Fourteenth Series, Vol. VIII, No. 14

Thursday, March 17, 2005
Phalguna 26, 1926 (Saka)

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Fourth Session**
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**

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## LOK SABHA

*Thursday, March 17, 2005/Phalguna 26, 1926 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have given a number of notices a few days ago on Nanawati Commission's report.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, I will hear you. Let us utilise this opportunity to ask questions.

*[Translation]*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Port Connectivity Projects**

*201. + SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made on the port/hinterland rail connectivity projects;

(b) the expenditure incurred on each project till date; and

(c) the funds allocated for these projects during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) to (c) The progress of sanctioned port/hinterland connectivity projects, expenditure incurred till March, 2004 and funds allocated for them during the current financial year, *i.e.*, 2004-05 are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the project | Length in Kms. | Anticipated Cost | Exp. upto Mar'04 | Outlay 2004-05 | Progress of Work |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | **NEW LINES** | | | | | |
| 1. | Panvel-Karjat | 28 | 137.44 | 113.82 | 5.00 | Work has been completed in all respects. The line will be commissioned after certification by Commissioner of Railway Safety. |
| 2. | Haridaspur-Paradeep | 82 | 301.63 | 24.1 | 6.00 | Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition is in progress and land for 46 villages has been taken over. The project has been found bankable and Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formation is in process. The project is under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL). |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Daitari-Banspani | 155 | 590.60 | 446.52 | 83.00 | The Line between Banspani-Joruli-Keonjhar (57 km) section has been completed. Earthwork, bridgework and other works are in progress in Keonjhar-Tomka (Daitari) (98 kms) section. The track and signalling work between Keonjhar and Tomka is to be funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB). The tenders for track & signalling works are under process by RVNL. |
| | **GAUGE CONVERSION** | | | | | |
| 4. | Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore | 230 | 357.11 | 271.67 | 0.01 | Arasikere-Hassan-Sakleshpur (89 kms) and Mangalore (Kankanadi)-Subramanya Road (86 km) sections have been completed. On Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur Ghat section (55 kms) formation works have almost been completed and track linking is in progress. This is one of the K-RIDE (Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development) projects. |
| 5. | Surendranagar-Bhavnagar-Rajula-Mahuwa with the extn. upto Pipavav & Sihor-Palitana | 385 | 527.4 | 165.38 | 10.27 | The work of gauge conversion of main line Surendranagar-Pipavav has been implemented through a SPV, named, Pipavav Rail Corporation Ltd. (PRCL) with participation of Ministry of Railways and Gujarat Pipavav Port Ltd. (GPPL). The line has already been commissioned for goods traffic and partly for passenger traffic. The residual works are in progress so as to complete the entire project for passenger train movement. |
| 6. | Salem-Cuddalore via Virdhhachalam | 191 | 261 | 40.7 | 25.00 | The work is on 50:50 cost sharing basis between State Govt. and Ministry of Railways. The project is under implementation by RVNL and has been found to be *prima facie* bankable. Virdhhachalam-Cuddalore (57 kms) section has been completed & commissioned. Virdhhachalam-Attur (83 kms) section is being executed by Southern Railway for RVNL where earthwork, bridgeworks and ballasting are in progress. The section is targeted for completion during 2005-06. For Attur-Salem section, tenders are under process by RVNL. |
| 7. | Thanjavur-Villupuram | 192 | 231.00 | 49.89 | 15.00 | Thanjavur-Kumbakonam (39 kms) section has been completed and |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | commissioned for passenger traffic on 02.03.04. The work of Kumbakonam-Mayliaduthurai (32 kms) has been entrusted to Southern Railway by RVNL and is targeted for completion during 2005-06. Earthwork and bridges are in progress in this section. Balance section is targeted for completion during 2006-07. |
| 8. | Gandhidham-Palanpur | 313 | 344.63 | 80.52 | 13.00 | The project is under implementation by RVNL. An SPV named Kutch Railway Co. (KRC) has been formed for this line. A total of Rs. 200 crore is equity for SPV in which RVNL, Government of Gujarat, Kandla & Mundra Ports have share of 50%, 4%, 26% and 20% respectively. The equity by respective shareholders have already been deposited with SPV. Palanpur-Samakhiali (248 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06 and balance during 2006-07. The work is being executed by Western Railway for RVNL. Earthwork, bridgeworks and ballasting, etc. are in progress. |
| 9. | Bhildi-Samdari | 223 | 244.74 | 2.86 | 20.00 | The work is under implementation by RVNL. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with stake holders for entrusting this work to Kutch Rail Co. (KRC) has been signed on 13.01.2005. SPV formation is under process. Earthwork and bridgeworks on Samdari-Bhinmal section have been taken up by North Western Railway. |
| 10. | Mansi-Saharsa-Purnea | 142 | 210.51 | 80.02 | 20.00 | Earthwork, bridgeworks, track works are in progress in Mansi-Saharsa. |
| 11. | Delhi-Rewari 2nd line | 83 | 140 | 41.38 | 0.50 | The project is targeted for completion during 2005-06 and is being implemented by RVNL. |
| 12. | Gonda-Gorakhpur Loop with Anand Nagar Nautanwa | 250 | 381.17 | 16.99 | 20 | Detailed estimate has been sanctioned, 5.04 lac cum earthwork out of 8.85 lac cum, 6 out of 47 major bridges and 30 minor bridges out of 145 completed. Ballasting is in progress. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana and is being executed through gross budgetary support (GBS). |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. | Rangia-Murkongselek alongwith linked lingors | 510.33 | 915.70 | 0 | 3 | Preparation of plans and estimates has been taken up. The work is under National Rail Vikas Yojana and is being executed through gross budgetary support (GBS). |
| | **DOUBLING** | | | | | |
| 14. | Panvel-Jasai-Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) | 28.5 | 53.25 | 3.63 | 25.00 | The work is being implemented by Central Railway for RVNL. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress. The project is targeted for completion during 2005-06. |
| 15. | Rajatgarh-Nargundi | 28 | 82.87 | 81.6 | 1.00 | Completed and commissioned. |
| 16. | Nargundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur | 43 | 160 | 131.35 | 15.00 | Kapilas Road-Birupa Cabin (7.88 (km), Birupa Bridge Block Cabin-Kendrapara Road (2.6 km) and remodeling of Cuttack Yard (3.8 km) commissioned. Land acquisition, earthwork and other works on Matgajpur-Badakhandaita (17.40 kms) are in advance stage of completion. |
| 17. | Rahama-Paradeep | 23 | 63.47 | 57.68 | 11.90 | Completion and commissioned. |
| 18. | Panskura-Haldia: Phase-I (Panskura-Rajgoda) | 14 | 26.02 | 0.91 | 10.00 | The work is being implemented by South Eastern Railway for RVNL. Earthwork and minor bridges are in progress. Panskura-Raghunathbari (6 kms) section is likely to be completed during 2004-05 where track linking has been completed. Balance section upto Rajgoda is targeted for completion during 2005-06. |
| 19. | Hospet-Guntakal | 111 | 154.14 | 82.21 | 65.00 | Bellary-Tornagallu (30 kms) completed. Guntakal-Hagari (35 kms) is nearing completion. The balance portion Hagari-Bellary (14 kms) & Tornagallu-Hospet (32 kms) is targeted for completion during 2005-06. The project is being implemented by South Western Railway for RVNL. |
| 20. | Barauni-Tilarth | 14 | 15.37 | 0 | 12.00 | The work has recently been completed. |

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, port projects and limit land projects in Gujarat have been pending since long.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varma, sorry, you have to go to your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: It is my seat only.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: I sit here only.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No please. Let us have some discipline. What is wrong there? It is very important part of the House where you have been given a seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Thanks.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I want you nearer me.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat is progressive, industrial and economically prosperous state in the country. From amongst western states Gujarat contributes maximum revenue to the nation. Still work is not going on the rail projects in Gujarat. The projects in which work is going on the pace is very slow. Injustice has been meted out to Gujarat in the current year Rail Budget. An MOU was signed for transportation of goods on ports in Gujarat. I would like to have details about the said MOU. Under Rail Development Corporation Limited an MOU was signed between GIGC and Gujarat Maritime on 13th January, 2005. I would like to know by when the pending work of Bharuch-Dahej. Surat-Hazira. Gandhidham-Palanpur and Bhiladi-Samdadi pending gauge conversion work is likely to be recommenced and by when it is likely to be completed?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, have you go to all the details with you?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, before coming to the specific questions, I would like to say that these are the projects now that have been taken by the RVNL. We are creating SPVs, Special Purpose Vehicles, for this purpose where we will be able to mobilise resources and wherein the State Government, the Port Authorities, the Railways and other beneficiaries will join.

As he has rightly put it, an MoU has been signed and all these projects are being taken up. In fact, we have given a period of five years to complete all these projects by 2009. In fact, we have been considerate as far as Gujarat is concerned. Even before RVNL came into existence, two SPVs have come to stay there, namely, Pipavav Rail Corporation and Kutch Railway Company which have been helping to see that port connectivity is given and multi model infrastructure in the hinterland is also raised.

That way, we are not at all depriving Gujarat. We share the concern of the hon. Member and, if necessary, we will take added efforts. What are being signed are taken up very seriously and we will see that works taken up are completed in the course of these five years.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you put your second supplementary. You got a reply and assurance.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hounourable Minister in his reply has said only one line about Gujarat. Attention has not been paid towards pending projects of Gujarat. There is an urgent need of laying extra track in Gujarat. There is an urgent need of doubling. Virangam Samkhayali, Ahamadabad, Mahsana. Aburoad and also Kandla-Bhatinda lines. As he is aware Ahmedabad, Botak and Saurasthra have quite short time projects. Broad gauge is also required for Bhavnagar, Boatak, Surendranagar, Viran Gaon. For the last five years I have been requesting for conducting survey for gauge conversion of Botak-Ahmedabad rail-line.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask so many supplementaries. I have allowed you.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will honourable Minister pay heed for survey of this line. Honourable Minister Rathwa ji who hails from Gujarat is sitting here. He has also stated that with regard to development of railways injustice has been done to Gujarat. And nothing has been given to the state. By when additional broad gauge track is likely to be completed in Gujarat. People from entire north India say Punjab. Haryana and Rajasthan are being benefitted through port trusts of Gujarat. I would like to know by when the Government would lay extra track.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is coming after exhaustive Railway Budget discussion.

