the food grains quota to the States; that agriculture is declining; that the subsidy is cut; that there is no increase in agriculture production; that the availability and allocation of various food grains to the States are being curtailed, etc.

Let me first take the very charge that the States are being given less food grains. I am dependent on all the answers that have been given in this House in relation to the questions raised by the Members at different times.

Most of the answers are given in the very first part of the Session. I am only referring to that. The first charge was that the allocation and the off-take of rice and wheat declined in case of a number of States

*[Translation]*

It has come to our notice that the quota for Rajasthan has been reduced. Our friends especially from the Left Parties who are sitting on my right always express their concern for the BPL and the common man, I will also come to the quota given to their state but the reply in regard to the allocation was given on 10th

March...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen. Why do you stand up time and again? What is the problem? If you stand up, shall I not stand? ...*(Interruptions)*.

It doesn't belong to NDA. It is the problem with you people that.

*[English]*

You don't have the tolerance to listen to others.

*[Translation]*

It has always been the attitude of your people that they want to be listened by everyone but they don't listen to others. I have objection towards this attitude.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: We have the tolerance.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You come to this side.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am not bothered about it, but I am telling you that you will not be here again, understand. And you don't dream big. You have come to power once and that is enough for you...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I am reading out the figures of Rajasthan for the year 2004-05. These figures are in thousand tonnes. Quota of 960.50 thousand tonnes of rice and wheat was allotted. Off take is 882 thousand tonnes.

*[English]*

In case of West Bengal, where have the friends from West Bengal gone?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We are here.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Our friend who was very vocal and used the phrases at his will, which are sometimes irrelevant and sometimes quite harsh, seem to think that he can make a proposition only by using that language.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: We are here.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You are not Mr. Dasgupta.

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are in power with their support. Therefore, you have to bear with it.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You don't need to bother about that You are in the habit of dealing under the table. Rice and wheat off-take was 2010 in West Bengal in 2004-05.

[English]

I am quoting the figures in thousand tonnes. Off-take was 1520; in 2005-06,

[Translation]

Mohan Singh ji is not present here,

[English]

In West Bengal, again, it was 2010, and the off-take was 1748; Uttar Pradesh, allocation was 4484, and the off-take was 3998.

[Translation]

993 thousand tonnes for Rajasthan,

[English]

Off-take was 770.

[Translation]

Now I read out the figures of 2006-07.

[English]

In case of Rajasthan, 1021 was the allotment and the off-take was 864; Uttar Pradesh, 4486 was the allocation, off-take was 4173; West Bengal, 2143 was the allocation, and off-take was 1559;

[Translation]

Allocation for Bihar is very little.

[English]

In case of Bihar, allocation was 2681 and the off-take was only 1014.

[Translation]

I am quoting the figures upto December, 2007-08. As you are talking of common man, and the poor Supply of foodgrains is being made but the same are not distributed. It appears from the figures as to how sincere is the Government in providing foodgrains to BPL and AAY families.

[English]

In case of Rajasthan, 755 was the allocation, and the off-take was 687; Uttar Pradesh, allocation was 3363, and the off-take was 3070; West Bengal, 1631 was the allocation, and the off-take was 1384; 300,

[Translation]

Your own State Government has reduced it...*(Interruptions)*. I am coming to that point also. Please do not bother about it. Just Listen to me...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

We did not disturb you, so please listen to me.

[Translation]

It is said that UPA Government has reduced food subsidy.

[English]

Subsidy for BPL plus AAY in 2004-05 was Rs.17,548 crore. In 2006-07 it was Rs.18,001 crore and for APL it was Rs.2,792 crore which increased to Rs.3,329 crore. I am pretty sure very few Members see these figures of expenditure. I educate the NGOs about the Budget. I find that very few people see these books. The people who had referred to food subsidy should have studied these figures. The major subsidy given is for food. It was Rs.9,493 crore in 1999-2000; Rs.25,181 crore in 2003-04 which increased to Rs.32,667 crore. So, the Members of Opposition should correct their figures first of all.

MSP for wheat in 2004-05 was Rs.630 per quintal; in 2005-06 it was Rs.640; in 2006-07 it was Rs.700; in 2007-08 it was Rs.850 and in 2008-09 it is Rs.1000. Over all the years the Central Issue Price for BPL families remained at Rs.415 and for AAY it remained at Rs.200. I am very sorry to say that despite the fact that the UPA Government has fixed an MSP of Rs.1000 a quintal for

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

wheat the State Government of Gujarat has asked FCI not to buy wheat from Sabarkantha, Mehsana and Patan Districts in the State. The State Government is not insulating the farmers from the traders. Traders are buying wheat in the market at a price of Rs.185 to Rs.195. The State Government has issued a licence to the State Civil Supplies Corporation to buy wheat from these three Districts while the rest of the Districts are given to the FCI. I do not know what could be the reason. My direct charge is that the State Government of Gujarat is deliberately doing this to encourage traders to buy wheat in the market so that artificially they can raise the prices of food grains. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, it is totally false. The people of this country want to know whether the Government is taking steps to control the price rise or not. Do not bring Gujarat into this. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am not yielding.

Sir, they are against the farmers; their policies are against the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* They do not want to give a remunerative price, MSP, to the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* They allow traders to buy the food grains directly from the farmers and APMCs have not been controlled by them. ... *(Interruptions)* They are simply encouraging hoarding in the State. ... *(Interruptions)*

What is this, Sir? I strongly object to the intervention of Mr. Pathak and Mr. Ratilal Verma.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you get agitated? Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They are interrupting me. Why are they disturbing me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mistry.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They are deliberately disturbing me because the facts are against their State Government.

\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude your speech.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am on my legs, Sir, but they are not allowing me to speak. I have to speak. You ask them to sit down. What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Smt. Paramjit Kaur. I am calling the next speaker.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: They cannot dictate me. ... *(Interruptions)* It is your State Government who is encouraging the hoarders to hoard the wheat..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I want to put on record that we have been accused of less production of wheat, rice and so on. Let me just cite the figures of 2003-04 and 2006-07. Look at the figures. They are based on more or less hearsay rather than on facts. Production of rice in 2003-04, 88,526 MT has increased to... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are duty bound to cooperate with me in conducting the House. Please conclude your speech. There are other speakers and we want to conclude this today itself.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Please allow me to speak for another two minutes, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have a better duty being in the Treasury Benches. You forget that aspect.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I just want to tell the House that the State Government and the Union Government have taken enough steps, which have just now been mentioned by the Finance Minister. There are a number of things but nonetheless the fact remains that by and large the Essential Commodities Act is not implemented in a number of States. We would like to

\*Not recorded.

know, in a situation of increased prices in the country, and let this House know as to how many raids have been conducted by the States, as to how hoarders and black-marketeers were arrested by the States themselves. They are simply and deliberately trying to keep their eyes on elections and they simply do not want to take action on any hoarders and black-marketeers. On the one hand, they simply just go and blame the Union Government. I would like to say on record that this is deliberately designed by the respective State Government just to defame and nullify the steps taken by the Union Government at the time of presenting the Budget. They simply nullify the impact of all those measures which have been declared by the UPA Government by presenting a Budget and that is why they have simply been raising the bogey of prices and they are unable to tell their own State Government.

*[Translation]*

They do not want to do anything. They do not want to say anything. This is beyond their reach. They are deliberately trying to defame the Union Government. I ask the Union Government, it is high time that we should review the relationship between the Union Government and State Governments and we should be allowed to take steps directly in the State on black-marketeers and hoarders. At that time, they should not raise the very issue of federal and the State Government. With these words, I conclude, Sir.

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): I thank you, Chairman sir, for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on rise in the prices of essential commodities.

Sir, the UPA Government came to power at the Centre in 2004. At that time, the UPA Government had coined several catchy slogans for public consumption. One such slogan was: UPA ka Haath, Aam Aadmi ke Saath, i.e. the UPA is the well-wisher of the common man. Nothing can be farther from truth. The UPA Government has failed to provide any relief or succour to the common man. Instead, it has become a liability for the common man.

Sir, I do not want to wade into the river of data and statistics. Many Hon. Members have already provided these details. It reflects the unprecedented price-rise that has taken place in the country. Hon. Finance Minister tried his best to indulge in jugglery of figures, data and

statistics to pacify the agitated members of this august House. However, no one can befool the people. The UPA Government will have to pay a heavy political price during the 2009 General Elections due to its failure to check this unprecedented price-rise.

Sir, I'll be brief and to-the-point. Since 2004, the UPA Government has been claiming credit on T.V. and in the Print Media for the rise in Sensex. The poor, illiterate people of the country cannot understand these complex issues. However, they can understand very well the fact that prices of essential commodities are spiralling. They may not know what Sensex is. However, the sky-rocketing price of food and non-food items affect them directly. The Congress party has ruled this country for a maximum number of years. However, there has never been a roll-back in prices. During the rule of UPA Government, Sensex is on the rise. The poor people have no idea what Sensex is. They think that it is a cheap commodity available in the market. However, these simple people do not know that Sensex is not a commodity. They cannot purchase it at a cheap rate in the market. The crux of the matter is that the poor people do not know anything about Sensex. Sensex is of no use to them. What affects them most is the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities. The prices of flour, pulses, edible oil and other essential items have gone through the roof.

Sir, the Government has also cheated the poor people through the Employment Guarantee Scheme. My constituency Bhatinda is a backward area. The people of my area are very poor. I have made enquiries in the villages of my area regarding the number of people who have been granted employment in each village. You can count the beneficiaries of this scheme on finger-tips. Under this scheme, people are paid only Rs.97/- per day. Only one member of the family can claim this amount. They are paid this amount daily only for 100 days. However, the prices of essential commodities have sky-rocketed. Pulses are being sold at an exorbitant rate of 70/- per kg, flour is being sold at Rs.16/- kg, and sugar is being sold at Rs. 20/- per kg. Under these harrowing conditions, the poor people are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. How can the poor person pay the school-fee of his child, or purchase medicines when he is ill? Rs.97/- is a paltry sum. It is a measly amount. The prices of all items have galloped. It is an alarming situation. In such circumstances, Rs.97/- is a pittance. It is a drop in the ocean. It is a crying shame.

Sir, once upon a time, Rome was plagued by famine. The people went to the King and appealed the their ruler

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Smt. Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

to help them as they were dying of hunger and starvation. The rulers lead their lives ensconced in ivory-towers and palaces. They have no idea of the harsh ground-realities. The King of Rome was like our present Government. He told the people that they should eat cakes and pastries if they do not find flour and other food-grains. Our present UPA Government is behaving like the King of Rome. They have given a paltry sum of Rs.97/- to the poor people as daily wage. However due to the unprecedented price-rise, the poor person is finding it difficult to make both ends meet. The prices of all essential items have spiralled. Whether it is flour, pulses, edible oils, LPG cylinder or other items, the common man is finding that these items are eluding his reach. The poor person has been left to fend for himself. How can the poor person meet all his needs in this measly sum of Rs.97/-.

I have a suggestion for the Government. The Government should itself have the taste of the cake of Rs.97/- that it dangles for the poor people. Then it will come to know that you cannot get anything worthwhile in Rs.97/-. This Government has lost its moral right to remain in power anymore. The Hon. Finance Minister has indulged in jugglery of data and statistics. I challenge him to purchase anything worthwhile in this paltry sum of Rs.97/-. Sir, if the Government fails to rein in the prices, the people of this country will overthrow this Government. In 2006, too, we had a threadbare discussion on price-rise in this very august House. However, the Government has not woken up from its deep slumber. The Government cannot absolve itself from its responsibility.

Sir, the sky-rocketing prices have broken the backbone of the common man. It has made a mockery of our democracy. The confidence of people in the Government has nose-dived. If the price-rise is not checked, chaos and anarchy will reign supreme in the country. The Government must take concrete measures to check this menace. Only tough measures can provide relief to the poor people.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the issue of price rise and inflation. According to my Party and also the people of this country and various political parties, the biggest failure of this UPA Government is their inability to control price rise and inflation. We all have to agree to this. The Government of India and the State Governments

unitedly have to fight to contain the rise in prices and inflation. But the Government of India has not taken enough steps to do so. It has been about five months that this trend of rising prices is being observed and yet the Government has not convened any meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss this alarming situation arising out of price rise and inflation. The Government should immediately convene the meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss the various problems that has led to this situation and also should take steps to amend the Essential Commodities Act. The Government would also have to take enough steps to control black marketing and hoarding of pulses and oilseeds. That is also one of the prime reasons for rise in prices. Neither the farmers, nor the consumers are happy. The farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price for their produce. They are committing suicide. Even the common men are unhappy about the fact that they are unable to purchase their essential commodities on a daily basis. The inflation rate is at an alarming 7.41 per cent which is the highest in the last 40 months. Such was never the situation in the past... *(Interruptions)* Even if the previous Government failed to contain inflation, people have voted this combine into power and so it is their responsibility to control price rise and inflation without blaming the previous Governments. Now the power is vested with this Government. They should take enough steps to control inflation.