SHRI R. VELU: We have a Minister from Gujarat in our Ministry. He is very well taking care of the interest of the Gujarat State.

Secondly, whatever that route he said about Ahmedabad, it is more of a inter land connection. As I said earlier, we are here to see that all these projects are put on fast track. That is why, we have created RVNL. In turn, we are creating special purpose vehicle projects so that your interests will be taken care of, and I assure this to be hon. Member and the Gujarat Government.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask honourable Minister of Railways as to by when certificate for Panvel-Karjat Project of State of Maharashtra from Commissioner of Railway Safety is likely to be granted Also, I would like to know the reasons for non-approval of 8 out of 10 port connectivity projects to be undertaken under Golden Quadrilateral Project.

*[English]*

SHRI R. VELU: Regarding Panvel-Karjat project, the work has been completed in all respects. We have already written to the Commissioner of Railway Safety. We will commission this project soon.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, the purpose of Rail Vikas Yojana and RVNL is to improve the connectivity between the hinterland and roads. The Minister must be aware that Kolkata Port is connected with NH-6, NH-2 and NH-34, and Haldia Port is connected with NH-41 and NH-6. From the statement, it has been observed that the expenditure up to March, 2004 is very meagre.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The Kolkata and Haldia dock systems used to cater to the entire North-East and Nepal. The National Rail Vikas Yojana has earmarked more than Rs. 5,000 crore. May I ask the hon. Minister why the progress of all connectivity is slow in regard to Haldia and Kolkata? Is there any kind of hindrance being observed by your Ministry? The importance of Kolkata Port has been growing day by day.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Therefore, the Kolkata and Haldia Ports connectivity must be made immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very valuable hour.

SHRI R. VELU: I assure the hon. Member, there is no obstacle or hindrance as the hon. Member envisages. I assure him, there is no problem in getting the money sanctioned. As I said earlier, this Special Purpose Vehicle has itself come into existence in 2003. We have now taken up steps in right earnest for, allotment of sufficient funds. I assure him, this would take off very easily and it would be done expeditiously.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Lakshman Seth. Have you got the same question? Or, is it something new?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: It is a new question, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief and specific.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: In the statement given by the hon. Minister, it is found that only Rs. 90 lakh have been spent out of Rs. 10 crore, which was earmarked for completion of the 14 kilometres of doubling of Panskura-Haldia line. The distance of the Panskura-Haldia line is about 72 kilometres but only 14 kilometres have been taken up and the progress is so slow that I do not know when it would be commissioned. May I ask the hon. Minister when this double line would be completed? Haldia is giving 50 per cent of the revenue of South-Eastern Railways. So, I would like to know the target date for the completion of the double line.

SHRI R. VELU: This project has been slated in two phases. The first phase is for 14 kilometres. We have allotted Rs. 26 crore. We are now trying to do all the

work. The first phase of this 15 Kms. would be completed by the end of this year and the balance would be targeted for completion in 2005-06. This is how it is being done and there is no problem in completing it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it is surprising to see that one of the prestigious port connectivity projects, Hubli-Ankola, which was sanctioned, budgeted and inaugurated by the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee three years ago does not find any mention in this answer. I would like to know why no money has been allocated for that project. If there are environmental hurdles, what is the Ministry of Railways doing to overcome those hurdles?

Secondly, for the Mangalore-Bangalore railway line gauge conversion, the hon. Minister has given a detailed reply but the allocation is only Rs. 1 lakh. With an allocation of Rs. 1 lakh, I do not know how he is going to have this prestigious railway line between Bangalore and Mangalore via Hassan and Arasikere completed forthwith.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the first part of this question is not related to port connectivity project. Since the main question is about port connectivity, a separate notice is required for this and after that I would furnish the reply to the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the question on the Ankola-Hubli line is connected with this. It is connecting the East Coast and the West Coast of India.

MR. SPEAKER: I would try to help you.

Mr. Speaker, Shri Ananth Kumar is a very responsible Member of this House. He says that there is a project which does not find mention. Please look into it and inform the hon. Member. Also, do the necessary things.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it has a naval base that is Sea Bird worth Rs. 10,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it is not related to port connectivity but even then he would look into it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Mangalore is a port, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You should try to co-operate with each other.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, Mangalore is a very famous port in the country.

SHRI R. VELU: I am aware of that but this does not constitute a part of the main Question. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Ankola is also a port. Mangalore is port. It is a question of connecting ports.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that he would let you know.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, in reply to the Question, the hon. Minister has stated that the Haridaspur-Paradip rail link as well as Daitari-Banspani rail link in Orissa to connect the Paradip port are being thought of. He has said that it would be taken up but whatever amount has been earmarked for this year and whatever amount was earmarked in the previous year are not at all adequate. He has mentioned that a Special Purpose Vehicle is in the process of being formed. How soon is the formation of the Special Purpose Vehicle going to be finalised? The amount earmarked for the Daitari-Banspani line to link Paradip port is also not sufficient. You know very much about this area. You are very much acquainted within this area. It is very essential to connect the Paradeep port. Unless these railway projects are implemented at the earliest the Paradip port would not develop. So, I would like to know and have a specific answer from the hon. Minister when the formation of the Special Purpose Vehicle would be finalised.

Similarly, the amount earmarked is very inadequate. Will you please assure the House that enough funds will be made available? At the same time, it will be done immediately.

SHRI R. VELU: In this case, the final location survey has been completed. It is in the initial stage. The land acquisition is in progress, and land in 46 villages has been taken over. The project has been found bankable. Bankable means, there is no problem of constituting SPV. But, this is also coming under the RVNL. We will soon take it up. It assure the Member that as it is we have allotted Rs. 6 crore this year. We will also see that additional amount is allotted. Land acquisition is only in preliminary stage. We will do that.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: The amount earmarked is very meagre. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Although they are making this arrangement, they are not spending the

money. Only 5 to 6 per cent was spent last year, It is not sufficient.

MR. SPEAKER: Your comments are there, Mr. Tripathy. I am not deleting those comments.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, the Kakinada Port, is in Kakinada, which is the headquarters of the largest district in Andhra Pradesh. It is also the rice bowl of Andhra Pradesh, does tonnage of about 3 million tonnes every year, which is growing in geometric progression every year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether there is any specific proposal to connect the port. Hon. Minister has visited the Kakinada Port. I know that if it is brought on to the main line, a part of the need will be met. Is there any specific proposal from the State Government for providing rail linkage to the hinterland and the port? If there is not, will the Minister kindly consider? How soon will you expedite the projects?

SHRI R. VELU: The hon. Member knows that I had visited that area. He also knows that there is no proposal pending. In fact he must initiate it through the State Government, if necessary, so that we will take up in right earnest to see that something is done.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 202.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is a very important question. Sir, I want to ask one supplementary. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have already had discussion on Railway Budget for 15 hours. Even then, I have allowed 5 supplmentaries plus 2 original Members. It comes to 7. Even then you are not satisfied.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You also know my problem. Please also consider my problem. Shri Ramdas Athawale. Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sitting on my allocated seat today.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is nice to have a disciplined Member.

*[Translation]*

**Autonomy to National Commission for Scheduled Castes**

*202. + SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant full autonomy to National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC);

(b) whether the Government has received representations from social organizations and Hon'ble Members of Parliament in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to grant full autonomy to the Commission?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (d) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been set up with specific duties and powers under Art. 338 of the Constitution. It is therefore a Constitutional body. It is vested with the necessary powers to perform its functions under Article 338 of the Constitution.

(b) No representation has been received from Social Organisations for Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that injustice is meted out to the persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and under the provision of Article 338 of the Constitution a Commission was appointed to dispense justice to them. Thereafter SC/ST commission was appointed in 1990. In 2004 SC and ST Commissions were separated. I have raised the

*Not recorded.

question of according complete autonomy to the said Commission to achieve the objectives for which it was appointed because at present this commission has the power to issue summons only. This Commission should also have the same powers as enjoyed by the Human Rights Commission. In case any matter is referred to human rights commission and it observes that injustice has been done to any one then a suit can be filed through the said commission. Similarly the Government should consider to give powers to SC/ST Commission also. As you have told that powers have been given to this Commission under Article 338 to discharge its duties but this commission does not have the powers to that extent. What do the hon. Minister is purpose to do to give autonomy to this Commission?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: One hon. Member is putting a Supplementary Question, the Minister has stood up to reply and interruption is going on.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the SC Commission holds the highest status at present. There are five such commissions *i.e.* Finance Commission, U.P.S.C. Election Commission but none of the Commission other than SC Commission hold higher status. Rest of the Commissions have the status of statutory commission and thereafter comes the autonomous bodies which hold the lower position after constitutional and statutory commissions. Which the hon. Member is referring to. I would like to read out from the manual of office procedure to tell as to what does an autonomous body mean.

*[English]*

"Such bodies which are established by the Government to discharge the activities which are related to governmental functions, although such bodies are given autonomy to discharge their functions in accordance with Memorandum of Association etc., but the Government control exists since these are funded by the Government of India.