Sir, I will give one example.

In 2003, steel price was Rs. 18,000 per tonne and the present price is Rs. 60,000 per tonne. It is 300 per cent hike in the steel price. Never since Independence has the steel price risen by 300 per cent within one or two years. We are now exporting iron ore. There is no policy about it. Last time, we demanded on the floor of the House to ban export of iron ore. Iron ore can be utilized by our industry if it could be supplied to our people at a cheaper price. But we are exporting iron ore and we are also collecting meager cess by exporting it. Even the middlemen and exporters are earning thousands of crores by exporting iron ore. We are importing steel also. Why has the Government not taken enough steps in this regard and why are they fearing to take steps? There is no coordination between the Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Commerce. We have increased diesel and petrol prices by seven times. Every increase has a cascading effect. What about the promises made by the NDA Government before elections?

They said that they will control the prices but now they are raising the prices of diesel and petrol. They said that they will increase the prices of petrol and diesel in a moderate way. What is the price structure now? In 2003, diesel price was Rs. 24 per litre and now it is Rs. 34 per litre. Petrol price was Rs. 36 and now it is Rs. 51.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Let the hon. Member enlighten us what was the international crude price earlier and what is it now. That will help us. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The effect of crude price per barrel, international pressure and other reasons are there to some extent. But you have to reduce the customs and excise duty. By increasing the diesel and petroleum prices, the State Governments are getting more income by imposing sales tax. Why are you not pressurizing the State Chief Ministers in this regard? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the hon. Minister kindly clarify as to what is the amount of taxation on petroleum products? He is linking international price with domestic price. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the hon. Member further enlighten us as to what is the State Government's cess imposed on petrol? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How much is the Central Government's cess per litre? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No remarks will go on record except Shri Yerrannaaidu.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, by increasing the prices of diesel and petrol, in turn, the State Governments are getting more income for the State Exchequer. Their sales tax is 24 per cent to 28 per cent.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Is it limited to Andhra Pradesh or others also? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am not saying whether it is so in the previous Government or the present Government. That is why, I am saying that the Government of India should convene a meeting of all the Chief Ministers. It should reduce the customs and excise duties and ask the Chief Ministers of different States to reduce the sales tax and for that, they have to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel.

Secondly, we have to look into the loopholes in the Essential Commodities Act. Why are the State Chief Ministers not taking the required action against hoarders and black marketers? We have to see whether there are any loopholes; and if there is any need for amendments in the Essential Commodities Act, we are in Session now, please make amendments to the Act to control the black marketers and hoarders. We have to fight the problem unitedly by this way. The problem of price rise is not of any political party. It is the problem of the people of the country. Because of the onion price hike, one Government lost its power. The prices of all the commodities are increasing day by day. So, this is an alarming issue. That is why, all the political parties are getting agitated including our friends here. They may not speak loudly but everybody is discussing this issue. When we go to the villages, people are asking us as to why we are not putting pressure on the Government to control the prices. The Prime Minister of the country may not say as to what he can do, there is no mechanism for him to follow, there is international pressure and international market and so on. The Government should deal this issue with an iron hand.

Even the Ministers are talking very loosely. This is a major issue. The Government should tackle this issue without any delay. I would like to mention here an alarming fact. The growth of population is two per cent every year, but the agricultural production is only 0.9 per cent. It is not even one per cent. There is no match. There is mismatch. Tomorrow the country will face food crisis. Now, in the world 33 countries are facing food crisis. We are importing cereals, oils, wheat etc. Our Agriculture Minister is present here. I would urge him to take necessary steps to produce more wheat, rice and pulses. We have to increase our food production. Otherwise, everybody will suffer. The Government should take enough steps without any delay. The Government should call the NDC or Chief Ministers meeting to discuss this issue. The Government should take enough steps to contain inflation and price rise.

I would like to suggest that we have to strengthen the Public Distribution System. We have to universalise the Public Distribution System. Previously we were allotting some amount of food grains, but that was reduced. We are not giving full allocation of food grains to the States. So, there is a shortage of food grains in the States. So, whatever amount of food grains that we used to allocate should be given to the States. We have to maintain the status quo. We have to maintain such allotments. All these things have to be taken into consideration..

\*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have realized for the first time today that price rise is a party based issue, otherwise, it would have been discussed above the party lines. Some members have said that there is no price rise. It means that price-rise is due to the wrong policies of the Government as price-rise has affected everybody be it rich or poor, associated with Congress or BJP Party. Therefore, I think that it is a common issue and we need to control it together and find some solution. In a democratic set up success of economic policy might be assessed on the basis of its impact on common people. In the present scenario, condition of the country is not conducive. Once, I was returning after visiting my constituency at 2 a.m. I saw people standing in queue for gas cylinder. I asked them as to why are they standing in queue at midnight for gas cylinder they said that they do not get gas cylinders. Gas cylinders were being given on first come, first serve basis there. Hence, people were standing in queue to get gas cylinder at 2 a.m. Nextday I called a meeting of all the distributors and asked them whether you don't have adequate gas cylinders or there is a problem in system, what is the matter? I was shocked by their replies. They said that gas agencies compel us to sell their product, as well.

One distributor even told that on the occasion of Deepawali, one company had sent one thousand sweet boxes alongwith the gas cylinders for selling. Agency had sold the sweet box to some sweet seller for Rs. 70 and thus sold the gas cylinder this way. If we continue to manipulate the system, prices and distribution system will be affected. Unless the root cause is found out, it is impossible to control price rise. Anyway, it has been said that the Union Government have transferred the said responsibility to the states. Once, a lady had quarrel with one of her neighbours. She asked her neighbour to teach his child properly. Neighbour replied that he was his child and it was his business to teach him or not and how she was concerned with it. The lady said that she was concerned because her child had copied from his child and he failed in exam.

17.49 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

If it is the responsibility of the states and Union Government have no role, then what is the use of

constituting committee system? One of my colleagues has rightly said that if it is the responsibility of states, the committees should be comprised of Chief Ministers so that they could take decision. I think that the Government has completely failed to check the price rise.

Everything is possible if Government has will to do. I would like to cite an example of Punjab. An Information was received that synthetic milk and 'khoya' is going to be sold in the market on the occasion of Deepawali. The lady Health Minister, Lakshmi Kanta Chawala decided not to allow synthetic milk and 'khoya' to be sold during Deepawali and she actually did so. If Government's intention is clear, it can be checked. Decision of the Government affects common people. I recall an incident in this regard. A boy was selling orange juice in a village. He used to pick up an orange from his garden and extract full glass of juice from that orange. Once, a king was passing through the street and he wanted to have a glass of juice. He asked the boy for a glass of juice. The boy picked an orange from his garden and extracted a glass of juice and gave it to the king. On seeing this, the king thought that the boy had sold many glasses of juice, therefore, tax should be imposed on him. The king asked another glass of juice from the boy. The boy picked up an orange from his garden but the glass remained little empty, he picked another orange but glass still remained little empty. On this, king asked the boy that earlier glass filled with only one orange but what happened now that even three oranges are not sufficient to make a glass of juice? Boy replied that may be the intention of the king has changed. Similarly, every citizen of the country is affected with price rise. It appears that the intention of the ruling party has changed, which does not accept that there is price rise and instead they are saying that this is the responsibility of the states to check price rise. We need to check price rise by taking right and strong steps. It should not be considered as an issue related to only one party, as it is a matter related to the whole country. We need to fight against price rise. If the price rise could not be checked, then, children of the country will neither be able to get education, sufficient food nor become good citizens. Therefore, I want that after the discussion is concluded, people must realize that Government have taken it seriously. I do not want to go into the figures because many figures have been given here. I wish that when this discussion is concluded, a message should go to public that both Government and Parliament have taken the issue seriously and there is check on price rise.

This discussion will then be useful, otherwise, it would just prove to be a paperwork in which everyone said something for the sake of saying and nobody is concerned about common man.

With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your cooperation. Hon. Members, we have to finish the discussion by 6.30 p.m. and at 6.30p.m. the Railway Budget has to be taken up. I am sorry, I cannot accommodate anybody else. If anybody wants to lay his speech, he can do so.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please give five minutes to Shri Suresh Kurup.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I have got 11 names. I cannot discriminate here. Now, the hon. Minister will speak. It is because the country is waiting for the Government's response.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Price rise is the burning issue in the country today. Discussion is taking place seriously in the House, but the Government is not serious. Price rise is directly linked with the Common man. Control over the price rise, price determinations is directly linked with the Central Government. Robert Jolin, the president of the World Bank, had given an indication, increase in prices. If price-rise is not controlled, the economic growth would be adversely affected. Similarly, the Reserve Bank had also warned six months back that India is going to face rise in prices. The Ministry of Agriculture was aware for the last 8 months that prices have to rise. And now, prices are sky-high within the 40 weeks. The Finance Minister linked it with world market and says that the 75% oil is being imported in the country. Pulses are being imported in large quantities, fertilizers are also being imported. Even wheat is also being imported but in restricted quantity.

The import is increasing in the country but the export is decreasing. Is it not matter of concern? The Minister of Finance is blaming the State Governments that prices are rising because of hoarding. The allegation is not at all true. The chart of price rise during the rule of NDA

Government and the presented by the Finance Minister is not at all correct. Whether the Finance Minister tried to stop the money being invested by the terrorists, smugglers and mafiadons in Indian share market. It is in the air that three senior leaders have invested their black money in the share market. The Finance Minister should reveal the details of their accounts.

Whether the Ministry of Finance and Hon. Prime Minister have directed the Directorate of Enforcement to probe into the accounts as there are proofs that Rs. 100 crore has been transferred to smuggler Salim's foreign account from a foreign bank. If such sort of directions has not been issued what are the reasons behind it? The Inspector Raj has come to an end in the States, due to which black marketing is not being controlled. When NDA Government was in power, the available stock of foodgrains was according to the requirements of the people. Today, the godowns are lying empty. If we rely on the statement of Agriculture Minister that the production is increased, then why the godowon are empty? Why import from other countries have been increased. If the country is not able to become self-reliant, the Congress and your misdirected policies are responsible for it. The reign of the country is in the hands of great economists. According to Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambram, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia ji, Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar ji, the growth rate in the country is 8.8 per cent, While inflation is 7.8 percent, 40 percent population of the country is below poverty line. Why an occupation like agriculture is suffering losses, why farmer is committing suicide. The international market is looking at India. We have to keep it in mind.

The Chairman of the World Bank Robert Jolin had indicated that 10 crore people in the world are poor. All the newspapers published a report that foodgrains will last for few weeks only in the world. If it is true, what is the status of India, it should be made clear. Whether such news items are not encouraging hoarding in the country as well as in the world. There is 100 to 300 percent increase in prices. I would like to include one-year chart in the proceedings.

The impact of price-rise over food-items and other expenses of kitchen during one year:

Vegetable oil	Rs. 800/-per tin in March 2007,
	Rs. 825/-per tin in September, 2007,
	Rs. 1100/-per tin in March, 2008.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Mustard oil-Rs. 825/- per tin in March, 07, Rs. 880/- per tin in September, 2007, Rs. 400/- per tin in March 07.

Refined oil-Rs. 800/- per tin in March, 2007, Rs. 925/- in September, 2007, Rs. 1400/- per tin in March, 08.

Ground Nut Refined oil-Rs. 1100/-per tin in March, 07, Rs. 1250/- in September, 07, Rs. 1385/- in March, 08.

Daal Tur-Rs. 39/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 42/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 48/- per kg. in March, 08.

Dal Chana-Rs. 32/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 36/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 38/- per kg. in March, 08.

Daal Masoor-Rs. 35/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 42/- per kg. in September 07, Rs. 48/- per kg. in March, 08.

Rajma-Rs. 35/- per kg. in Mach 07, Rs. 41/- per kg. in September 07, Rs. 44/- per kg. in March, 08.

Pice Golden-Rs. 35/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 37/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 45/- per kg. in March, 08.

Rice Basmati-Rs. 30/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 32/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 40/- per kg. in March, 08.

Rice Parmal-Rs. 13/- per kg. in Mach, 07, Rs. 16/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 18/- per kg. in March, 08.

Wheat Flour-Rs. 13/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 14/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 15/- per kg. in March, 08.

Gram Flour-Rs. 30/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 34/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 42/- per kg. in March, 08.

Tea-Rs. 156/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 166/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 170/- per kg. in March, 08.

Sugar-Rs. 15.50 per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 14.70/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 18/- per kg. in March, 08.

Milk-Rs. 20/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 22/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 24/- per kg. in March, 08.

Bread-Rs. 11/- per packet in March, 07, Rs. 12/- per packet in September, 07, Rs. 14/ per packet in March, 08.

Egg-Rs. 35/- per crate in March, 07, Rs. 48 per crate in September, 07, Rs. 42/- per crate in March, 08.

Fish Rs. -65/- per kg. in March 07, Rs. 65/- per kg. in September 07, Rs. 75/- per kg. in March 08.

Mutton-Rs. 140/-per kg. in March 07, Rs. 150/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 160/- per kg. in March, 08.

Chicken-Rs. 80/- per kg. in March, 07, Rs. 100/- per kg. in September, 07, Rs. 90/- per kg. in March, 08.

LPG-Rs. 280/- per cylinder, Diesel Rs. 40/-per litre, Petrol Rs. 52/- per litre, Cement Rs. 240/- per sack, Kerosene oil Rs. 18/- per litre and iron Rs. 50/- per kg.

*[English]*

\*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the sudden spike in inflation from below 5 per cent to 7.4 per cent in the matter of six weeks has surprised and caught off guard - the Government, consumers and others. A spurt in edible oil, steel and iron ore prices in quick succession has contributed to the current surge of inflation. According to some economic experts, the main reason for this latest bout of inflation was the delayed revision in the iron ore prices. This is amongst the sharpest surges in inflation in recent times. It needs no emphasis that inflation control is the key macroeconomic challenge at this juncture and requires an appropriate policy response which the Government did. I thank the Government for taking up a variety of fiscal, Monetary, supply side and trade-related measures to tame inflation. The duties on edible oils have been slashed and curbs on exports have been put in place. Steel companies are being persuaded to reduce prices. I have no doubt in my mind that these will have some moderating impact on inflation.

With rising crude prices, a tight global food situation and hardening commodity prices, it is no surprise that inflation is up. The World Bank Group estimates that 33 countries around the world face potential social unrest because of the sharp rise in food and energy prices. Food shortage-related riots are already being reported from some countries. Thanks to the Government efforts that so far India has remained quite insulated from the surge in global prices.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

Wheat and rice witnessed phenomenal inflation during January to March 2008 in the global markets. In comparison, domestic inflation in rice and wheat has merely been 7 and 0.9 per cent respectively. The fact of the matter is between 2003-04 and 2007-08, the production of wheat increased at 0.9 per cent per annum which is below the population rate of growth. This has reduced the domestic buffer of wheat stocks. As a result, we are increasingly becoming dependent on imports. If domestic production of wheat falters, expensive imports will put pressure on domestic inflation. The same is true of oilseeds. I want the Government to take note of this.

Just for the information, in the last few months, countries like China have also resorted to price controls on food and fertilizers. The question is: Do price controls really work? According to some economic experts, they are clearly more damaging to the medium-term stability in prices as they distort the allocation of resources and create shortages. We should not forget the fact that price controls also encourage hoarding. I want the Government to deploy additional official machinery to ensure quality standards and check hoarding.

I want to inform my friends in the Opposition that inflationary surge today is a result of global conditions as well as our low productivity in agriculture. We ought to direct domestic policy towards raising productivity in agriculture to attain self sufficiency in food. I am afraid; we might have to live with an unfavorable global food price scenario over the next few months as the global food crisis will take a while to sort itself out. Therefore, until self-sufficiency in food production is achieved, targeted subsidies and PDS need to be beefed up to protect the vulnerable sections of the society.

In this connection I want to bring to the notice of the house, that the Andhra Pradesh Government under the leadership of Honorable Chief Minister has taken measure to supply Rice, Edible oil and pulses at very subsidized rates through PDS. This will immediately give relief to the most vulnerable sections of the society who are affected by the price rise. In the medium run, this will help in bringing price stability.

Before accusing the UPA Government, the Opposition ruled States must introspect themselves as to what is happening in their States. Therefore, let us not accuse each other. Instead State Governments must compliment the efforts of the Central Government in taming the inflation. Our goal should be to protect the interests of

the vulnerable sections of the society; and let us not politicize the issue. Let us all work together to tame the inflation.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all sections of the society in the country are discussing an important issue quite seriously for past some time. The common men of the country particularly belonging to the lower sections of the society like labourers, small farmers, covered under lower middle class or middle class are facing a serious problem. So, this subject is essentially required to be discussed in the House. Many Honourable Members gave good suggestions while taking part in this discussion and they also got an opportunity to talk about the policies of the Government. My colleague Shri Chidambaram have responded to the issues related to the inflation and economic problems raised in this House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not replied anything.

*[English]*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He did not do it. Not only did he not do it but also he said that the reply would be given by the Government.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is giving the reply now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not replied to any of the questions raised by us.

MR. SPEAKER: You are yourselves saying that these are such serious matters that need attention. From the Government of India's side, accused by all sorts, they are answering it. You are not listening to it.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I accept what he is saying.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: What he said was that the economic issues have been dealt with by him. He has not answered the rest.

MR. SPEAKER: That is his assessment. That is his understanding.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Minister, you are expected to enlighten us on all issues.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far as food policy of Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, I would like to inform the House about it also. Shri Chidambaram had also stated the same in the House. I have attentively listened the discussion held in the House on this subject. I would like to assure all the Members of the House that the policy of this Government is to control inflation and lead the economic development in the right direction. The UPA Government has clearly highlighted in its National Common Minimum Programme that.

*[English]*

Farmers all over the country will receive fair and remunerate prices. The terms of trade will be maintained in their favour.

*[Translation]*

The Government has followed two methods to implement the said features under the National Common Minimum Programme. First, to encourage the agriculture sector and to improve the condition of poor class and B.P.L. section as well. In addition, necessary steps would be taken to maintain the increasing growth rate in the country.

Before addressing the problem of inflation, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the minimum support price given to the farmers by the Government of India has been increased on large scale. As a result farmers are getting good prices for their produce.

Apart from this several such other arrangements are made by which farmers can assess the expected price of their crops at the time of initiating the sowing process. This will enable him to decide the particular crop and its quantity which could be beneficial for him. For example two years back the Government had announced minimum

support price of wheat as rupees 1000 per quintal. Farmers assessed the expected price of their crop after this announcement. As a result, wheat sowing area was increased in the country particularly in Punjab, Haryana and a big part of Uttar Pradesh which are the highest wheat producing areas.

18.00 hrs.

Farmers took utmost care to increase the productivity of wheat and I am sure it will reflect during the procurement, which is going on at present.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The time is extended until the business is over.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The policy which has been accepted here will benefit in the long run. We cannot ignore the international perspective while reviewing an economy, our several colleagues have stated that there is no need to show concern over the international activities and its impact on us. I do not feel that today the situation has remained like this. As far as the world wide status of foodgrains is concerned, it is changing on large scale, and varied reasons behind it are climatic changes, high energy prices etc. and good growth of income it also effecting it. Urbanization, globalisation, demand and production of foodgrains etc. are also effecting the market deeply. So it is essential to consider the status of all the sectors of the world. While taking into account the prevailing situation here. If we compare the increasing prices of foodgrains in India with the international market then what do we find? If any example is required to be given please see the international price of rice and wheat. There is 100% increase in international rates during the last one year whereas the price of rice and wheat has broken the records of last 19 years and 28 years respectively in March 2008.

*[English]*

If you see the price of rice in Pakistan, it has risen from \$275 per tonne to \$580 per tonne over one year. It is an increase of 110 percent. Vietnam which is major rice exporter,

*[Translation]*

even there the prices of rice has increased from \$280 to \$620 during the last one year which is an increase of 130 percent.

*[English]*

Now, Thailand is another major exporter of rice.

*[Translation]*

There also the prices of rice has hiked from \$309 per tonne to \$715 per tonne over the year which means more than 131 percent. If we look at wheat

*[English]*

the world price of wheat has grown over the year from \$172 per tonne to \$344 per tonne

*[Translation]*

means the international rate of wheat has increased more than 100 percent during last one year. I remember that when we raised the issue of import of wheat in this August House and when we started import, there was strong resentment. The Government even stopped import. I remember that

*[English]*

we had purchased it at the price of \$ 178 per tonne. Today, the same import price has gone up to \$400 per tonne and now it has stabilized to \$ 368 or \$388 per tonne.

*[Translation]*

We should look at the status of our country after going through the international prices. The international prices of wheat and rice have hiked upto 100 percent over the year, whereas the prices of rice and wheat have gone upto 17.2 percent and 7.2 percent respectively in India. Today, while comparing India with any other country in the world, you will find that the prices of rice and wheat are still lowest in our country even though the common man is not in a position to accommodate these prices and it needs to be improve. I agree with this fact indeed.

The world is not limited to rice and wheat only. Some of our states produce maize also. There is vast demand

of maize in some countries of the world and the international price of maize has increased at the rate of 66.5 percent over one year but if you will compare it with India, the price of maize are decreasing here. I agree with Gurudas ji that a critical situation has developed between the whole sale price and retail price here and Union Government as well as State Government need to pay attention towards this issue, as the responsibility of retail price lies more with the State Government. Still, I do not want to claim that prices have come down during last one month, but we can see this trend that

*[English]*

the wholesale price of rice was Rs. 1,550 per quintal exactly one month back and today also the price of rice is Rs. 1,550 per quintal. The price of wheat in the same period was Rs. 1,115 per quintal and today also it is Rs. 1,115. I am quoting the price at Delhi market. The price of atta was Rs. 1,275 per quintal exactly one month back and today it is Rs. 1,250, a drop of Rs. 25 per quintal. The price of tur was Rs. 3,750 per quintal one month back and today it is Rs. 3,700 per quintal, a drop by Rs. 50 per quintal. The price of groundnut oil was Rs. 11,355 per quintal and it has come down to Rs. 10,915 now. This is mainly because the Government of India took a decision to remove all types of duties. That is why, the import situation has changed and that has been reflected in the price. The price of mustard oil was Rs. 8,038 per quintal exactly one month back and today it is Rs. 6,740. The price of vanaspati was Rs. 7,252 per quintal one month back and it has come down to Rs. 6,813.

*[Translation]*

A mention has been made about vegetables also. Sumitra ji has rightly said about tomatoes. Such unfavourable circumstances arise in which prices of a few vegetables rise while prices of other vegetables come down. Potatoes and onions are essential commodities for common man. Onion was being sold at Rs. 538 per quintal, now, its price has come down to Rs. 425 per quintal. Potato was being sold at Rs. 375 per quintal, now its price has come down to Rs. 330 per quintal, now its price has come down to Rs. 330 per quintal. I would like to state that Government of Uttar pradesh has submitted a proposal yesterday only saying that the state of Potato growing farmers is deteriorating there.

[English]

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

I am just saying that I have received a proposal from that Government and the Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested the Government of India that market intervention scheme should be made applicable for potato in Uttar Pradesh just to protect the interest of the potato farmers where they are also ready to take 50 per cent responsibility. I have accepted their proposal totally and approved it and we are going to start purchase of potatoes in Uttar Pradesh. If similar requests are received from either West Bengal or Gujarat, we will be very happy to exactly follow like Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

In this context one thing has become clear that the prices of a few commodities, which were on higher side are coming down, but they should not come down to such an extent that the farmers might be considering them non-profitable and start growing other crops.

I have mentioned about international market. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the situation prevailing in neighbouring countries. I do not want to take more time of the House. I would like to tell the House regarding the frequent variations in the prices. As regards rice, while there has been around 17.65 per cent variation in the price in India, on the contrary, it has been 131 per cent in Thailand. As regard wheat, price variation in India is 7.21 per cent while in other countries it is 115 per cent. Presently, the rise in the prices of 'urad; moong; yellow pulses in other countries of the world is comparatively higher than price rise in India. A similar situation prevails in world market also. In case of prices of Soyabean, Pamolene and Sunflower, we are far better than other countries. As I have earlier said about the situation in our neighbouring countries, if the retail price of rice in India is around Rs. 18 per k.g., it is Rs. 21 in Pakistan and in China...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, he should not compare India with Pakistan. It is drastically different.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him say.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): What about China?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: India is India. India is not China.

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to make his case, whatever is your impression of that.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: China – Rs. 20.23 per kilo, Philippines – Rs. 25.75 per kilo, and Bangladesh is similar to us.

As far as wheat is concerned, India – Rs.13 per kilo, Pakistan, which is a major wheat producing country, – Rs.13 per kilo, China – Rs.17.34 per kilo and Bangladesh Rs.21 per kilo.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: China has higher income. Please understand that.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: So is India.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. No running commentary please.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. You cannot expect that any hon. Member or hon. Minister will speak according to your liking.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is a factual position. We cannot say no. I would like to say that India is not the only country where we are facing this problem. In fact, as compared to all neighbouring countries, our position is little better. But still we have to take corrective action because whatever is the price, that is not good for common man.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is what we want to know from you.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far as situation in India is concerned, we should also consider as to why this situation has arisen at the first place. Since last few years, we have been witnessing 8 to 9 percent growth rate. This increasing growth rate results into enhanced demand of foodgrain. This is increasing gap between demand and supply.

[English]

In January, 2008, the Food Price Index of FAO, an international organization rose by 47 percent over the previous year. In comparison to that, the WPI based inflation rate of the food articles of sub-group was six percent in our country and in the last year it was eight percent.