*[Translation]*

I would like to tell the hon. Member that the said Commission is already enjoying more powers than what the Member's concern seeks to give to it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, the said commission is not enjoying maximum powers. I have said earlier also that this commission is receiving 36000 cases every year and when the Chairman of SC/ST Commission summons some officers they don't heed. The purpose for which this Commission has been set up is not being served.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is about autonomy.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The SC/ST Commission was bifurcated into two Commissions and status of a Cabinet Minister was accorded to the Chairman of the ST Commission but whereas that status was not bestowed on the Chairman of SC Commission. I want to say if the Government want to strengthen the SC Commission then the status of a Cabinet Minister should also be granted to the Chairman of this Commission. The Government should also consider to bring the said commission at par with the Human Rights Commission because we have got our own Government. *...(Interruptions)* We are in power because people belonging to SC/ST voted for us. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: She has answered it.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, I want your protection. You have given me a seat in the back now whereas I want to come to the front bench. I have been allotted a back seat but I will keep coming to front benches. Here it is not the question of allotment of seat. *...(Interruptions)* I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the opinion of the Government about giving the same powers to the SC Commission as are being enjoy by the Human Rights Commission. Besides, I want that the Chairman of the SC Commission should also get the status of Cabinet Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, even from that seat, you are getting the full attention. To bring you

in the first row, it is for the hon. Prime Minister to decide and not for me.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRi RAMDAS ATHAWALE: You please give the orders.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Hon. Member has raised two questions. He is repeatedly saying that the Chairman of this Commission should get cabinet status. But in the note prepared for SC/ST Commission in the year 2003, nothing was said about giving its Chairman the status of Cabinet Minister. Therefore, he has not been given the Cabinet status. Now this matter has been put before us.

*[English]*

It is under our consideration"

*[Translation]*

I would like to tell this to the hon. Member.

Sir, hon. Member has repeatedly referred to the powers of the Human Rights Commission. I would like to tell him again that this is not a constitutional commission but a statutory one. Its status is lower than that. S.C. Commission has got rights equal to Civil Courts, it has full powers for trail like civil suits. It has been stated in clause 8 (F) that hon. President, if deems fit, can give more powers to it as per the rules. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Brajesh Pathak's submissions will be taken on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, I just now congratulated you, complimented you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has admitted that it is going to grant autonomy to the Commission for scheduled castes. Hon. Minister told that it has got constitutional status and its Chairman has also got Cabinet Minister status. Whether the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: No, No.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: No. hon. Minister has accepted that the Government is considering to give the Chairman of the Scheduled Castes Commission the status of Cabinet Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to ask the hon. Minister a very important question. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important subject. Please keep quiet.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to put very important questions before hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Government keep changing, it has been observed that the Scheduled Castes Commission is not able to get its recommendation implemented. Some Governments, accept its recommendations and some do not. I, through you, would like to know from the Government whether it proposes to consider enacting any law so as to ensure the implementation of its recommendation. The other question is whether the Government is prepared to have a thorough discussion on the recommendations made by the S.C. Commission so far.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked very apt questions. Hon. Member has said that the recommendations of the S.C. Commission are not accepted. But I would like to tell him that the Government has fully considered the 90 per cent recommendations of the Commission, Contained in the sixth report, which was tabled here in this House. Therefore, it is not proper to say that its recommendations are not accepted.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the second question raised by the hon. Member is concerned that the annual or special reports of the Commission tabled here in the House should be considered in the House. I would like to tell the hon. Member that it depends on the Members of Parliament that they should give notices so that time could be allotted for discussion on it.

*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Very very competent answer. I congratulate you.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Minister has already agreed that there are no rights or powers for the National Commission on Scheduled Castes.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, I have never said that.

MR. SPEAKER: You controvert it.

Hon. Member, the hon. Minister has not said it. She said that it is a constitutional body now much stronger than a statutory body.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Anyway, on the question of Scheduled Castes, several problems particularly arising out of that have been referred to this National Commission. Somehow in the State of Maharashtra, there are several schools which are being already started for the Scheduled Castes but not been recognised.

MR. SPEAKER: It is only with regard to the status of this Commission.

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the problems, which are already referred to the National Commission or any such body, would be considered by them or not.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, this is outside the ambit of this question. This question is about the autonomy of the National Commission. In this case, what the hon. Member is saying, we will look into that separately.

MR. SPEAKER: The question does not really arise separately.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make a submission to the hon. Minister that it is said that the SC Commission has got a lot of powers. I want to know as to what powers this Commission has got and how many such cases have come up before this Commission and how the same were disposed of. What action has been taken against the officers who committed atrocities against the persons of SCs and STs?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has very fairly referred to article 338 of the Constitution. The question relates to the autonomy. She has said that full autonomy, as a constitutional body is available. Now, if details are asked about this question....

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: What powers has the Commission got?

MR. SPEAKER: It has got a lot of powers. You please send the hon. Member.

*[English]*

Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam.

If it is a relevant question, then I will allow you. Otherwise, I am going to disallow you. Please put the autonomy question.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: May I know, through you, from the hon. Minister one thing? The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not working up to the satisfaction of those communities. I want to know how many cases are being registered under the Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act of 1989 against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I also want to know the State-wise details.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to know about the State-wise details.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Member is referring to the Prevention of Atrocities (PoA) Act against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Now, for that, the hon. Member will have to give me a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Please give an another notice.

Shri Ilyas Azmi.

If you want to put a supplementary, then go to your seat immediately. Otherwise, you will not be allowed. Go to your seat. This is nothing. Sometimes, one hon. Member may forget about his seat. We have to remind him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Minority Commission has also been given any powers and if it has not been given any powers then by when this Commission is proposed to be accorded the Constitutional status?

MR. SPEAKER: It has already been accorded the same.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: By when will you accord this status to the Minority Commission?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question of minority does not arise.

Shri Tufani Saroj.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment certainly takes action on the recommendations of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If so, on how many recommendations the Ministry has taken action during the last two years and if not, what are the reasons for not taking such action?

MR. SPEAKER: You have to put a new question for this.

*[English]*

**Decline in Passengers**

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

(a) the number and types of aircraft under Indian Airlines and other private Airlines operating daily in the country;

(b) whether the number of passengers being carried by Indian Airlines has dropped gradually in the recent past;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make national carrier more attractive and competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) The details of number and type of aircraft with Indian Airlines and Private Scheduled airlines are as follows:—

| Aircraft Type | Indian Airlines | Alliance Air | Jet Airways | Sahara Airlines | Deccan Aviation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A-300 | 03 | — | — | — | — |
| A-320 | 46 | — | — | — | 3 |
| B-737 | — | 11 | 34 | 14 | — |
| ATR 72 | — | — | 08 | — | — |
| ATR-42 | — | 04 | — | — | 10 |
| CRJ | — | — | — | 07 | — |
| DO 228 | 02 | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 51 | 15 | 42 | 21 | 13 |

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government, from time to time, encourages national carriers to upgrade their services and undertake economy measures. Further, the proposal of Indian Airlines to expand/upgrade its fleet is under active consideration of the Government.

*[English]*

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, the airfares are very high. Only, the rich people can use air services. If the airfares are reduced, the middle-income group can avail this facility. By reducing airfares, passenger traffic as well as profit can increase much more. Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is having any proposal to reduce airfares by increasing the frequency of air services to profitable routes.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the question does not arise out of this. As far as airfares are concerned, I can assure the hon. House that more competition will lead to reduction in airfares and increase connectivity in the country. I think, the Government is doing all its best to facilitate the growth of aviation in India.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Sir, in my Bellary district, there is a world heritage centre called Hampi. Thousands of foreign tourists and Indian tourists are visiting that place every day. Apart from that, Bellary is an industrially fast developing city where big and medium industries have come up.

MR. SPEAKER: Under which part of the Question does it come?

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: A lot of mining activities are also taking place there iron ore is exported to different countries and commercially it is a much viable city. I want to know whether the Government has any proposal to improve the airport and start air services there because there is no air service to this place.

MR. SPEAKER: He is obliged to answer.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: I would also like to know whether night landing facility is also being provided there.

MR. SPEAKER: I am equally concerned about Kolkata Airport. He is not doing anything.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. Hampi is a very important heritage site in our country and the Government is doing all its best to give connectivity to it. Even the private airstrip there is now being....

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): It is a world heritage site.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: It is a world heritage site, as Shri Jaipal Reddy has corrected me. The hon. Minister of Culture would obviously be more aware about the heritage site of Hampi, but the fact is that we would like more connectivity there. Therefore, even the private airstrip there is now being allowed to be converted in future into a regular airstrip for scheduled passenger services. Even the facility of night landing and all that is also being provided there. However, we will always keep in mind the overall emphasis that he is saying.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, do you want to put a question on this?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: No.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister towards part (d) of the main question. It has been asked therein as to what steps the Government has taken to make the national aviation companies more attractive and competitive?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members are aware that day-by-day flights are getting delayed in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi. We all keep on sitting disappointed. On asking about the reason for flight delay, they say there is waiting for taking off and landing. I want to put a serious problem before you. If landing is in waiting, it means that the plane would go on hovering over big cities like Delhi and Kolkata for about half-an-hour, which would involve a huge loss and wastage of fuel. Therefore, the waiting period should be reduced. We can not enter competition just by increasing the size of fleet. Unless you provide more infrastructure, particularly construct more air-strips in big metro cities, we will not be able to face competition. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that where money and fuel losses are being incurred in metro cities due to the waiting in landing and take-off, nothing will come out by constructing airports and good houses there in the name of improving the infrastructure.

*[English]*

until and unless airstrips are increased. I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, none of the questions arises of the main Question.

MR. SPEAKER: But they are relying on your knowledge ability.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I will attempt to answer the hon. Member's concern. It is true that air traffic is growing very rapidly in our country and there has been an increase of almost more than 25 per cent in the current year itself. Therefore, we need to have better aviation infrastructure. Especially in the bigger Metros, this problem is now getting more acute. We have about 25 movements per hour of aircraft in Mumbai and Delhi, but that needs to be upgraded and it should be taken up. We are endeavouring to take it up to at least 35 movements an hour by the end of this year. That will, to some extent, I am not saying that it will completely, eliminate congestion. With the rapid increase in air traffic, he is right, we will require more additional runways, especially in Delhi and Mumbai.

As regards other airports—including the Ahmedabad Airport—they have to come up in a much quicker way. I am saying this because unless we disburse the traffic out of the major metros, this problem will remain.

I can also assure the hon. Speaker that Kolkata Airport is receiving the highest priority.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: A beautiful terminal is going to come up. I will take time from you, and show you the place.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly invite Shri Harin Pathak also. The Civil Aviation Ministry has become the most popular Ministry.