[Translation]

Keeping this thing in mind, it becomes clear that our situation is better in comparison to other countries, yet corrective measures need to be taken. As I have said that the stock of foodgrain is at its lowest level at international level. It has many reasons. Another factor is that if the stock of foodgrain at international level is low, it adversely affects the prices in all the countries. Australia is the biggest exporter of wheat and rice. Since the last two years it is facing drought and famine. Therefore, it has practically stopped export of foodgrains. The production of wheat was low in Europe during 2006-07. I have been witnessing a very contradictory situation, as we have been emphasizing at international forums that the biggest producer of foodgrains, especially the European countries should reduce the amount of subsidies to the farmers, as we are finding it hard to compete with them and this stand of our has been consistent. But now we are facing the result of this. The DG of FAO was in India last week and during my detailed discussion with him he mentioned that the farmers of those countries which decided to reduce the amount of subsidy after getting membership of WTO have started growing other cash crops rather than foodgrains which has resulted in the reduced overall production of foodgrains affecting the availability of foodgrains all over the world and the entire world has to suffer due to this.

Sir, whenever we listen to the grievances of farmers, barring two three states, the farmers of other states always complain that power for agriculture is supplied for very short duration only and due to insufficient supply of power they have to depend on diesel pump sets, which cost them around ten to twelve Rs. per unit, which results in a high increase in their input cost. These factors inspire the farmers to shift to other remunerative crops. It is a fact that as regards agriculture production, we were always in a comfortable position but it has been showing a downward trend. When Smt. Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister of country she always paid attention towards increasing the capital investment in agriculture sector and this policy

was pursued for ten years. After 1998, the investment in agriculture sector was much less than what was required.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is the point.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes, I entirely agree with you... (Interruptions)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Then, why did you not take up with the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. He is saying that.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate, Mr. Dasgupta. You had your say uninterrupted.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Why do you not allow me to speak?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, he is in trouble. Once you agree with him, he is in trouble.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This situation resulted in adversely affecting the production of foodgrains in our country. Since assuming power, the UPA Government have taken action to improve situation. This task cannot be accomplished overnight... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Statistics does not speak always correct... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, this is very unfortunate. You are a very senior Member. You have made a very good contribution to this debate. They have heard you. Please allow him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have a running battle. I would not allow this. Can you have a running battle? You may not agree with him. That does not mean that you must interrupt him.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: He is not making correct statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you, therefore, interrupt him? If you do not like his statement, you would interrupt him! Sorry.

Do not record anything except what the hon. Minister says.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the Minister yields to any hon. Member, nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You would see that budgetary provisions for agriculture sector have been increasing every year since this Government came to power. You may have a look at the figures for irrigation for the current year and the progress shown by the irrigation sector will reveal that no Indian Government has achieved as much success in this field as the present one. Yet I concede that more attention needs to be paid in this regard. But, at least this process has been started and it is showing its impact on overall agricultural production also. I would request the House to take a look at total production of wheat and rice in the country during the last three years and what it was during the last year and the current year? It is increasing year after year...(Interruptions)

[English!]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record any interruptions.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the hon. Minister yields, I would not allow anyone.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to ask any clarification and if the hon. Minister agrees, you may ask him later on and not now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Rawat has asked as to what is the need to import wheat later on. I will also tell you as to how much wheat is produced in your state and how much you have given to the Government of India. I have the figures and I can read out them. You do not bother about it. I will give you complete information...(Interruptions) Process has been started to increase the production in agriculture sector and more investment has been made in this sector, which was desired. I told you in the previous session and the Finance Minister have also said that under the UPA regime agriculture credit of Rs. 81000 crore rose to Rs. 2.30 lakh this year...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

Hon. Members, please cooperate.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Why do you not see the figures?

MR. SPEAKER: If the leading hon. Members would interrupt a Minister in a very important debate, it is very unfortunate.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You just compare five years prior to the UPA Government came to power. You may see the total amount and percentages also. I am confident that whatever decisions have been taken by Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government in this particular area, clearly indicate that there is a substantial improvement, and that process has been started.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is not sufficient.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Why prices are rising...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ignore all this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: So far as the consumption is concerned, Government has introduced various developmental schemes resulting in increase in purchasing power of common people. Entire House knows that National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was implemented in the year 2006 in 200 districts but now it has been implemented in all the 596 districts of the country. In the year 2007-08...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. The State Governments have to implement all these.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe, it is a failed project, thanks to the contribution of all.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow. Then, I would request the hon. Minister to stop. Let the debate be over. If you are not prepared to listen, then why should he speak? This is not fair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Rs. 12 thousand crore had been incurred on this scheme in the year 2007-08...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: People are interested to hear from the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In the year 2008-09 Rs. 16 thousand crore will be spent. Purchasing power of the poor people increases when such a huge amount is spent in the villages under various schemes. Now you tell me whether this purchasing power gets increased or not? They accord top priority to purchase foodgrains from such amount. It has reflected well on the demand of the foodgrains. Prices are increasing but there is a need to increase its availability. But this could not be ignored.

National Old Age Pension Scheme has been launched for the people living below poverty line with wide coverage. For the year 2008-09 Rs. 3443 crore have been provided to the states. 15 states of the country have decided to provide such amount to lower sections of the society and senior citizens, the amount will be released very soon...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on? No, I cannot allow this. No, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those who do not wish to hear him may go out. No, I am sorry that not a word will be recorded. Please do not record one single intervention.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only express my agony and my great sorrow that senior Members are not prepared to listen. They have used very strong words.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not being recorded. Why are you saying this?

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly request you. You see, you are not showing respect to the people of this country. You have made allegation. You have made charges on behalf of the people, as you say, of this country. On behalf of, for the people, he is answering, and you are not allowing him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is not good. No, I cannot allow it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is most unfortunate. Not a word of any other Member will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish. He has not come to the end of his speech. If you want any clarification, he will speak as you wish to speak. As you wish him to speak, he will speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, this is very unfair. You are all senior Members.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, only the hon. Minister will speak. All other microphones are to be put off. Yes, only his microphone to be put on.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I would not allow this. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Varma, please, you are a very senior and responsible Member. You are a very respected Member also. There is a well-established procedure in this House. You all know that.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when purchasing power increases or demand rises, then it is our duty to take appropriate steps to fulfill this demand and we are doing that. It is a fact that production of edible oil has declined in the country during the last few years and there is a shortage of edible oils in the country. It is also a fact that price of edible oils has increased throughout the world and since we import oil, we have been affected by it. Certain steps need to be taken in view of price-rise. Government of India have decided to import one million tonne edible oil. We have informed all the public sector undertakings that they have to import edible oil and the same will be provided to the states.

*[English]*

Those who are below poverty line and AAY family

*[Translation]*

We will supply this oil to states providing a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per litre to these families.

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Since when?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Process has been started. We are doing it on priority. Orders have been placed and delivery process has already started...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you ready to take it?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir. If they release it now, we will take it right now...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You all are in a hurry to avail this opportunity. All of you will rush for it today, itself.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, availability of pulses is also a serious issue. Many hon. Members have raised this issue. This is an issue where there is a shortage of pulses in our country. One should not forget that pulses is a crop that is essentially a non-irrigated crop. It is not an irrigated crop. There are very few States who are taking to the crop of the pulses. Our scientific community, those who are doing research in the agriculture sector, have developed a number of new varieties of the pulses. But I have to admit one thing. Still we have not reached that stage where we can say that there is a breakthrough for us. In such a situation, if we have to make available more pulses, we have no choice but to import.

The Government of India has taken a decision and we have decided to import 15 lakh metric tonnes of pulses through its PSUs for augmenting the supply situation of pulses in the country. Out of these 15 lakh metric tonnes, order for 11.86 lakh metric tonnes has already been given before 31st of March and that is on the process of reaching to this country. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why not supply through PDS? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Not yet. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. Unless the hon. Minister yields, I cannot allow.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has yielded. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has not yielded.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the pulses to come by plane or what?

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: All Right. Leave it

[*English*]

I did not hear one suggestion. Hardly any suggestions came from any Members...

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please supply pulses through PDS. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I earnestly request you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have not imposed any duty on the import of pulses because we want that availability of pulses should be increased in the country. If availability increases, it will affect the market also.

As far as wheat and rice are concerned, we find the situation much better because production of rice is 94.8 percent this year which is higher than the last year's production of 75 lakh tonnes. Similarly, procurement is likely to be 270 lakh metric tonnes in comparison to last year's 250 lakh metric tonnes. Out of the target of 270 lakh metric tons for this year 220 lakh metric tonne has already been procured so far. There is no shortage of rice in the country. Government of India have imposed various restrictions to check export of rice and abolished tax on import of rice. It has been stated here that there are certain varieties, export of which does not required to be banned. I would like to make it clear that we have not imposed any ban on Basmati rice.

[*English*]

There is no restriction, there is no ban; those who would like to produce Basmati rice and those who would like to export Basmati rice, especially our colleagues, Members of Parliament from Haryana and Punjab, I know they are very much agitated on this issue...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Gujarat also.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is exported from Gujarat.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Apart from Basmati rice, Gujarat would like to export other varieties also.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar, please do not respond to running commentary.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have accorded permission only for Basmati rice. Some states have requested me that there are some varieties such as 1122, similar to Basmati, but the Government have not yet decided in this regard. At present, there is bumper agricultural production in our country but under the existing circumstances it is not favourable to export the agriculture produce, hence, the Government have put restrictions on such export.

[*English*]

I have said when I gave the figures regarding wheat that wheat prices are quite steady and that is around Rs. 12 and Rs. 13. It has gone between Rs. 12 and Rs. 13 for the last few months. This year's domestic production of wheat is also expected to be 75 million tonnes, which was 69.35 million tonnes in the year 2005-06. So, there is an improvement. Procurement of wheat, which has suffered over the last three years, is also showing healthy sign of recovery and wheat procurement as on 13.4.08 has reached 16,68,320 metric tonnes despite the fact that arrivals in Punjab and Haryana were delayed because of some rains. But till day before yesterday, the figures which are reaching us show that practically FCI is procuring about 82 per cent of market arrival of wheat in Punjab and Haryana. We have succeeded up to here. I am confident that we will be able to maintain the same trend.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Then, you will be able to universalize PDS!

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This year, we are absolutely confident that we will be able to procure 150 lakh tonnes of wheat while last year, we procured 111 lakh tonnes.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

I myself had a detailed meeting with the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Punjab and their officials and others. Of course, they have, as usually, suggested some more price. In fact, Rs. 1,000 price is the highest price which the Government of India has announced. There is a request that we should give more price, but that is very difficult. It is not possible for us to accept more than Rs. 1,000 now because when we pay the price of Rs. 1,000 to the farmer, in Punjab we have to pay 12.5 per cent State Government Charges which are over and above Rs. 1,000 and also other charges – *arathiya* commission, gunny bag, transport and storage. So, all put together, it ultimately goes from Rs. 1,000 to actual retail price of somewhat near Rs. 16 per kilogram. The House will agree with me that a sizeable population of this country is not able to accept or digest this type of price. Therefore, it is difficult for any Government to accept further rise in price of wheat in today's position.

There is similar situation about rice. In fact, in the case of rice, this year's production is definitely better than that of last year and this year's procurement is definitely better than that of the last year. Still, our procurement has not completed. Summer paddy crop in Andhra Pradesh and a few other States is extremely good. I am confident that whatever is our requirement, we will be able to procure more than that. So, the stock position of rice in the country is comparatively much better than it was during many last years. There is a demand that we should give more price for rice also.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Why is the price rising?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is because the price which we have paid to the farmer is above Rs. 700.

One should understand that when we acquire one quintal of paddy, we get 65 kilos of rice. Therefore, the price that we are paying for one quintal will ultimately get reflected in 65 kilos. The retail price and all other prices are always high, and it affects us. Ultimately, the average citizen gets rice and that is why that higher price of paddy does get reflected here, and in such a situation it is very difficult for us to accept additional price for paddy when we are in the process of procurement. But we have to take our final decision for next year.

Recently, we have received the recommendation from CACP. The Government will take appropriate decision

about the CACP recommendation, and this Government, at least, in the last four years have always accepted the CACP recommendations and acted accordingly. We will be able to take some final decision about it.

We have taken a number of decisions to improve our maximum procurement. As I said, a price of Rs. 100 more than last year has been given for paddy; the commission to the societies and Self-Help Groups who take responsibility of procurement of paddy on behalf of FCI / State agencies have been allowed a maximum of 1.5 per cent commission of the MSP; the Government has announced Rs. 100 a quintal bonus also over and above MSP of 2007-2008; export of the non-basmati rice has been banned; and import of rice and wheat has been permitted. These are all the steps that will ultimately benefit the overall availability of rice.

As regards steps taken for maximum procurement of wheat, a price of Rs. 1,000 has been given for wheat to the farmers, and import of 18 lakh tonnes of wheat was done in 2007-2008, which improved the stock position of wheat in the Central pool and wheat stock was somewhere near to 58 lakh tonnes. It is 18 lakh tonnes more than the buffer norm. Normally, the buffer stock is 40 lakh tonnes, but today, we have a stock of 58 lakh tonnes, which is much more than the buffer norm. The export on the private account has been banned till further orders, and wheat export from the Central pool is also banned.

One issue was raised here about some States that are really helping the Government of India to improve their stock position, especially, some of the rice producing States. In fact, I am grateful for the way some of the States are responding like States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana. In our discussions whatever responsibility we have given to these States, they have practically fulfilled more than 90 per cent, and they are totally helpful in this case.

There are some other States. Let us take the case of States like Bihar.

[*Translation*]

Shri Lau Prasad ji, please don't be annoyed, I would like to state that Bihar produced 50 lakh tonne paddy but F.C.I. procured only 4 lakh 70 thousand tonne. Last year, Uttar Pradesh produced 111 lakh tonne but only 25 lakh tonne could be procured. Similarly, West Bengal

produced 147 lakh.tonne paddy but procurement was only 3 lakh 77 tonne in the year 2007-08...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote a letter to you in March mentioning that if you offer us the desired price, then only we will procure it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We are giving the same price to Andhra Pradesh also...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: Quality of rice is different in both states...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We are giving same price to Orissa and Chhattisgarh also. I told these States that if they will procure...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Make these uncomfortable figures towards the end. They are getting upset because of this.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should be prepared to listen. You cannot give punches only.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I agree with you that quality-wise, West Bengal rice is something different, ...  
*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over, please sit down. Orissa has been given complement.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi):He has given the compliments, but he is not giving enough quota for BPL families. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. Do not respond, Mr. Minister, to this. I would request you not to respond to such un-permitted questions.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Do not record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As far as the question of West Bengal is concerned, I would like to assure my all colleagues from West Bengal. that whatever will be procured from West Bengal would be kept there only. I will not let it go outside West Bengal, and make available to the people residing there only. We will ask the Government of India...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, Mr. Radhakrishnan, I will invite you to sit in this Chair.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded. Do not record one word.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I would not allow this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is now talking about West Bengal; he has not yet come to Kerala.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now the performance of orissa is also very good.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I would like to assure Mr. Salim from West Bengal that we will pay.....  
*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: More price!

MR. SPEAKER: You are on a very weak wicket.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We will pay MSP to the farmers of West Bengal and we will keep that entire stock in West Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have said.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You give better price to the farmers.

that they have given Rs. 100 as bonus but in Rajasthan despite the production of 71 lakh tonne, only 3.80 lakh tonne has been procured. I have discussed it with the Chief minister of that State also that if the problem of fodgrains of common men has to be addressed, then the foodgrains producing States will have to cooperate and contribute generously in Central Kitty...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is the PDS price. That is much cheaper for BPL and AAY. The AYL price is Rs. 3 per kilogram. We will buy at Rs. 7 or Rs. 8, whatever may be the price fixed by the Government of India. After buying and after incurring all the expenditure, after taking the entire burden, I am ready to keep it there for BPL and AAY at same price, and the Government of India will take the financial burden upon it. But please try to help procure more because we are getting information... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You should tell the name of the States, which have not conducted raids. They are hoarding all the items.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Please tell, would you help the country to get rid of red wheat or not...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.S. RAO: What information are you getting, Sir? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You give the wheat of madhya Pradesh to center, whatever they will procure we are ready to keep the entire wheat stock of Madhya Pradesh. But then you don't ask for wheat from center. Then the problem of red wheat will automatically be solved...*(Interruptions)* No one is happy to import red wheat, but we can not compromise on food security, when there is scarcity of goods in the kitchens of the country. In such a situation, if it is essential to import to maintain food security then it has to be imported. We will not talk about money, but it is necessary to provide foodgrains to the poor people of this country and we won't let them become the victim of it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Basu, this is not permitted.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You should restore wheat supply.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji, do not respond to them. This is not the method of a debate.

MR. SPEAKER: What is troubling you? Is this the way of debating? If every body disturbs you when you are speaking; would you like it? This is not the way.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Regarding wheat procurement also, I have already given you the figures. I have to say that some of the States are cooperating very well; Punjab and Haryana are doing extremely well. There is still scope for improvement in case of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Bihar. For instance, in case of Bihar, the total production is 36 lakh tonnes, whereas we got 8,000 tonnes. In Gujarat, the total production is 36 lakh tonnes, and till today we have not got anything. In Madhya Pradesh, the total production is 58 lakh tonnes; this year, I have to accept that the Madhya Pradesh Government had taken some initiatives. They themselves have given Rs. 100 as bonus. They succeeded in procuring up to four lakh tonnes.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not discuss about red wheat here.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): So, atleast give them bonus.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sumitraji stated that they procured, produced and exported it to the world during their regime. I feel the decision regarding export was not taken at right time. Our country recorded its lowest production in the year when wheat was exported. When we have lower production, we need to store it in our

godowns, but during these years with the help of private traders only wheat and rice were exported by giving them a subsidy of 16 thousand 241 crore rupees, the Government organizations or PSU's are not consulted for the purpose. Do you think that it was a good decision? ...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to comment on it. You feel that you had fulfilled national obligation and we feel that the situation could have been better, if the wheat and rice had not been exported at that time. The psychology working behind it is that the prices automatically go up when there is lesser quantity in the godowns. If it had not happened the situation could have been better but we do not need to discuss much about it now.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: It was utilized elsewhere in the name of not fit for human consumption...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singhji, you have already spoken.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You speak about the hoarders.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Eight months ago, this thing was...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded except the hon. Agriculture Minister's statement...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Several suggestions were made regarding Public Distribution System even earlier. Earlier, I had stated in this House that two organizations were appointed to enquire about the goods supplied to the States and the manner of their distribution. The report presented by them was not good at all. I do not want to name any State but in some States the extent of diversion of wheat was even 100 per cent.

*[English]*

In some States it was 100 per cent; in some States it was somewhere near 50 per cent; and in some States it was somewhere near 30 per cent. The situation of wheat and rice is similar.

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\*Not recorded.

We have taken series of actions. I myself visited most of the regions; called meetings of Food Ministers; requested the Chief Ministers. I went to Kolkata and I went to Guwahati. At a number of places we have held meetings and we appealed to the State Governments that they have to improve their delivery systems and strengthen their PDS. Whatever material the Government of India is sending has to reach the needy people. I have to accept one thing that there is some improvement. But there is still scope for improvement.

An issue was raised that we are day by day reducing food subsidy. That is also not correct. In fact, in 2005-06 the food subsidy was Rs.19,871 crore; in 2006-07 it was Rs.20,786 crore; and in 2007-08 it was Rs.31,230 crore.

We have not reached the final figure of 2008-09, but it would cross Rs.40,000 or Rs.45,000 crore. So, this type of subsidy has been provided by the Government of India just to maintain the price at particular level. What is that particular level? In fact, the price which has been raised by BPL and AAY, was fixed in 1991. Till today, there is no change

*[Translation]*

Procurement price increased, but retail sale price has not been changed since 1991 to till date because it is and it is a responsibility of the Government to safeguard the interests of the poorest section of the society. These items were supplied there with the motto of fulfilling this onerous responsibility.

Several honourable Members have expressed their resentment for reduction of wheat and rice quota. It is true that quota has been reduced but it has not been reduced for any single State only, rather there was a uniform policy behind it. Some criterion have been fixed under this policy. We have reduced the quota of wheat. When decision regarding reduction was taken, no change and compromise was made regarding the supply of 35 kilograms to two of the poorest categories i.e. AAY Antodaya and B.P.L. It still remains the same. The question was of above poverty line category only. When this question was raised we gathered the figures of actual allocation along with the actual amount of goods lifted during the last three years. When this fact came to our notice that.

[English]

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

allotment from the Government of India is more but actual lifting is less. Similar situation was there in rice. Specific issue was raised about Kerala. In 2003-04, allocation of APL rice to Kerala was 31.61 lakh tonnes, but the actual lifting was 0.5 per cent, that is 6,000 tonnes. In 2004-05, APL rice quota allotted to Kerala was 13.61 lakh tonnes, but the off-take was 0.92 lakh tonnes, that is, 6.7 per cent. In 2005-06, there was similar quantity....

... (Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: At that time, NDA Government was there. ... (Interruptions) You cannot compare with that. Do not compare with that... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. He is only giving the figures. You are feeling too touchy about it, I find. I am sorry. Then, hon. Minister, you conclude. Mr. Minister, do you have anything to say?

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. I will not permit it. I am sorry. Nobody is allowed. Unless the hon. Minister concede to your request, I cannot allow you. He has not yielded, I will not allow you. Please carry on, Mr. Minister.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you explain the reasons to the people. Let him make his own statement. He cannot speak according to your wishes. I will not allow it. Do not record it.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I know that these are uncomfortable figures.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In 2005-06, the total allocation was 13.61 lakh but the lifting was 57,000, that is, 4.7 per cent; in 2006-07, similar allocation was there but the lifting was 13 per cent. After observing these things, average lifting is less than four per cent and that is why, ultimately the Government of India has to take a decision to reduce the quota. Our observation is, whatever has been allotted now, 100 per cent lifting is there and we are happy about that. Similar situation is there about West Bengal. I can give the figures but exactly similar situation is there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members who are protesting are exposing themselves.

... (Interruptions)

19.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ... \*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chakraborty, you cannot match him.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Hon. Members from Orissa have raised the issue of the APL category. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will be better if you address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the proper time to raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Since there is hundred per cent lifting, will you increase the quota to West Bengal?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yes, if there is extremely good procurement from West Bengal, I have no objection to take that decision. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to debate. I would not allow this. Not one word will go on record.

(Interruptions) ... \*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The logic is ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are only exposing yourself.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, you are not doing justice to the West Bengal Government or to the people of West Bengal.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot do it by this method. If he has misled the House, you have got ample opportunity to haul him up.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word is being recorded. Why are you saying all this?

(*Interruptions*) ...\*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded. If you want I would also stop the live telecast. I will not allow this. This is not the way.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I knew this. I know very well, as much as you do.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, he has not said anything about the ban on forward and future trading.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sharadji, you please leave it.

[*English*]

You address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am coming on this only. They have mentioned about Orissa here. I have to accept one thing that...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not expose your friends, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Orissa is among those States, which have done Commendable job of supply me to the Government of India during last two three years. Orissa's offtake is less than point 10 percent from the total allocation made to it...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I would request him to conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I will certainly talk to the Government there. We will accept the additional procurement and the suggestions made by the people. I again want to say that specific support of the Government of that State is quite good. Therefore, in this situation, we can't ignore, if there is any demand from that State...(*Interruptions*) I will come to that point...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

I have mentioned about the steps taken with regard to onion and other things. I do not think I should take more time on this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has agreed to take it up.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What about the Essential Commodities Act?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am coming to that point. With all this many hon. Members have said one thing in this House that what is going on in regard to ultimately enhancing the productivity and production?

[*English*]

That is very important. In fact, this is the first Government who has called an exclusive NDC meeting of the Chief Ministers on 29th of May to discuss how to improve the productivity and production. It was unanimously decided that the Government of India should introduce new schemes which will encourage the State Governments to produce more. In the year 2007 National Food Security Mission was launched.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

[*Translation*]

According to the scheme, it has been proposed in Five Year Plan to increase the production of rice by 10 million tones, wheat by 8 million tones and pulses by 2 million tones. All the States have given assistance in this programme. The Government of India have also released the required funds for this. Alongwith it, it has also been decided to make a total provision of Rs. 5,000 crores for national food security and 311 districts of the country have been covered under this programme...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chakraborty, you can not have a special meeting here.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: With all these, there is need to increase the allocations for agriculture sector for increasing the agri production and for this Union Government as well as State Governments Share the responsibility. Therefore, the State Governments which have made provision for agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy during the last two years and as much amount they make provision, the Government of India is ready to provide the matching grant to those States. For this a provision of Rs. 25000 crore have been made in the 11th Five Year Plan. Every State Governments have been given responsibility to prepare an agricultural plan at district and village level and we have started giving help by preparing a baseline expenditure percent budget. Almost all the State Governments have made a good contribution. It will certainly help in bringing out changes in the overall situation of the country in one-two years.

It has been said that to check the price rise there is a need to take steps to prevent hoarding. I have proposed in this House two-three times to extend time for discussion on the Essential Commodities Act and the House has also supported me and Consequently we have given the rights to the State Governments.

[*English*]

The Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 which empowers the Central and the State Governments to detain persons whose activities are found to be detrimental to the maintenance of supply of essential commodities.

[*Translation*]

we are demanding informations from the state Government and they have provided information till 31st December 2000 as Government are in the process to provide rest of the informations.