I have only 25 names of hon. Members who want to put supplimentaries on this Question. I will try to accommodate a few names. It shows your responsibility more than anything else, and I am sure you will discharge it sincerely.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am sure that if this is the case, then I would not get a chance to answer questions related to my Ministry in the list.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will come to it.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I am a very frequent flier on the Indian Airlines. I have clocked more than a million miles. It is the only airlines, which allows me to sleep throughout the journey without any distractions. But a lot of people want to see better ambiance, and better decor in the airlines. They do not want to see the same worn-out, and faded seats. We need to change the decor in the airlines on a regular basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rajagopal, the particular Question before us is on 'decline in passengers'.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: This is the major difference between the private airlines, and the Indian Airlines.

I would like to make another point. The private airlines are always on time, and there is no delay in the flights operated by them.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it is not so. What do you want to say? What is your question?

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, the private airlines are always on time.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish, I could agree with you on this point, but it is not the experience.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Is the Ministry thinking of bringing any package for the Indian Airlines, and the Air India employees, so that they can be penalised for every flight delay or paid some incentives for the flight being on time? This would make them accountable, and responsible for the flight delays. I would like to say that they must bring a special package for this.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, there is only one small suggestion to hon. Member, namely, he should also try-out other airlines before criticising the Indian Airlines.

I appreciate the hon. Member's concern, but on a general scale, I think, there are delays with all the airlines. Therefore, we should not be so critical about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair has already observed that the situation is not what he has mentioned here. Other airlines also get delayed.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister will be aware that the successive Governments—in the Centre and the States—have tried to boost tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. The hon. Minister must be aware that this is the time when families start planning for their annual summer holidays. But the travel agents are already informing people—who wish to travel to Jammu and Kashmir, and particularly Srinagar—that seats are not available on the flights.

Would the hon. Minister consider increasing the number of flights by Indian Airlines to Srinagar? Would he also be willing to consider special fares in order to boost more tourists heading to Kashmir?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: The hon. Member is right when he says that Srinagar is again booming in terms of tourism. We will consider giving more flights to Srinagar during the peak tourist season.

As regards special fares, I am sure that with more competition in this field more schemes and fares are going to be offered by all the airlines. I have been saying about this again and again. Perhaps, such schemes are yet to be offered to Srinagar, but I think, eventually, even that is going to happen.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire. Are you on your allotted seat?

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that our Sambhaji Nagar Aurangabad Chikankhana airport is getting Rs. 60 crore from JBIC and Rs. 13 crore from the Airport Authority *i.e.* the airport is being built with this amount of Rs. 73 crore. It will be a small international airport that will cater to the need of Ajanta-Ellora also. There is one route namely Delhi, Jaipur, Udaipur, Sambhaji Nagar, Aurangabad and Mumbai on which IC 491 and IC 492 used to operate earlier.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You are going into the details of the matter.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Many tourists have asked for restoration of air services on this route. Through you, I would like to know that Indian Airlines has got 51 airports.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Khaire, you have travelled far and wide.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will you resotre air service on this route through the Indian Airlines or any other airways?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can answer by either saying yes or no.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: We will make an attempt.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if we compare the services being provided by the Indian Airlines with that of other airlines, we will find that Indian Airlines is in inferior position in comparison to the other airlines. I would not like to ask a question from the hon. Minister. I would like to give a suggestion that whenever a person having purchased an executive class ticket, goes to the counter of Indian Airlines to get the boarding card, then it will take ten minutes to get the boarding card, even if two people are standing there in the queue because the Indian Airlines employees keep gossiping at the counter itself. This is what I have seen generally. You will not find this situation in other airlines. This indifferent attitude of Indian Airlines employees towards the passengers should be checked. I do not want to ask you any question in this connection, it is just my suggestion.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him respond.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I will take seriously the views expressed by the hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from hon. Minister as to what is the reason that people prefer to fly through private airlines as compared to the national carriers? Secondly, I would like to know that by what time the shortcomings noticed in the present system will be

removed so as to attract the passengers and to ensure that the national carriers earn profit?

*[English]*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it is an on-going process of improvement and upgradation. As the hon. Member also knows that the Indian Airlines has not been adding capacity or new planes for the last 16 years. We are now in the process of finalising it very shortly. Once the Indian Airlines' product improves, I am sure that they will be able to compete much more effectively and better than what we have done so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given chance to five or six Members.

Q. No. 204—let us skip this question. We had a discussion on the Railway Budget for 15 hours.

**Award Winning Films**

*205. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken/being taken by Prasar Bharati to promote the highly acclaimed and award winning films made in the country;

(b) whether the Doordarshan has fixed chunks to air these films for the benefit of the public;

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines framed in this regard;

(d) whether there had been a reduction in the time chunks for the purpose and the payment structure to the films; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan telecasts one award winning film on the last Sunday of every month at 11.30 pm on its national channel. In addition, the regional Kendras also telecast award winning films on the regional langauge service of Doordarshan.

(c) On the national channel of Doordarshan, films awarded with Swarn Kamal and Rajat Kamal are telecast. On the regional service of Doordarshan the following films are telecast:—

- national award winning regional films;
- regional films included in the Indian Panorama and in the mainstream section of any international film festival of India/Filmostav;
- recipient of Best Feature film award instituted by the State Government;
- best children's film awarded at National or State level.

(d) and (e) In view of the financial constraints, Prasar Bharati decided to telecast on National Network films which have received either Swarna Kamal or Rajat Kamal. On account of this decision, the number of films to be telecast has come down necessitating the telecast of such films to once a month from once a week.

Royalty rates have been brought down for Swarna Kamal awarded films from Rs. 15 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs and for Rajat Kamal awarded films from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs. This decision was taken by the Prasar Bharati Board in January 2003 in view of resource constraints.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your supplementary?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, since the Doordarshan is a Government-owned channel, it has got a responsibility to telecast the award-winning films. Sir, there is much disturbance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Order please in the House. I would request you all to maintain order in the House.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, public often gets the opportunity to view these films only through Doordarshan as they often do not come to normal cinema theatres. We all know what sorts of hardships that legendary Shri Satyajit Ray had to face before completing his path-breaking film *Pather Panchali.*

Now, Sir, the Doordarshan has changed the rules. They say that they will telecast either the *Swarna Kamal* films or *the Rajat Kamal* films. They have also drastically reduced the remuneration given to these films.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I would like to know whether the royalty will be restored to the earlier Rs. 15 lakh for the *Swarna Kamal* films and Rs. 12 lakh for *Rajat Kamal* films. I would also like to know as to whether all the award-winning films-*Rajat Kamal, Swarna Kamal* and regional award-winning films—will be shown because. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot exhaust all the supplementaries in that.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The Doordarshan has the responsibility to telecast these films.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Suresh Kurup, has raised relevant questions. I appreciate and share his concerns. But, I want him to appreciate that Prasar Bharti can discharge such responsibilities only to a point. He is right in his question that the pattern has been changed and changed in a way to the disadvantage of the people, who win these awards.

However, it has been done because of financial constraints of Prasar Bharati, and that is a larger question. You will kindly appreciate, Sir, that the Award winning films do not necessarily command a commercial kind of audience or add revenue. This is the reason why the pattern had to be changed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: I never expected such a reply from my great friend, Shri Jaipal Reddy. I would request him to change the rules; he can very well do that. The remuneration given for these films were Rs. 15 lakh and Rs. 12 lakh respectively years before. Now, the production cost has increased tremendously and, often, these people will be short of money after making these films, which the Minister very well knows.

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking about the same thing again.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Above all, these people have to please every officer in the Prasar Bharati to telecast these films. I know personally that these things happen there. Therefore, there should be some fixed rules that these films should be telecast on a fixed day every month. My humble request is that both *Swarna Kamal* and *Rajat Kamal* films should be shown and, definitely, the royalty given should be increased.

MR. SPEAKER: The request may be transformed into a question.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I share his sentiment completely. I would like to inform the House that under the earlier pattern, the outgo from Prasar Bharati used to be Rs. 6.26 lakh. As against this, we are not able to raise any money at all. Therefore, the outgo has been reduced.

Sir, the hon. Member has also raised a question about the difficulties faced by Award winning film producers. I will see to it that those difficulties are removed, and I also will try and ensure the periodicity of telecasting of these good films.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the programmes being shown through private channels in the country now-a-days are attacking the Indian culture directly. Whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the manner in which obscenity is being shown by the private T.V. channels in the country? If so, what efforts are being made to check it? What will be the effort of the Government to save the Indian Culture. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This Question is with regard to Award winning films.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: We also want to know if it is true that the image of women is being presented wrongly on TV by the private channels? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is not linked to the original question.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Not even a single programme is shown which could be viewed by all the family members sitting together in the house. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important issue, Madam, but it does not arise here. It is a very important issue. I agree. The Question is about Award winning films.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Whether the Government has any scheme to save the country from such programmes of the private channels and to bring about improvement in the situation? Whether you are taking any steps to correct it; if so, by when action will be taken on it?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important issue, but it does not arise from this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Although the question may not relate to the main one, I would still like to answer the question because these concerns about the increasing obscenity on TV channels are being increasingly articulated. Therefore, I said earlier to the House that we were thinking of setting up a quasi-judicial regulatory authority. In the meantime, the Ministry is looking into this question actively. Recently, we organised a Workshop with all the stakeholders to look at these questions.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, in Tamil Nadu, Award winning films are being shown on T.V. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not get misled by anybody.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: The films which are award winning are shown on the TV. But, they have put some regulations for that. Many films which are not showing vulgarity, those types of films should be given priority in the Government TV so that the common man should be benefited. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Suggestion for action.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: I would request the hon. Minister to look into that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to state, categorically, that Prasar Bharti being a public broadcaster show only the films which are fit for universal and unrestricted exhibition. This concern of the Minister or a Member is being addressed to.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, on the plea of resource constraint, Doordarshan cannot absolve itself of its responsibility of promoting and encouraging the budding and the acclaimed talents of the film industry. It was earlier a practice that the successful students of Pune Film Institute and the Satyajit Ray Film Institute, that have been making experimental documentaries, these were shown on the Doordarshan and in the alternative Documentary Festivals also. But these days, we find that the Doordarshan is not encouraging such acclaimed documentaries also. May I know from the hon. Minister whether Doordarshan will encourage the budding talents who have been making experimental things at these Institutes?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we are coming back to the same question. I really would share the perspective of the hon. Member. My philosophy is the same as that of his. But the problem is—my friend Shri Chidambaram has just now entered the Hall—it is a question of finance. But, subject to that, we will also look at the question of telecasting documentary films.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put a question.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Yes, Sir. Like any other private channels, they show Amitji's weekly films. For example, one week they show only Amitji's films. Do they have any idea to show one week the legendary director's film in future, like Satyajit Ray films and all, including the Rajat Kamal films, that is, the awarded films? They do not have any such programmes. The best children's films have not been given any slot. These films give them education. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good question.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Hon. Member will be happy to note that our recent experience in regard to the classics of Raj Kapoor's films has been very happy and we shall continue to replicate that. As far as the children's films are concerned, I accept the suggestion. We will request Prasar Bharti to see that the children's films are encouraged, though that would also cost money.