[*English*]

119 detention orders were made by the State Governments and a total of 2007339 raids have been carried out. 6,474 persons have been arrested; 4,481 persons have been prosecuted and in 348 cases conviction has already been made. Since the aforesaid Act is being implemented by the State Governments, the prevention of unethical trade practices like hoarding and black-marketing, they are being impressed upon from time to time to take effective action against hoarders and black-marketeers of the essential commodities for ensuring easy availability to the common people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You make it more stringent.

[*English*]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The hon. Prime Minister has written to all Chief Ministers on 21st February to set up appropriate mechanism to continuously monitor the price of essential commodities and take appropriate measures from time to time.

These are some of the actions that have been taken. There are about five to six States who have communicated to us that they are not going to implement this. There are about 15 States who have communicated to us that they are considering it and the rest of the States had taken the decision to implement them.

[*Translation*]

The Government of India have also taken some other decisions to curb inflation, and I would like to put it also belong this House.

[*English*]

The fiscal measures taken by the Government include reduction in import duty to zero in respect of articles like pulses, edible oil and maize; withdrawal of 4 per cent

additional duty on edible commodities; reducing import duty on refined oil and vegetable oil by 7.5 per cent; reduction of import duty on butter and ghee to 30 per cent. Administrative measures taken to check price rise include banning of export of rice and other things. I have also mentioned about import of wheat and there has been no change in the tariff rate on the value of

[*Translation*]

I have put the issue of price before this House. The House has discussed the same issue several times.

[*English*]

that is regarding FMC, the Forward Market Commission. In fact, this subject was raised and discussed in the House and in the last Budget speech, the hon. Finance Minister has said that the Government of India is going to set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study the impact, if any, of the trading in forward market on the prices of the commodities. In fact, I myself reminded Prof. Sen on two or three occasions. We have not received his report till today. I think, time has now come that we have to give a time limit. Otherwise, we have to take appropriate decision. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Even then your statements are not recorded. I am sorry.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

MR. SPEAKER: He deals with the points. He says that he is going to expedite the report.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, it is being rejected by the Chair. Please take your seats. Nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit you and I request the hon. Minister now to respond to such interruptions.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: A lot of views have been expressed by various sections of the society on this

subject. Many important periodicals also have written about this. I recollect that on 11th of April, *The Economist* has said, in an article on Indian inflation, that the banning of futures is like shooting the messenger who gives further messages on price signals. This is also a different view. But I do not want to go into its details. There are certain suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think many people understand what is forward trading.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: We have delisted tur, urad, rice and wheat. These four items have been removed from FMC. But all of us have discussed the impact after removing also. There is practically no impact. In fact, the prices have gone up. But still, Shri Abhijit Sen has not given his report. If we take any decision about delisting, that means we have already decided the futures will give rise to price rise. So, I am not in a position to accept that position. But there is a demand and I was told that there is a recommendation of the Standing Committee in this regard. In such a situation, I am going to wait for the report for ten days and if, within ten days, Shri Abhijit Sen Committee's Report has not been received, we shall discuss with the FMC because there is a regulator. I— have to discuss with the regulator and see what best can be done in the interest of the consumer as regards, at least, the exclusive commodities which are useful for every family in the country. We will discuss the consumer items with them and take appropriate decision within ten days. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (HOOGLY): What is the experience of banning wheat, rice and pulses?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no impact on prices after that. In fact, we have seen the prices today. In such a situation, we cannot take a decision. But I would like to assure the House that I will wait for ten days and if within ten days, I do not get the report, then I will discuss with the regulator and take decision only for essential commodities which are affecting common citizens of the country. We will decide about that. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not to be recorded.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, a number of steps have been taken by the Government. Our total approach is to improve the production and productivity, and we have to see that the farmer is not disheartened. We have to see that better prices are given to the farmers and in this situation, unless and until, we produce more, I do not think we will be able to resolve this issue. Import and such types of actions are very much there. These are temporary measures but we do not want to depend on imports. Ultimately, we have to see how India will be self-sufficient and how we will be able to resolve our own problems. I do not want to take more time of the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are walking out in protest.

19.16 hrs

*At this stage, Shri Basu Deb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I want to inform the people of the country through this House that in some articles in the news-papers and during discussions held in this House and in television also it has been suggested that there should be food rights in India and food stock in the world is very less. This may be true but I want to assure the House that a sufficient of foodgrains is available in India. We have 58 lakh tonnes wheat as against the requirement of 40 lakh tonnes of buffer stock as per the existing norms which is 20 lakh tonnes more than the buffer stock. Apart from that the Government of India will procure 150 lakh tons wheat. The situation in the case of rice is also very good. This year we will procure about 270 lakh tons of rice. As far as the requirement of rice and wheat for BPL class under TPDS is concerned, the UPA Government is fully Committed for that. New season has started now crop of summer paddy will come next month and the next Kharif season, and the latest information which has come from the observatory

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

the first report about monsoon is encouraging. If this type of reports proved to be correct ultimately, all the States have been geared up to bring in more area for cultivation of food grains and all other items. I am confident that we will be able to improve the production and productivity and we will be able to resolve this problem.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): We are not satisfied with the answer. So, we are walking out.

19.18 hrs

*At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House.*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you said that we will be allowed to seek clarifications. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That depends. I said, "if the hon. Minister wishes to."

*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you wish to answer one or two clarifications?

*... (Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Okay.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGAWAR: Sir, there is a proverb in the villages—'jod-ghatana jyou to tyou aur pura kumba duba kyon' (the whole of the family members drowned while the counting is still undisturbed) Our discussion was about inflation and what is remedy of this inflation. Our hon. Minister have said so many things about foodgrains. Hon. Minister may say about the time frame that it will take 10 days, 15 days or a month because we are listening it since last year. Second thing is that whether the Government will procure wheat at the rate of Rs. 2100 again this time or the private companies will make procurement of wheat this time in the country and where they will sell it?

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): The hon. Minister of Agriculture says that he is going to increase

the production of the agricultural items. But the hon. Finance Minister referred to the World Bank and the IMF and said that in the medium term there is no sign of world food prices coming down. When the hon. Finance Minister is telling in one way, how can the hon. Minister of Agriculture say that he will be able to do it?

We are not walking out because we had already walked out once. So, we do not make it another drama. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Earlier walk out was also a drama!

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The thing is that we are not at all satisfied with the reply. The Government has failed to do anything. Before the divorce, the left parties are trying to create this kind of scenario. ... (*Interruptions*) This Government is incapable of doing anything. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a question.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We very strongly express our reservation about it. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You wanted a clarification for expressing your reservation.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, through you I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister as to whether those states be released full quota according to their requirements whose quota had been reduced earlier?

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, please allow me to ask a simple question. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. You may be asking a simple question, but it is not permitted. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a clarification on one point. I represent the State of Gujarat. You have made a good effort regarding export of Basmati rice. Similarly, the farmers of Gujarat have also produced more rice and they were in a hope that they will get the opportunity to export rice. You may have received many applications. If Gujarat State has this much buffer stock, then whether the hon. Minister would do something?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already mentioned about it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: With regard to giving more permission to different types of varieties other than Basmati to export out of India, it will not be possible. Ultimately, we have to see how to protect the interests of our own population. That is why I am not in a position to accept that request.

Secondly, regarding what my colleague, the Minister of Finance has said, he did mention about the world food prices. He has not mentioned about what is happening about India. He has given detailed figures as to how in the UPA Government allocation has been improving every year and these figures have already been given. So, I do not want to repeat all these figures. I have given detailed information about the comparison of the world figures and our own country's figures. I am sure that everybody will accept that our country's position compared to other countries is much better.

[*Translation*]

As far as the matter of increasing the quota is concerned. It is difficult to accept the whole demand about APL unless the States producing foodgrains do not supply in the Union Government's kitty. If the stock position is improved, the more quota will be released for States.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh, I am sorry. It is not allowed. The discussion is over.

19.23 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS)—2008-2009**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 28 -discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2008-09.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2008-09 have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board

shortly thereafter. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Motion Moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

*Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 11.3.2008 (Rs.)	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Railway Board	22,10,17,000	110,50,83,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	80,52,83,000	402,64,17,000
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	527,67,79,000	2638,38,92,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	901,28,32,000	4506,41,62,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	428,41,60,000	2142,07,98,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	905,89,27,000	4529,46,37,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	493,08,57,000	2485,42,87,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	673,37,70,000	3366,88,50,000
9.	Operating Expenses-Traffic	2381,87,62,000	6144,93,11,000
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	2278,31,54,000	11391,57,67,000

1	2	3	4
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	386,38,65,000	1931,93,24,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	402,30,25,000	2011,51,22,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other Retirement Benefits	1617,62,48,000	8088,12,37,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	4731,12,33,000	23655,61,67,000
15.	Dividend to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	4,28,12,000	4631,59,88,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction Replacement		
	Revenue	10,00,00,000	50,00,00,000
<b>Other Expenditure</b>			
	Capital	4989,80,82,000	24949,04,10,000
	Railway Funds	4339,91,67,000	18079,58,33,000
	Railway Safety Fund	216,65,00,000	1083,25,00,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25390,64,73,000</b>	<b>122178,97,85,000</b>

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma to speak. The time allowed is six hours. You can go on as late as you like.

19.24 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I want to present my views regarding Railway Budget on the floor of the House. Discussion on Railway Budget was held and Hon'ble Rail Minister gave reply to the questions which were asked. I would like to say that when Railway Budget was presented... (*Interruptions*) Some things are repeated and some new things also come to in fore. Although Rail Budget was appreciated but in discussion reality was revealed and then people left disappointed. At that time people the Railway Budget was widely acclaimed. Facts were revealed one after the another and people realized as to how the railways have extracted money from the masses. This manipulation has agitated common man. Announcement of new trains have

been made only in respect of profit earning. Earning profit is a good thing but these services are for common people. Profit should not be the only consideration while providing facilities to common man. These services should be provided equally to our villagers be they students, farmers, daily commuters of business-man. You have not introduced any train for these daily passengers. There is a need to introduce new trains for people coming everyday to the cities from villages. Except for three or four trains, no special train has been provided to Gujarat. Meter-gauge trains running there have only five to six coaches only. I have requested him time and again to add more coaches in these trains. I have given my request in writing also but in the reply it was stated that, no coaches are available for meter-gauge line Though you are withdrawing trains on meter-gauge lines but wherever they are in use, more coaches should be attached in these trains so that people do not face hardships. In my constituency a local train runs between Ahmedabad and Butaak. I have requested you to add more coaches in this train, but no response has come fro your side. Wherever there is a meter-gauge line, it needs more coaches. Shri Namábhái Rathwa, who happened to be our irrigation Minister wrote to you in this regard. You do not realize the pitiable

[Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma]

condition of students going everyday to their schools, farmers selling vegetables and employees commuting daily. You go and see their condition at railway stations and then you will realize how much hardships they are facing. You have to take stock of the situation but sadly no one takes note of this problem. They give the same answer every time that coaches for meter-gauge are not available. Our rail services are meant not only for earning profit but they are also meant for providing services to common man. If you have to earn profit then you should provide services to these people also. Multinational companies do talk of profit only.

A.C. train from Ahmedabad to Mumbai which he has introduced is only for rich persons. It will run packed and its demand will also increase. It is very necessary to introduce a train between Ahmedabad and Mumbai for these common people who takes the trains and get down at small stations. As you know, these people travel only either by train or public transport. Rich people go from Ahmedabad to Mumbai by their own vehicles. It is like the rich people who go from Delhi to Haridwar or Jaipur by their own private cars. There is huge rush in summers but people do not get even drinking water at bus stops and railway stations. They are traveling in really very bad condition and you know it better. On one hand poor people are suffering and on the other, he is earning profit by subjecting them to a lot of sweat and hardships. He must do something for these hardworkings poor people. Hon'ble Minister every time talks of poor people and says he is with them as he is also the son of soil. But I feel that he is not paying any attention and not taking any note of the sufferings of these people. You talk of villages. To provide more facilities in villages, he has to increase the frequency of trains halting at smaller stations in villages. Hon. Minister has said that Railways have earned 14 thousand crores and 25 thousand crores as profit during the year 2005-06. Ministry of Railways is not like a multinational company who gives more shares to their leading share holders. Even meager profit will do. Increasing facilities is very necessary. Do not function like multinational companies do.

You have discontinued many of the trains which were incurring losses. If he continues to run trains with a view to earn profit then how he will serve the nation and the common people. So the trains which are running in losses, should not be discontinued rather let them continue to run. Besides, he should increase facilities in meter-gauge trains and more coaches should be attached in these

trains. In every budget big announcements are made but the question is or to whether they have been implemented? Same thing happened with announcements made last year. My submission is that the announcements made this year should be implemented as soon as possible. Gauge conversion, provision of facilities, operation of trains should be strictly in line with the announcement made. Today meter-gauge trains have only five or six coaches. We demand to increase the number of coaches in these trains. In addition, whatever is said should be implemented.

Hon'ble Minister made a mention about poor people and Khadi, Poor weavers weave Khadi. Whether any attention has been paid to them. I feel no attention has been paid to them. An Hon'ble Congress Minister said that wearing Khadi is not compulsory, it is not necessary. What message does it convey? On one hand he says one thing and on the other, you say different thing. Whether UPA Government is a divided house? If everyone has his own way, then how come everything will be alright. Whatever you did for coolies, we appreciate that. But I hope they will be given regular appointment very soon. In my constituency there are many unmanned railway crossings. My demand is that they should be manned immediately. These many railway crossings are locked due to which farmers have to travel about two kilometers more. For bringing keys from stations, they have to walk for upto three kilometers. I hope you will solve these problems soon. His last two budgets reflects happiness all around, but common man is still crying. For making common man happy, he introduced Garib Rath, but what happened to Garib Rath. He has increased the number of seats but facilities which passengers used to enjoy, have been done away with now. Although name Garib Rath sounds good but common man is still hopeless. I am to say that common man is stuck in between you scheme of things because instead of allowing 72 berths to remain, he has increased their number to 82. It means he has increased number of berths.

As a result facilities which passengers earlier used to have exist no more now.

Hon'ble Minister, you have turned all express trains and mail trains into superfast trains but except for change of boards in them, we have noticed nothing special in them. How can these trains be called superfast trains. You may go for yourself and see the condition at railway stations. You wait there for just half an hour and you will hear an important announcement for passengers-we

regeret that all trains today are running behind schedule by three hours.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Where did you hear it?

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: I heard it at stations like Delhi, and Ahmedabad. Trains are running late by 2 hours as 3 hours or more than that but you are charging fare of superfast trains. If this continues, then this kind of fare will fetch you big profit...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You might be going to stations on very few occasions.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: I visit Ahmedabad every Friday by train and also return by train. I have booked the ticket today, you can see it...(*Interruptions*) I use to go every week by train. I want to say that you have increased the AC fare from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 350/- . Now you have made your profit and you are nothing to do as to what happens to the passenger. You have received a lot of appreciation and made it very popular. You have reduced the fare by 2-3 percent and have also divided may to recover it as well.

I want to tell you about Tatkal Scheme. I had gone to have a dip in the Ganges and was sitting at the station. A family booked a tatkal ticket for the train coming from Dehradun while their name did not appear in the list. They did not board the train. They went to the station master and told him that their name is not in the chart and asked him for return of their ticket charges. The station master refused by saying that no refund is made under tatkal scheme...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: You please give it in writing.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Sir, I can give you the name and date also. If the name does not appear in the list, how they can board the train and if they boarded the train, the TTE will harass them. Therefore, you have increased the problems by making changes in tatkal Scheme. How can a ticket booked before 5 days falls under tatkal scheme. This is beyond our imagination. Emergency is emergency. Today I have got the news that some mishaps has occurred in Ahmedabad, then I have to go at once. Therefore, tatkal means at once. 5 days before all things can be sorted out. I have mentioned here about only one station. Today there are thousands

of stations and thousands of people booking tickets under tatkal scheme. That is why you should think over it. ...(*Interruptions*) West Zone in Gujarat receives largest income, even though injustice has been done with Gujarat and you know all that. We had also walked out during Railway Budget...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 15 minutes and more speakers from your party are yet to deliver their speech.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, I want to say that new trains should be introduced from Ahmedabad to Allahabad, Ahmedabad to Kanya Kumari, Ahmedabad-Rameshwaram and Ahmedabad and Gandhi Nagar Stations should be made class stations. Sanctions have been given to conversion of Ahmedabad-Kota metre gauge to broad gauge but funds have not been allocated. Are you not doing injustice with Gujarat because there is a BJP Government. I am demanding for last 20 years. You have not only disappointed me but the people of our constituency also. Funds have been allocated for other States. You have introduced trains from Bihar and southern India, then what happened to Gujarat? You have not introduced any trains for Gujarat. A direct train should be introduced from Bhavnagar to Mumbai and Delhi. Mani Nagar-Sabarmati Stations should be upgraded as big stations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma ji please take your seat. You have completed your speech. Yours party's time is over now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ratilal Kalidas Varma, please take your seat. Nothing will go on record now except the speech of Shri S.K. Kharventhan.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kharventhan, you please start your speech.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I am ready to start, but the hon. Member is not concluding his speech.

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except your speech. So, please start speaking.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

### CUT MOTIONS

#### Token

LT. GEN. (RETD.) TEJ PAL SINGH RAWAT (Garhwal): I beg to move:

That the Demand Under the Head Railway Board be reduced by Rs. 100.

Need to provide Second AC Coaches in all the trains running between New Delhi and Ramnagar in Uttarakhand. (127)

Need to run a Shatabdi train between New Delhi and Kotdwar on daily basis (128)

#### Disapproval of Policy

**That the Demand Under the Head Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)**

Failure to initiate survey for laying railway line between Rishikesh and Karan Prayag. (129)

#### Token

**That the Demand Under the Head Assets Acquisition, Construction and Replacement be reduced by Rs. 100.**

Need to start work for doubling of rail track between New Delhi and Dehradun. (130)

Need to extend the railway line from Dehradun to Kalsi via Selaqui Vikas Nagar. (131)

Need to run a super fast train between Dehradun and Mumbai on daily basis. (132)

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2008-09. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kharventhan.

*(Interruptions) ... \**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 2008-09.

First of all, I would like to congratulate and thank the hon. Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad, Shri R. Velu, and Shri Rathwa and his team of officers and staff for improving the railway system in this country and achieving a profit of Rs.25,000 crore this year.

Sir, Indian Railways is having the longest route in this world. It is having 63,327 kms. of railway lines, 45,350 coaches and 2,08,528 wagons running and about 17 million passengers per day are using the Indian Railways. Nearly two million tonnes of freight every day is moving through railway lines.

In the year 1835, the Indian Railway came into existence and now our Railway system has improved well. As far as accidents are concerned, I want to bring certain facts. About six lakh staff is directly working in the Indian Railways. In this country, there are about 18,200 unmanned and 16,609 manned-level crossings. If you see the list of accidents, every year about 141 persons die and about 150 persons are injured in the accidents that occur in the unmanned level crossings. If we compare the accidents and deaths occurred in the past five to seven years, after the assumption of the UPA Government and after Lajuji taking over the charge of the Railways, the number of accidents and deaths has reduced.

I would like to give certain facts in this regard. In the year 2001-02, the number of persons killed was 144; in the year 2002-03, it was 157; in the year 2003-04, it was 135 and after the assumption of Lajuji as the Railway Minister, that is, in 2004-05, it was reduced to 50. In 2006-07, the number was 38 and in 2007-08, it was nine. It is a great achievement by the Railway Ministry, even though I want to mention that to avoid the accidents, particularly, at the unmanned level crossings, ROB/RUBs should be constructed or all the unmanned level crossings should be converted into manned-level crossings. For this, the Railways has to spend a sum of Rs.2,450 crore with a sum of Rs.700 crore for maintenance every year. Since, we are having an income of Rs.25,000 crore by the Railways, the Railways has to take steps to construct ROB/RUBs in all unmanned level crossings.

Further more, I want to mention with respect to accidents occurring at the railway crossings. At the manned-level crossings, if a person dies or sustains

injuries due to the negligence of the Railway staff, the compensation given is Rs.6,000 only for death and Rs. 2,500 only for grievous injuries and for simple injury it is nothing. This has to be modified and increased.

I would now like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to certain schemes in my State, particularly, to the freight corridor between Chennai and Bangalore. Now, Bangalore is the hub of IT sector and having thousands of other industries. Further more, on the way there is Sriperumbudur, the hub of car and cell phone industries. It is also called as Detroit of India.

Sir, Chennai is one of the oldest cities having all kinds of industries. There is a need to build a freight corridor between Chennai and Bangalore. This is a long pending request of the people of South of India, especially, the people of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Hence, I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to take steps for early implementation of the freight corridor between Chennai and Bangalore.

Sir, as you all know that Sabrimala is one of the famous temples in South India. Everyday, during season, lakhs and lakhs of devotees are coming from all over the country as well as from all over the world. After having darshan at Palani hills, the devotees visit Sabrimala via Dindigul. I would like to request the hon. Railway Minister to connect Sabrimala and Dindigul by a railway line. It is a long pending demand of the people there. Further more, already a survey was sanctioned for Dindigul-Kumuli<sup>1</sup> rail line. The survey has been conducted and its report has also been submitted, but that scheme has not been announced this time.

The Dindigul-Kumuli line is connecting Theni, Cumbum, Bodi, and all such important cities. Sir, Dindigul is a hub of textile industry having more than 136 spinning mills. So, this work has to be taken on a war-footing.

I would also like to thank the hon. Railway Minister for sanctioning the Erode-Palani new rail line project. The report was submitted and accepted. The scheme was also announced in this year's budget. I would request the hon. Railway Minister to allocate the funds for the early implementation of this project. Further more, I would like to thank the hon. Railway Minister, Laluji, for sanctioning a new railway line for Sriperambudur connecting Avadi, where our great leader Rajiv Gandhi was killed.

Today, it became a big industrial centre. Fund has to be allocated for this. The Scheme has to be sanctioned and it has to be implemented.

Further I would like to mention that Chamrajnagar is one of the important places in Karnataka and it is nearer to Mysore. During the regime of Shri Deve Gowda ji, in 1996-97 the project from Bangalore to Satyamangalam was sanctioned. The survey was over. The final location survey has been undertaken by our Government but the scheme is not sanctioned and it is pending. This project is connecting two States – Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. So, it is the request of the western people of Tamil Nadu to implement the scheme. Hence, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to complete this project and take steps to connect Karnataka and Tamil Nadu by sanctioning this project.

There is a proposal in the Railways to withdraw the non-AC coaches in all trains. Asthmatic patients and those who have lungs problem cannot travel in First AC or Second AC or Third AC. So, the non-AC first class should not be withdrawn. It has to be continued in all the trains. It will help the patients to go to hospital by train.

I would like to make a request to the hon. Railway Minister that in all the coaches in the trains, a display board to know about the next station and at what time the train will reach the next station should be displayed. This must be implemented in all the trains.

Now, I come to cleanliness. I am travelling in trains from Erode to Chennai or from Dindigul to Chennai. Even in the first class AC coach, toilets are not cleaned properly, and in the second class coaches, toilets are very worse. So, cleanliness has to be given importance.

Sir, Bangalore is an important city. I have already mentioned about that. Coimbatore is another textile centre. Between Bangalore and Coimbatore, there are 11 express trains but none of these trains is having first class AC coach. I am repeatedly requesting the Railway Minister to attach first class AC coach in a few trains, and at least Island Express should have a first class AC coach.

Sir, in my constituency, Ottanchatram is an important station. It is a centre where agricultural products are marketed, and all vegetables are taken from there to all places in the country and also they are marketed at the international level. There is a railway station. It is one of the oldest stations but there is no computer reservation

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

facility. I have already written letters to the Railway Ministers also in this regard. So, computer reservation system has to be provided at this railway station.

Sir, Palani is a famous hill temple, it is the temple of Lord Karthik. Lakhs and lakhs of devotees from all over the country are coming to Palani. It is having one of the oldest railway stations. There is a large area of vacant land attached to this railway station. So, that land can be used for constructing residential quarters for the staff, and also guest houses can be constructed so as to accommodate all those devotees who are visiting the temple. Now, after having darshan at this temple, the devotees who are coming from Kerala, Karnataka and other places are sleeping in the platform. So, Tourist Home of the Railways can be constructed at this place. This is an important request.

Further, I would like to mention that in most of the railway stations, the trains are not stopping near the platform. Due to that, old people and minor children are not able to get down from the trains or get into the trains. So, the trains have to be stopped at the platform only.

With these words, I am supporting the Demands for Grants.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL (Calcutta-North West):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants for Railways 2008-09, I would like to congratulate our Railway Minister Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji, his two colleagues, the Ministers of State in the Ministry of Railways and the entire staff of the Indian Railways for their wonderful performance during the last four years.

19.49 hrs.

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*)

Madam Chairman, during the last four Railway Budgets, there was no hike in the passenger fares and also there was no hike in freight charges. What we feel is that these have all happened only because of the effective capacity utilization under the leadership of Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav ji.

But there is one thing, which I must say to the hon. Railway Minister, that is, since 1853 to 1947, around 54,000 kilometres of rail tracks were laid by the British Government whereas 60 years after Independence, only 7,000 to 8,000 kilometres new lines have been laid while the demand is much more.

Moreover, the hon. Minister, you must be knowing that steel prices have increased by around 40 per cent.

How would you tackle this problem? Where is the provision in your Budget to combat this problem? I would request you, Mr. Minister, to keep some additional provision. Otherwise, whatever projects you are having in your hand, I think, it would not be possible for you to execute them.