MR. SPEAKER: You want to put a question?

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I shall conclude in one minute.

*[English]*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Daily he is getting a chance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is special arrangement with me!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Now, it is formal, Sir. You have accepted that in the party he is known for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Whose disqualification? Mine or his?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the criteria adopted for awarding the films? Whether any lobbying or pursuing is needed or there comes a public demand for awarding the films? We come across films which are not in public demand but have been awarded.

*[English]*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, by and large, almost there are exceptions. The films adjudged by the Jury have always been acclaimed. But, a successful film need not be a box office hit. We need to try a distinction between the two. In addition to the films certified by the national Jury, many State Governments also provide awards and we also telecast films which receive awards at the hands of various State Government in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. Members for their very active cooperation.

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*[English]*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Quality of Food and Water in Trains and at Stations

*204. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the quality of food and water served/sold in trains and at stations has been deteriorating and mineral water and food items of sub-standard quality are being openly sold there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of complaints received in this regard during the last one year till date and the action taken thereon, zone-wise;

(d) whether any surprise check is being conducted by any monitoring authority to check the quality of food items and water or survey carried out to ascertain the number of persons involved in this illegal business;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the culprits; and

(f) the stringent measures taken/to be taken to stop selling and serving of sub-standard quality of food items and water in trains and at stations and to improve their quality?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. By and large good quality food and water are served in trains and at stations.

(c) Details of complaints received and action taken by the Railways with regard to the quality of food and water served/sold in trains and at railway stations during 2004-05 (upto February 05) and action taken thereon, zone-wise are given in enclosed Statement-I and II.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Details of surprise checks conducted and action taken by the Railways with regard to the quality of food and water served/sold in trains and at railway stations against the culprits during 2004-05 (upto February 05) zone-wise are given in enclosed Statement-III and IV.

(f) In order to achieve better customer satisfaction, to bring improvement in standard and quality of Food and Packaged Drinking water in trains and at railway stations, railways have taken various steps viz. introduction of three-piece casserole packed meal in place of thali meals, introduction of 'Rail Neer', Packaged Drinking water, introduction of eco-friendly packaging materials, supply of curd in kullars, review of menu and services of Rajdhani/Shatabdi and other Mail/Express/Superfast trains. Regular inspections/surprises checks are carried out at all levels to ensure quality in catering services. Special drives are organized from time to time. Complaints received are investigated and strict action taken against the defaulters. Moreover, Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. has been set up on Indian Railways to upgrade, professionalise and manage catering and hospitality services at stations and on trains.

***Statement I***

*Number of Complaints and Action Taken on FOOD over Indian Railway during 2004-05 (upto February 2005)*

| Railway | Number of Complaints | Action Taken | | | | | | | Not Substantiated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Warned | Fined | Termination | Advised suitably | D&AR action | Enquiry pending | Total | |
| Central | 71 | 27 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 45 | 26 |
| Eastern | 35 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 2 | 0 | 17 | 18 |
| Northern | 32 | 1 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 15 |
| North Eastern | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Northeast Frontier | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Southern | 188 | 19 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 31 | 157 |
| South Central | 52 | 19 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 32 | 20 |
| South Eastern | 40 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 37 | 3 |
| Western | 128 | 19 | 16 | 2 | 25 | 1 | 0 | 63 | 65 |
| East Central | 26 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 15 | 11 |
| East Coast | 18 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 | 10 |
| North Central | 38 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 9 | 0 | 24 | 14 |
| North Western | 24 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 21 | 3 |
| South East Central | 28 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 17 |
| South Western | 16 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| West Bengal | 31 | 10 | 12 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 6 |
| IRCTC | 297 | 55 | 54 | 0 | 98 | 6 | 7 | 220 | 77 |
| Total | 1037 | 194 | 140 | 2 | 180 | 47 | 24 | 587 | 450 |

***Statement II***

*Number of Complaints and Action Taken on PACKAGED DRINKING WATER over Indian Railways during 2004-05 (upto February 2005)*

| Railway | Number of Complaints | Action Taken | | | | | | | Not Substantiated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Warned | Fined | Termination | Advised suitably | D&AR action | Enquiry pending | Total | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| North Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northeast Frontier | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Southern | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| South Central | 10 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| South Eastern | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Western | 19 | 6 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 0 |
| East Central | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| East Coast | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| North Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Western | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South East Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Western | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| West Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| IRCTC | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Total | 45 | 7 | 15 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 34 | 11 |

***Statement III***

*Number of Surprise Checks and Action Taken on FOOD over Indian Railways during 2004-05 (upto February 2005)*

| Railway | Number of Surprise Checks | Action Taken | | | | | | Not Substantiated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Warned | Fined | Termination | Advised suitably | D&AR action | Total | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Central | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Eastern | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Northern | 546 | 67 | 65 | 0 | 97 | 0 | 229 | 317 |
| North Eastern | 26 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 16 | 10 |
| Northeast Frontier | 14 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Southern | 218 | 38 | 8 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 53 | 165 |
| South Central | 57 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 18 | 39 |
| South Eastern | 27 | 6 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 14 |
| Western | 305 | 101 | 27 | 0 | 103 | 4 | 235 | 70 |
| East Central | 142 | 12 | 14 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 36 | 106 |
| East Coast | 87 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 9 | 78 |
| North Central | 44 | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 21 |
| North Western | 169 | 22 | 36 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 78 | 91 |
| South East Central | 12 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| South Western | 46 | 8 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 18 | 28 |
| West Central | 50 | 4 | 32 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 41 | 9 |
| IRCTC | 304 | 67 | 55 | 0 | 73 | 12 | 207 | 97 |
| Total | 2064 | 355 | 278 | 0 | 338 | 24 | 995 | 1069 |

***Statement IV***

*Number of Surprise Checks and Action Taken on PACKAGED DRINKING WATER over Indian Railways during 2004-05 (upto February 2005)*

| Railway | Number of Surprise Checks | Action Taken | | | | | | Not Substantiated |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Warned | Fined | Termination | Advised suitably | D&AR action | Total | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Central | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northern | 5 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 |
| North Eastern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Northeast Frontier | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Southern | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Central | 42 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 42 |
| South Eastern | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Western | 50 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 26 | 24 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| East Central | 75 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 62 |
| East Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| North Western | 44 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 42 |
| South East Central | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Western | 16 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| West Central | 40 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 25 | 15 |
| IRCTC | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 306 | 44 | 4 | 0 | 24 | 1 | 73 | 233 |

**Compensation to villagers/farmers**

*206. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether army has taken over agricultural land from the villagers/farmers on the Indo-Pak border of Punjab and other States for laying mines;

(b) if so, the estimated land under military occupation;

(c) the criteria adopted for paying compensation alongwith the amount of compensation paid to farmers/ villagers during the last three years;

(d) whether the land is restored to farmers after de-mining;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the same is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain lands of farmers on the Indo-Pak border in Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir were occupied by the Armed Forces for laying of mines and other operational purposes for Operation Parakram.

(b) An area of 710.216 acres of land in Punjab and other States is still under military occupation.

(c) Crop compensation for damaged Rabi crop of 2001-2002 was admissible, and for occupation of land after the Rabi crop, the admissible compensation Was @ 50% of the gross estimated produce for cultivable land. Rental compensation was admissible for uncultivable land. A sum of Rs. 2,70,15,83,696/- has been sanctioned during the last three years as crop and rental compensation.

(d) to (f) Out of 1,62,864 acres of land occupied initially, an area of 1,62,153.784 acres has been restored to the farmers. Of the remaining area of 710.216 acres, 376.544 acres is State Government land in Jammu and Kashmir. The remaining area of 333.672 acres are private lands which are required for operational purposes.

**Foreign Ventures by GAIL**

*207. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has proposals to venture into oil and gas sector of foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries wherein the GAIL has ventured so far and the countries wherein the GAIL would like to venture into their oil and gas sector in the future; and

(d) the reasons behind such foreign ventures by the GAIL?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI

SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) GAIL has ventured into a number of oil & gas sector projects abroad. GAIL has a 10% participating interest in block A1 in Myanmar. In Egypt, it has acquired a 19% participating interest in the Fayum Gas Company (FGC), 22% participating interest in Shell CNG (SCNGE), Egypt and 15% participating interest in National Gas Company (Natgas). It has entered into a share subscription agreement with China Gas Holding Company for the purchase of 10% equity. Besides these venture, GAIL is having interests and pursuing projects in Iran, Russia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Australia, Bangladesh and the Philippines.

GAIL is pursuing business opportunities globally in the area of its core competence while focussing on opportunities for increasing the availability of gas/LNG in the country, thereby enhancing the nation's energy security.

**Funds for Modernisation Schemes**

*208. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are going to raise funds from Private Sector for modernization schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a Committee on infrastructure to give effect to the development and strengthening of infrastructure with the help of private partnerships;

(d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to tap private resources for its development projects?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government has constituted a Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister with a view to:

(i) Initiating policies that ensure time-bound creation of world-class infrastructure, delivering services matching international standards.

(ii) Developing structures that maximise the role of public-private partnerships in the field of infrastructure.

(iii) Monitoring progress of key infrastructure projects to ensure that established targets are realised.

(d) No, Sir. Committee is yet to consider Railway Sector.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Ministry of Railways is tapping private resources primarily through formation of Joint Ventures, BOT (Build Own and Transfer) model and privately owned infrastructure etc. Ministry of Railways have already provided rail connectivity to Pipavav and Mundra port under this initiative. Gandhidham-Palanpur Gauge Conversion project and Hassan—Mangalore Gauge Conversion project are being implemented through investments from private sector and other agencies. For mobilization of resources needed for certain identified rail infrastructure projects, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has also been formed.

**Autonomy to Prasar Bharati**

*209. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati is a corporation with desired autonomy to pursue the mandate given by the Act;

(b) whether majority of senior and junior level executives continues to be the Government employers and derive all the benefits as Government employees;

(c) whether no resource mobilization has been done by Prasar Bharati, in order to attain financial independence;

(d) if so, the reasons for such an uncertainty regarding the future of Prasar Bharati; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, majority of employees, including senior and junior level executive continue to be Government servants on deemed deputation to Prasar Bharati. While

they continue to enjoy almost all benefits available to Government employees, certain difficulties have arisen with regard to eligibility for allotment of Government accommodation and CGHS facilities.

(c) Prasar Bharati as a public broadcaster cannot attain financial independence through internal resource mobilisation alone. However, Prasar Bharati has taken many steps for improving its financial position. These include expenditure control, exploiting the commercial potential of various films and non-films based programmes, and providing technical consultancy services in the broadcasting sector.

(d) and (e) There is no uncertainty regarding the future of Prasar Bharati.

*[Translation]*

**Operational Cost of Indian Railways**

*210. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operational cost of Indian Railways is higher than that of China, America and France;

(b) if so, the details of operational cost of railways in India, China, America and France, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the operational cost in railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No statistics is maintained by Ministry of Railways regarding details of operational cost of railways of China, America and France. However, based on statistics contained in the publication "International Railway Statistics" brought out by the International Union of Railways (UIC), Paris, data for the year 2002 is furnished below for America and France. So far as China is concerned, UIC had advised that Chinese Railways do not use international accounting system and based on the internal statistics and performance figures have been furnished.

| Country/ Railway | Currency in millions | Route length in Km. | Operating Expenses | Operating Income | Ratio of operating expenses to operating income |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| France (SNCF) | Euro | 29352 | 15415 | 15398 | 1.001 |
| America (AAR Class I and AMTRAK) | Euro | 235071 | 34749 | 39620 | 0.877 |
| China | RMB | 59530 | 131070 | 142048 | 0.923 |
| India | Rupee | 63140 | 379969 | 411477 | 0.923 |

Remark:1. SNCF: Society Nationale Des chemins de fer Francais
2. AAR Class I: Association of American Railroads Class I
3. AMTRAK: National Railroad Passenger Corporation
4. RMB: Chinese currency *i.e.* Renminbi
5. American Railway figures have been converted into Euros

(c) The important cost cutting measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Railways to reduce the cost of operation include the following:

(i) improvement in technology such as high horse power locomotives.

(ii) introduction of new coach/wagon designs like LHB higher passenger carrying capacity coaches with higher reliability and lower maintenance costs.

(iii) reduction of energy consumption by conservation of energy through various means, availing energy tariff benefits, reducing maximum energy demand etc.

(iv) system improvement by increasing interval between train examination, mechanised material handling etc.

(v) manpower planning, and

(vi) austerity in administrative expenditure by exercising control over expenditure on hospitality, travelling expenses etc.

*[English]*

**Management of Airports**

*211. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Authority of India has miserably failed in the efficient management of the Airports in the present competitive scenario;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to retrieve the situation?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Civil Aviation Sector in India has registered rapid traffic growth including aircraft movements, passengers and cargo. At some airports, the infrastructure development has not kept pace with the traffic growth. Such airports are experiencing capacity constraints both on airside and terminals. As a result, airlines and passengers are experiencing difficulty particularly during peak hours. Government has decided to modernize Delhi and Mumbai airports through public private partnership to develop them as world class airports. A decision has also been taken to develop tentatively selected 25 non-metro airports focusing on airside and city side development to world class standards. To strengthen the airport infrastructure, private sector is being encouraged to promote Greenfield airports and complement the efforts of AAI in the development of airport infrastructure in the country. Government has already approved setting up of Greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad, Devanahalli near Bangalore and Mopa in Goa. Government has approved extension & modification of Terminal-IB at Mumbai airport and modification of Terminal-IB at Delhi Airport. Extension and renovation of Terminal-2B at Mumbai Airport has also been approved. Steps such as introduction of Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) for smooth check-in, introduction of Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM), provision of high speed taxi-ways, parallel taxi-ways and runways are also planned at Delhi and Mumbai to expand airside capacity and terminal facilities.

*[Translation]*

**Military Exercises**

*212. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has reached an understanding with China for undertaking military exercises in view of increasing number of terrorist incidents;

(b) if so, the time by which the said military exercise is likely to start;

(c) the names of the countries with whom armed forces joint exercises are proposed to be conducted in the near future;

(d) whether Indian Army has provided any training to the foreign soldiers during 2004-2005; and

(e) if so, the number of soldiers trained during the said period, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e) At present there is no understanding with China for any joint military exercises. Our armed forces propose to conduct joint exercises with the following countries till December, 2005:

**Army:** Singapore, USA and Russia.

**Navy:** Exercises with navies of USA, Russia, France, Australia, Singapore, Oman and UK are conducted regularly. In addition a consortium of nations under the Western Pacific Nations Symposium (WPNS), comprising Australia, New Zealand, Canada, US, Singapore, Japan, Russia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, France and India are also scheduled to participate in basic sea exercises being

planned to be conducted off Singapore post International maritime Defence Exhibition 05 (IMDEX 05).

Air Force: France and USA.

Coast Guard: Seychelles, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Oman, Iran, Japan, South Korea and Maldives.

The country wise details of the foreign soldiers trained by Indian Army during 2004-2005 are given below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Australia | — | 1 |
| Bangladesh | — | 10 |
| Bhutan | — | 258 |
| Botswana | — | 26 |
| Cambodia | — | 4 |
| France | — | 3 |
| Ghana | — | 3 |
| Indonesia | — | 3 |
| Kazakhstan | — | 6 |
| Kenya | — | 8 |
| Korea | — | 1 |
| Kyrgyzstan | — | 2 |
| Laos | — | 2 |
| Lesotho | — | 3 |
| Malaysia | — | 4 |
| Maldives | — | 75 |
| Mauritius | — | 14 |
| Mongolia | — | 1 |
| Myanmar | — | 21 |
| Nigeria | — | 8 |
| Nepal | — | 146 |
| Oman | — | 1 |
| Seychelles | — | 4 |
| Singapore | — | 6 |
| South Africa | — | 1 |
| Sri Lanka | — | 900 |
| Syria | — | 1 |
| Tajikistan | — | 26 |
| Tanzania | — | 4 |
| Thailand | — | 1 |
| Uganda | — | 3 |
| UK | — | 4 |
| USA | — | 8 |
| Uzbekistan | — | 2 |
| UAE | — | 2 |
| Vietnam | — | 11 |
| Total | — | 1573 |

*[English]*

**Diplomatic Initiatives to Secure Oil and Gas**

*213. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started diplomatic initiatives to secure oil and gas from Gulf, Russia and Africa as reported in the *Indian Express* dated January 20, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has held talks with the oil providing countries in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Given the increasing gap between demand and domestic availability of crude oil, besides taking appropriate measures to accelerate exploratory activities for enhancing domestic oil and gas production, it has become essential for our energy security to step up efforts overseas in search of equity oil and supplementary sources of oil and gas.

Towards this end, and in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), as well as other national oil companies such as IOC, OIL, and GAIL, have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil abroad, as well as the acquisition abroad of oil and gas exploration acreages and producing properties. These

companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Qatar and Egypt.

OVL, in association with other oil sector PSUs, is aggressively scouting for E&P opportunities in countries such as Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Yemen, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Angola, Cuba, Sierra Leone and Ecuador in addition to efforts to acquire more E&P assets in the countries where it is operating currently.

For extending guidance and advice to the Indian oil companies in their efforts to acquire equity oil abroad, Government have constituted an Advisory Committee on Oil Diplomacy for Energy Security comprising experts with specialized knowledge of the countries and regions with whom the oil companies are expected to interact.

(b) and (c) Discussions about possible areas of collaboration between India and Russia have been held at ministerial, official and commercial levels, and the progress has been encouraging.

Besides, negotiations have been opened with Iran for the supply of natural gas by pipeline through Pakistan. A trilateral Ministerial meeting in Yangon in January, 2005 agreed in principle on the import of gas from Myanmar to India through Bangladesh.

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

*214. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Task Force on bringing all the Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Panchayati Raj Institutions;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Task Force;

(c) whether the Government has accepted and implemented these recommendations;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for the delay and the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Union Government has not set up any Task Force under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on bringing all Centrally Sponsored Schemes under Panchayati Raj Institutions. However, a Task Force of officials in charge of Panchayati Raj in the States was constituted with Secretary (Panchayati Raj) Government of Karnataka as Convenor in pursuance of a decision taken in the fifth Round Table Conference of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Srinagar on 28-29 October, 2004. The objective of the Task Force was to examine the Centrally Sponsored Schemes as these are currently being implemented in the States in the context of the role these schemes provide to the PRIs in planning and implementation of these schemes in accordance with the provisions of Part-IX of the Constitution and the State Legislations on Panchayati Raj. The recommendations of the Task Force were presented to the State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj during the seventh Round Table Conference held at Jaipur and were unanimously adopted by the Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj in the States.