Similarly, I would request you, Mr. Minister, to consider certain points, since you are seriously thinking for the working class in the Railways. Our khadi products, the products manufactured by the Self-Help Groups throughout the country should be introduced seriously in the Railways. Since the Railways is a very good consumer, it would definitely help the Self-Help Groups and the khadi groups to sell their products effectively. They would also get the required price.

Mr. Minister, you must be knowing that there are thousands and thousands of hawkers and they do not have the licences from the Railway authorities. They are all unauthorised at this moment. The Standing Committee on Railways has also recommended and we all feel that the necessary licences should be provided to them. They are all very poor people; they are serving the passengers and thereby serving the nation. So, their interests should be protected. You must have heard the speech of the Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar while he was replying to the debate on the price rise as to what is the reality.

[*Translation*]

You say it fruits, flowers, vegetables.

[*English*]

We do not have the cold chain.

[*Translation*]

The train you have and the train by which you deliver goods,

[*English*]

if you could provide some refrigeration facilities, it would help us in transporting all these vegetables from one destination to another destination. As you know, everyday, there is a wastage of 30 per cent vegetables in India. So, if we can make effective distribution system, it would reach the poor people; and the problem of price rise would be reduced to a maximum extent.

Now, I would make some points and suggestions regarding my State of West Bengal. We are already having three terminals. But what about the South-Eastern Railways? It is my specific suggestion that we should have one terminal somewhere in Kolkata, preferably in

Majherhaat. Similarly, the metro should be extended up to Dakshineswar Temple. We have also discussed with you in this regard. It should be extended up to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport. You had told us that the construction had been made earlier by the Railways, but it is not effective. Yes, we do agree with you. But there should be some arrangements so that the passengers who are travelling by air should get the metro facilities.

There are a few demands, which we have already placed. The Standing Committee on Railways has also recommended several times but they have not yet been looked into. My specific request is that the Sealdah-NGP-Shatabdi train should be introduced on daily basis.

Then, Sealdah-Hazduani Express may be introduced daily. Then, Tarakeswar-Nelikul and Jirat-Katwa lines should be looked into. Then, freight corridor up to Dankuni Port is also to be looked into. Then, you must be knowing that there is one proposal lying with you for construction of a broad-gauge line from Bargachhia to Champdani. But the acquisition procedure could not be done because of shortage of fund. So, that fund should be arranged.

Now, another problem I would like to focus on is that we are getting steel from Orissa. It is very difficult for the small manufacturers to get the rake. To get the rake, all the higher officials know that they have to spend a lot of money and that way they are losing very much. So, my request is to introduce the Tatkal system so that they get the benefit of that.

Now, on the procurement side in the workshop, whatever items the Railways is procuring, it is known to everybody. There is a system of syndicate. There are three or four groups of suppliers. They have the syndicate. They decide at what price they will supply to the Railways. That way, the Railways is losing money. Siphoning of money can be checked. I believe the Railway Minister will look into it.

Now, in Liloah there is a very big pond, called Ranijheel. Now, it has become a spot of unloading garbage. I would request in the interest of the locality to look into this area. Our Pollution Control Board has requested several times but it has not been looked into. Similarly, in Liloah, one RoB has been made. But after constructing the RoB, the side gate has been closed. As a result of that, if the local people, the local aged people and school going children want to go to school and other places, they have to walk for more than 500 metres. If you simply open the gate, that will ease the situation.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, I think you have finished.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: Laluji, I will conclude only with these words that there are a number of projects proposed by the Standing Committee for West Bengal. It is in the paper. Since time is not there, I am not speaking about them. Our Chairman, Shri Basu Deb Acharia has already placed 11 demands, and they are in the Standing Committee's Report. I would request you to please consider all these proposals and execute the same in the interest of the people.

20.00 hrs.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jajpur): Thank you chairperson Madam, for allowing me to participate in this discussion. I would primarily draw your attention to Orissa. Our State Government as well as the House Committee had placed certain demands before the Ministry of Railways. We had demanded for the completion of work of six railway lines which are under construction, conversion of two narrow gauge railway lines into broad-gauge lines, survey work to be initiated for seven new railway lines, doubling of two railway lines and electrification of four railway lines, extension of five railways and introduction of seventeen new trains for Orissa.

Madam, I would like to say that our State has received four new trains but the State of Hon. Railway Minister has got seventeen new trains. We have been given 960 crores in the present Budget. But I would like to mention here that we are doubtful about the efficiency of the Railway Department Officials. We apprehend whether 960 crores would really be spent or not? In the last financial year 2007-08 Orissa's East-Coast Railway was given Rs. 665 crores, from which only Rs.290 crores could be spent and the rest Rs.375 crores had to be surrendered. Keeping in mind this track record we doubt whether Rs.960 crores could be spent or not.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister regarding some important railway lines of Orissa. They are:-

- (1) Lanjigarh-Junagarh line.
- (2) Khurda-Bolangir line.
- (3) Angul-Duburi-Sukinda line.
- (4) Talcher-Bimilagarh line.
- (5) Daitari-Banspani line.

Haridaspur-Paradeep railway line etc.

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Mohan Jena]

Sir, these railway projects are very vital to the growth of Orissa. Our demand for allocation of extra funds have not been fulfilled. We had demanded Rs.100 crores for the Khurda-Bolangir Railway line stretching over 289 kilometers. But now the Railway Board has sent a letter to stop work on this project. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister that the decision to stop work is very unfortunate. Although the chairman of Railway Board has refuted this news as baseless, newspapers have published photocopy of the said letter.

Another important point I would like to raise here is about recruitment in Railways. Sir Railways the biggest generator of employment. The East-Coast Railways had advertised for 5200 post of group 'D' services. Many Oriya youths had hoped to get absorbed there. The written and physical tests have been completed. Surprisingly about 70% of the selected candidates belongs to Bihar and the rest 30% comprises of candidates from Orissa, West Bengal and Assam. It saddens me to mention here that Oriya people do not get priority in Orissa.

We have a federal structure where Article 1 of the constitution accords equal status to each federating unit. All the states should be treated at par and with dignity. But Orissa is always at the receiving end. For the last 50/60 years Orissa has been treated shabbily and there in a step-motherly attitude which is very unhealthy. After repeated demands we have been given a Garib Rath, which ironically starts from Ranchi to Bhubaneswar and the timing is so inconvenient that it will not benefit the people of Orissa.

Sir, I would like draw you attention to another important matter. In India we have three important places for "Pitrushraddha" Mastak Gaya in Bihar, Pada Gaya in Rajmahindri in Andhra Pradesh and Navi Gaya in Jajpur, Orissa. While Gaya and Rajmahindri are well-connected by railways, Navigaya at Biraja Kshetra Jajpur of Orissa remains to be connected by National Highway and Railway line. Further Jajpur was the most ancient capital city of the then Kalinga and Navi Gaya pilgrim centre dates back to pre-Mahabharta era. This place is more ancient than both the Jagannatha temple, Puri as well as Konark temple. Numerous Puranas and Mahabharata has mentioned this place. Prominent people like veteran freedom fighter and former Prime Minister of Orissa late

Shri Biswanatha Das former freedom fighter and Minister late H.N. Bahuguna and parliamentarian and socialist leader late Shri Surendra Nath Dwivedy had repeatedly demanded for the development of this religious place. Therefore immediate steps may be taken then the development of the railway link to Navi Gaya along with Dwaadashamedha Ghata on the banks of river Baitarani of Jajpur town of Orissa.

Sir, the Jajpur-Keonjhar Road houses the steel city Kalinga Nagar which in a fast growing industrial area. But the Jajpur Road station is the most neglected one. Neither the Rajdhani Express nor any other Express train stops here. The station has no basic amenities like provision for drinking water, toilet, rest room etc. This station is in my constituency and I have repeatedly tried to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry but in vain. Another important station is 'Dhanmandal' which is the gateway to Buddhist sites like Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri etc. If this station is properly upgraded, then it will attract both national and international tourists. The apathy of Railway Department to Orissa is unbearable. If the step-motherly treatment does not stop, the people of Orissa will come to the streets.

Sir, Lal Prasad jee has done some good work also but he has not been benevolent to Orissa. We can draw parallels from history. Once the king of Magadh (Bihar) had attacked Kalinga (Orissa) and now the Railway Department in attacking Orissa with its apathetic attitude. The East-coast Railway Officers have a negative mindset towards the people of Orissa. They are depriving the youth of Orissa of employment in the Railways. They are not spending the sanctioned allocation in Orissa-based projects. This is very unfortunate. Hence through you Madam I demand justice for Orissa.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on some issues. I rise here to support this Supplementary Budget of Railway Budget. I thank and will be grateful to Hon. Minister of Railway Shri Lal Prasad for fulfilling my two demands. He has ordered for conducting survey of Rategaon and Puntaba, I thank him very much for that. If works in Rategaon and Puntaba is completed, and the works between Puntaba-Shirdi is in progress, the people can

go Tirupati from Shirdi, and from Tirupati to Shirdi. Therefore this route must be completed. You have recognized it but I would like to say that Railways will be in profit if the said works are completed expeditiously.

Secondly, the freedom fighters of this Marathwada region had demanded this. You have ordered for survey of the route between Sholpaur and Talgaon-such as Sholapur, Tuljapur, Osmanabad, Beed, Gevrai, Paithan, Sambhajinagar, Arangabad, Silhaur, Ajanta, Jalgaon. You have ordered for survey of the whole Marathwada region, I thank you for that. I demand to make it as fast as possible.

Thirdly, in your last budget you had fulfilled my demand to introduce a new train from Mumbai to Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad and promised to introduce a Jan Satabadi train from Aurangabad to Mumbai. That has already been started but its timings are not useful and there is no sense of it. If it will start at 4.50 from Aurangabad and will reach Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Mumbai at 10.50, then the people can do their works in all the Ministeries and other offices and again the train will start at 5.50 PM from Chhatrapati Shivaji terminal and will reach Sambhajinagar, Aurangabad at 11.50 PM. In this way it will be very useful and the people of Marathwada region will be benefited. It will be useful for the tourists also. Many people also go to Mumbai for the Ministerial works. I have discussed it with Railway Officials and asked them to consider it in the month of June-July. I urge upon you for this.

He had told me that I and my MP colleague from Beed, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil had made a demand in regard to Nagar Beed, Parli. He had asked me to bring letter from the hon'ble Chief Minister. The hon'ble Gaikwad ji and the Chief Minister had given him a letter that they would work making 50-50 share basis. The Government should give approval in this regard, so that this route may be made operational without any delay. The work on Nagar Beed, parli route has come to a standstill for many days, with this proposal it can be completed.

I have a new demand because at present all our trains go beyond Nanded to Nizamabad and Hyderabad. He is a well-wisher of the poor. A passenger train from

Nanded to Mumbai and Mumbai to Nanded should be started. All the poor would shower their blessings on him.

My last demand is that as Marathi-speaking area comes under the South Central Railway, we have been demanding for many years that Nanded division may be attached to Central Railways of Mumbai. I have made a request in this regard many a time. The recommendations of Andhra Pradesh Cabinet and Maharashtra Cabinet have also been submitted. Both the State Governments agree that Nanded Division, which covers Muthkhed and Dharmabad lies in Marathi speaking region, should be brought under the Central Railways so that no dispute could arise. The Andhra people are posted there. The poor come to purchase tickets there and converse in Marathi, but the officials and officers from Andhra Pradesh fail to understand their language. It is a question of prestige of our Marathwada, On this issue, an agitation was staged on large scale in Marathawada. I would also make a request in this regard. The proposal in this regard would be sent to cabinet and the cabinets of both the State Governments have sent this proposal to the Government. I request the Government to accept the demand of our Marathwada under any circumstances, and Nanded Division, Dharmabad, Muthkhed should be brought under the Central Railways. This is my demand.

With these words, I conclude

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Vaidyanath new railway line passes through my constituency. It was given approval in February, 1997. The cost of laying this 250 kilometres line has doubled to around Rs. 800 crore from Rs. 354 crore. All kinds of discussions, submissions, marches, movements, satyagrah etc have been held for this railway line. I have been demanding this railway line for the last ten years. The hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad had asked the State Government to extend some cooperation in this regard. If the State Government cooperates, then we will definitely take initiative. A positive development took place and the hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra has written a detailed letter in this regard on 1st April stating that

[Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil]

the State Government is prepared to bear fifty percent cost of this project. I have just given a copy of this letter to the hon'ble Minister of Railways. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to expedite and complete the work of laying of this new railway line on the basis of this letter.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The hon'ble Minister has been very co-operative. I would like to say that his Ministry does not give any reply in regard to demands pertaining to their constituencies raised by the MPs in this House. I would like to submit that if a reply from your Ministry is given to those MPs who raise matter over here, they would be able to tell it to the people of constituency that they have raised the matter in the

House. I would like to request you to issue instructions to the concerned Ministry that information in regard to follow up action should be provided to all of us.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: All right.

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House stands ajourned to meet tomorrow the 17th April 2008 at 11 am.

20.12 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 17, 2008/Chaitra 28, 1930 (Saka).*

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