(b) The main recommendations of the Task Force are as under:

(i) Every State ought to undertake Activity Mapping in the manner agreed and this ought to be the necessary pre-condition to its seeking Centrally Sponsored Schemes reform. This Activity Mapping should set out not only what the three tiers ought to do, but also what the State will and will not do. It is further suggested that each Ministry of the Government of India also ought to undertake an Activity Mapping exercise that clearly sets out, in accordance with subsidiary principle, what they need to do at their level and leave out what they need not do, which can be done at the State or Panchayat level.

(ii) Once Central Ministries undertake Activity Mapping (which can be through a consultative exercise) they are ideally placed in modifying individual scheme guidelines to be in tune with their Activity Mapping and those of the States.

(iii) Departments ought to broadly accept a threshold of allocation, below which a scheme need not exist. Initiatives of Central Departments in simplifying and rationalising the scheme will improve the process of plan formation, implementation and monitoring.

(iv) All parallel bodies created by, or through the scheme conditionalities of CSSs ought to be wound up.

(v) Safeguards may be put in place to ensure that money does reach the Panchayats promptly and is not delayed or diverted.

(vi) For putting in place baseline standard accounting and auditing, the directions made during the sixth Round Table at Guwahati be pursued within a specific time frame.

(vii) One pre-condition for the reform of CSSs should be that the Centre insist on a legal and administrative framework for holding Panchayats to account for transparency and for full and voluntary disclosure of information.

(viii) A good monitoring system should be in place for making evaluation a part of the daily routine. For this purpose Task Force recommend advising prompt, web-based monitoring of performance of Panchayats down to the village level.

(ix) An exercise should be undertaken to explore whether there can be cross conversion amongst the "Big 18" schemes and additional Central Assistance Schemes.

(c) to (e) These recommendations have to be implemented by the State Governments. The Union Government will provide all assistance to the States in implementing these recommendations. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj will be initiating a process of meetings and visits to the States/UTs to review progress in implementing these recommendations by the States/UTs. These steps will continue through 2005-06 and subsequent years with sectoral conferences and visits to State/UT.

*[Translation]*

**Oil Conservation**

*215. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association (PCRA) and other organizations have launched a campaign to propagate the importance of oil conservation among the masses;

(b) if so, the number of States where this campaign has been launched or is likely to be launched;

(c) the outcome of this campaign so far and the total expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and as on date;

(d) the effective measures taken by the Government to promote the use of bio-diesel and vegetable oil/animal fat mixed fuel for vehicles; and

(e) the total areas of land utilized so far by the Government in the country for manufacturing bio-diesel as on date?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has been actively engaged in creating awareness regarding the importance of oil conservation among consumers through various media, viz. newspapers, magazines, outdoor hoardings and electronic media, PCRA also carries out extensive campaigning during 'Oil and Gas Conservation Fortnight', celebrated during the 2nd fortnight of January every year.

PCRA has been covering the entire country through different media instruments. The total expenditure incurred by PCRA on various activities during the last three years is as follows:

| Year | Amount (Rs. in Crores) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 8.67 |
| 2002-03 | 5.90 |
| 2003-04 | 9.78 |
| 2004-05 | 9.00 (Provisional) |

(d) and (e) Government are promoting a policy of part-substitution of fossil fuels by bio-fuels like bio-diesel, which is made from vegetable oil/fats through trans-esterification. Under instructions from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the Oil Marketing Companies in the public sector, field trials using bio-diesel and diesel blend in buses are in progress in collaboration with Haryana Roadways and the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST), Mumbai. Field trials and engine tests on locomotives are also in progress. At present however, there is no ready domestic market for bio-diesel in India since bio-diesel based on readily available feed-stocks cost much more than diesel. It is recognized however that if larger availability of bio-diesel can be ensured, commercial use of bio-diesel-blended diesel can be a

possibility in future. A commercial beginning has been made in Gujarat in using bio-diesel in the buses of the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation.

The Planning Commission had set up a Committee on Development of Bio-fuel which recommended the launching of a National Mission on Bio-diesel with special focus on the plantation of Jatropha Curcas. The Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal Ministry for the National Mission on Bio-diesel and the Ministry has recently got a Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the Energy and Research Institute (TERI). The DPR *inter alia* envisages plantation of Jatropha Curcus over 4 lakh hectares in different States.

**New Scheme for Disabled Children**

*216. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared or proposed to prepare any new scheme to provide free treatment and livelihood to the children suffering from physical, mental disabilities and deaf-muteness or any other disabilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Free treatment is provided to all persons including the children with disabilities in Government Hospitals. The National Trust for Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities is providing financial support to families who are willing to look after the health and livelihood needs of destitute and abandoned children with severe mental and multiple disabilities. The details of the scheme are available on the website of the National Trust (www.nationaltrust.org.in)

*[English]*

**Setting up of a Amphibious Warfare Training School**

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

(a) whether the recent Tsunami relief operations underlined the need for quick and joint action between the Armed Forces and for forging the spirit of coordination among the armed forces;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to set up a new Amphibious Warfare Training School for forging closer ties among the Army, Navy and Air Force in training and operations;

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

(e) the time by which the same is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In November, 2001 Government set up Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff to bring about synergy and jointness among the three Services. The Tsunami relief operations were effectively and jointly executed by the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard in close coordination through Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) operating in the Ministry of Defence. The operations by the Armed Forces won national and international acclaim.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for setting up of a new Amphibious Warfare Training School. However, there is a 'Joint Amphibious Warfare Cell' at HQ IDS for amphibious warfare related training and inter-services operations.

**Pipelines Projects**

*218. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) have incurred a huge loss of more than Rs. 10,000 crore on various pipelines projects/schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in one of their Petro-Chemicals unit, explosive items like Plastic Polymer and Waste-Wax worth crores have been found;

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has been ordered into the matter; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Funds under 'Integrated Programme for Older Persons'**

*219. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of older persons is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the details of services being provided to older persons;

(c) the reasons for allocating a meager sum of Rs. 18.79 crore under the scheme an "Integrated Programme for Older Persons" for 2004-05;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enhance the allocation for older persons programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is providing financial assistance under its two grant in aid schemes for the welfare of the elderly to Non-Governmental Organisations working in the field of welfare of older persons. The details are as below:—

(i) Scheme of "Integrated Programme for Older Persons", through which financial assistance up to 90% of the project cost is provided to NGOs for establishing and maintaining old age homes, day care centres, mobile Medicare units and to provide non-institutional services to older persons. 863 old age homes/day care centres, mobile Medicare units and non-institutional service centres are operational under the scheme since its inception.

(ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self-Help Groups for construction of old age homes/multi-service centers for older persons under which funds are provided for one time construction grant for old age homes/multi-service centers to Registered societies, public trusts, Companies registered under Section 25 of the Companies Act, registered Self-help Groups of Older Persons and Panchayati Raj Institutions. Since its inception (1996-97), 45 old age homes have been constructed in different parts of the country under the scheme.

(c) The budget of Rs. 18.79 crore for 2004-05 is sufficient to provide financial assistance to run the projects of old age homes, day care centres, mobile Medicare units and non-institutional service centers under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The budget allocation under the scheme is constantly increasing every year. During the last financial year 2003-04 the budget allocation was Rs. 17.80 crore, for the current financial year it is Rs. 18.79 crore and it is proposed to increase it to Rs. 24.05 crore during the next financial year 2005-06.

(f) Does not arise.

**Task Force on Crime In Trains/Stations**

*220. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:
SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways has set up any task force to curb the increasing crime and incidents of violence in trains and at railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the area of its jurisdiction;

(c) whether the railway has identified the most sensitive crime/violence prone areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to Entry No. 2 of the State List of the Constitution of India, 'Police' (including Railways and village Police), is a State subject.

Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore, the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police have a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Prevention and detection of crime is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments, and as such, Ministry of Railways has to depend largely on them for control of crime over Railways.

However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended to enable the Railways, through the RPF, to effectively supplement the efforts of the Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The Railway Protection Force staff are being deployed to escort many trains and deployed in the passenger area to augment the efforts of the State Governments. RPF has also been empowered to deal with the minor offences affecting the train operations such as Alarm chain pulling, roof travel, touting, ticket less travel, unauthorized entry etc. (except Sabotage related offences under Sections 150 to 152) amending the Railways Act w.e.f. July 2004. The objective was to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more man power and time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

From July 2004, Railway Protection Force has been providing daily, on an average 1,217 escort parties in co-ordination with the State Governments, in affected trains over the Indian Railways for which an average of 3,712 staff are deployed. In addition, 480 stations on an average are given additional security by Railway Protection Force with deployment of 2,705 personnel. The offenders apprehended by RPF staff are forwarded to the concerned Government Railway Police with detailed report regarding the offence for registration of cases and further legal action. The entire Railway system is thus covered by the Railway Protection Force and the State Police.

(c) and (d) Crime on the Railways being fluid, particular trains or sections cannot be pin-pointed. However, the crime figures of 2003 and 2004 indicate that the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are affected by murder and attempt to murder in trains; the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are affected by murders and attempt to murders in the Railway premises. With regards to dacoity, the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and West Bengal happen to be more affected. The States of Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are affected by robberies. As for the crimes of kidnapping and abduction, the States of Bihar and West Bengal are affected. The theft of passengers' belongings is most prominent in the States of Maharashtra, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi.

(e) The position in the sections, trains and stations affected by crime is periodically reviewed in the co-ordination meetings held by the officers of the Railways with the State Police. In these Meetings, the situation is reviewed and remedial measures taken accordingly. The deployment of staff is modified depending upon the situation and trains from time to time. Whenever there is a flare-up of violent incidents in any section, all-out efforts are made in co-ordination with the State Police to control the situation, by actively assisting them with additional man power and other resources. In addition to have better liaison, mobility and co-ordination in effectively supplementing the efforts of State Governments in controlling crime, the Railway Protection Force has been equipped with additional road vehicles; communication equipments and compact & effective weapons (5.56 mm INSAS rifles, carbines and pistols).

**Government Servant's Status of Unit Run Canteen Employees**

2184. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has completed wide ranging discussions on the implementation of the Supreme Court's judgment dated January 4, 2001 wherein the Apex Court has given Government servant's status to Unit Run Canteen Employees;

(b) whether the Government was also directed to frame service rules for them within six months from the date of judgment;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the Government intends to issue notification in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Government has implemented the Supreme Court's judgement dated January 4, 2001.

(b) The Supreme Court directed the Government to determine the service conditions of the employees in the Unit-Run-Canteens at an early date, preferably within six months from the date of judgement.

(c) The Government has already framed and issued the rules regulating the terms and conditions of service of civilian employees of Unit-run-canteen paid out of non public fund.

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

**Nair Committee on CPSUs**

2185. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether T.K.A. Nair Committee had made several suggestions for toning up the managements of the Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, broad features thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) T.K.A. Nair Committee, which was set up in October, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Shri T.K.A. Nair, the then Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) had reviewed 299 BPE/DPE guidelines issued over a period of time to the Central Public Sector Enterprises and made similar number of recommendations for consideration of the Government. Nair Committee had made following recommendations.

(i) 164 guidelines may be retained.

(ii) 72 guidelines may be deleted.

(iii) 11 guidelines may be removed from compendium of DPE.

(iv) 52 may be modified/merged (7 may be modified, 27 may be merged and 18 may be modified & merged).

(c) Government has taken action for deletion of 66 and removal of 11 guidelines from the compendium of DPE. Of the 52 guidelines, action has been completed in respect of 30 and merger/modification of remaining 22 guideiines is being pursued in consultation with other concerned Ministries/Departments.

**Gas Cracker Project**

2186. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finally cleared the Gas Cracker Project of Assam and decided to hand it over to the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) if so, the details of the project and the terms of the agreement, indicating also the financial implications, the sources of feed stock and the cost overrun suffered by the project owing to the delay; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

**Privatisation of Defence Project**

2187. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to privatise the defence projects and ordnance factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-limit has been fixed to execute the decision of privatisation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Production Capacity of Bharat Dynamic Ltd.**

2188. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Component Production Division of Bharat Dynamics Ltd. is lying idle since March, 2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to put the said Division in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. One of Component Production Division of Bharat Dynamics Ltd. is having idle capacity since March, 2004.

(b) This Component Production Division is engaged in production of specialised components whose requirement has been reduced.

(c) Bharat Dynamics Ltd. has taken steps to partially engage the staff of this Component Production Division by undertaking a few job orders wherever it has been technically feasible.

*[Translation]*

**Refreshment Amount under NCC**

2189. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per student amount fixed for refreshment under NCC scheme being run by the various schools and colleges in the country;

(b) whether this amount is sufficient;

(c) the manner in which the Government ensures that the refreshment of the fixed amount is distributed among the students;

(d) whether the Government has received some complaints that a number of schools and colleges have withdrawn the amount meant for refreshment and did not distribute it among the students;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) NCC Cadets are authorized refreshment allowance @ Rs. 2/- per parade of 40 minutes.

(b) The rate of refreshment allowance was enhanced from Rupee 1/- per parade to Rupees 2/- per parade on 30.9.1997. The expenditure on refreshment allowance is entirely borne by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations (UTAs). It is for the State Governments/ UTAs for providing higher rate of refreshment allowance, if considered necessary.

(c) All the NCC Directorates have been issued instructions to maintain a proper record of the details of cost of refreshment, number of a parades with dates, number of cadets alongwith their names and signatures.

(d) No such complaints have been received by the Government.

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

**Retail Outlets in Foreign Countries**

2190. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has started its retail outlets in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of retail outlets proposed to be opened in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) have set up retail outlets through subsidiary companies, in Sri Lanka and Mauritius. In Sri Lanka, under the provisions of a Tripartite Agreement executed by Lanka IOC Private Limited (LIOC), Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPC), CPC handed over 100 retail outlets owned by them to LIOC in February 2003. LIOC commenced

commercial operations from these retail outlets from February 2003. Subsequently, LIOC started negotiating with franchise dealers and so far 70 franchisees have joined LIOC's fold, bringing the total tally to 170 retail outlets in the Island. In Mauritius, 2 retail outlets have been set up by IOC's subsidiary company and there is a plan to set up 8 more retail outlets.

In addition to these foreign ventures by IOC, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have bid for a stake in CPC, which is being disinvested by Sri Lankan Government. This bid is towards the offer of CPC for 100 retail outlets and partial rights over one terminating facility in Sri Lanka.

**Railway Engineers Regiment in Jamalpur Rail Factory**

2191. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Railway Engineers Regiment (Territorial Army) was running the emergency services in Jamalpur Rail Factory of Bihar, which has been closed down now;

(b) if so, the reasons behind closing down the Railway Engineers Regiment by the Government;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reopen it; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) 969 Railway Engineers Regiment (Territorial Army), Jamalpur, which is a Defence paid Unit is being converted into non-Railway Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) by the Ministry of Defence.

(c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Railways have requested the Ministry of Defence to re-raise the Regiment as Railway paid at Jamalpur.

(d) Ministry of Defence propose to complete the process of re-raising the Regiment by 31.05.2005.

**Hazira Gas Pipelines in Maharashtra**

2192. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to lay the Hazira gas pipelines in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time fixed by the Government for laying the Hazira gas pipelines in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) GAIL plans to lay the Dahej-Hazira-Uran gas pipeline at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1830 crore. The implementation of the project is dependent upon GAIL achieving adequate upstream sourcing of gas and downstream marketing tie-ups.

**Indian-Malayasia Cooperation in Oil & Gas Sector**

2193. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

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

(a) whether India and Malaysia propose to cooperate in Oil and Natural Gas Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of times dialogue held in this regard and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During call on the Prime Minister of Malaysia by Minister (PNG) in December, 2004 and, subsequently, during the bilateral meeting between the Minister (PNG) and the Minister in Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia, held on the sidelines of the first Round Table of Asian Oil Ministers in January, 2005, both parties agreed to strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Indian Oil and Petronas, Malaysia have signed a Memorandum of Collaboration for mutual cooperation in the areas covering, *inter alia*, crude oil exploration and production, refining, trading, marketing and retailing of products, Research & Development, Training, Consultancy.

A Road show to promote the fifth round of the New Exploration Licensing Policy is being held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21-22 March, 2005 where a number of Exploration & Production (E&P) companies in and around Malaysia are likely to participate.

(c) In all, ten Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings have taken place during 1996-2003. Pursuant to the signing of the MOC between Indian Oil and Petronas a joint venture company under the name "Indian Oil Petronas Limited" was floated for the import, storage and distribution of LPG at Haldia. This facility is presently under operation.

*[English]*

**Shortage of LPG Cylinders**

2194. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of LPG cylinders in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to overcome the situation;

(c) whether Government is aware that Gas Agencies in Gujarat are taking advantage of the situation and are charging more from the customers; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to provide relief to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported any backlog of LPG in Gujarat and say they are meeting the entire demand of LPG customers in full. They have further informed the Ministry that strict scheduling and monitoring of supplies is being done to check possible diversion of LPG to unauthorised uses.

The crackdown on the illegitimate diversion of domestic LPG to unauthorised uses is perhaps causing some disruption by unscrupulous elements but this problem is also being addressed.

(c) and (d) OMCs have not reported any instance of overcharging by LPG distributors in Gujarat during the period April-December, 2004 except one instance where the distributor has been fined as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

**Merger of Secunderabad Cantonment Board with Municipal Corporation**

2195. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to merge Secunderabad Cantonment Board with the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A request was received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh during the years 1999 and 2004. The request of the State Government was considered by the Government and it was not found feasible to merge the Cantonment areas with the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad due to security considerations.

**Rehabilitation of Oustees**

2196. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to bear the cost of rehabilitation and resettlement of affected persons evacuated from the Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Unauthorised construction and occupation outside the boundary wall of the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) within the notified area is a serious issue. Ministry of Defence has taken up the matter with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who has assured all necessary help to the Ministry.

(c) Ministry of Defence has been interacting with the various functionaries of the Andhra Pradesh Government at various levels for early settlement of the issue.

*[Translation]*

**Supply of LPG in Rural Areas**

2197. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to supply LPG in rural areas on cheaper rates; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to supply LPG in rural areas at cheaper rates. Domestic LPG marketed by Public Sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) is subsidized. In addition to the Government subsidy, OMCs are also bearing the bulk of the burden of subsidizing this product. Based on international prices of LPG in February, 2005, the total average subsidy per 14.2 KG LPG cylinder works out to about Rs. 96.20/ cylinder. Domestic LPG, at subsidized rates, is available throughout the country.

*[English]*

**Setting up of Wheel & Axle Plant at Rourkela**

2198. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up a Wheel & Axle Plant at Rourkela in Orissa is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when the proposal is pending; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**LPG Bottling Plants**

2199. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the details of existing LPG bottling plants functioning in the country alongwith the capacity of each plant;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up new LPG bottling plants in the country; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 172 LPG bottling plants in the country as on 1.1.2005 with a total bottling capacity of 7,690 Thousand Metric Tonnes per Annum (TMTPA). The details of individual bottling plants are available with the company concerned.

(b) and (c) Bottling plants are set up by OMCs in terms of their assessment of logistic demand. At present, OMCs have plans to set up 10 new LPG bottling plants as under:—

| State | Location | Capacity (in TMTPA) |
|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | Rajahmundry | 44 |
| Bihar | Patna | 44 |
| Chhattisgarh | Raipur | 44 |
| Gujarat | Rajkot | 44 |
| Maharashtra | Mahul | 88 |
| Maharashtra | Vasai | 10 |
| Manipur | Sekmai | 10 |
| Mizoram | Mualkhang | 5 |
| Tamil Nadu | Ilayangudi | 22 |
| Uttar Pradesh | Loni | 44 |

**Revision of Pay Scales in PSUs**

2200. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a new policy for time-bound revision of the pay scales of employees working in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to fix the pay scales of Central Government employees and employees of Public Sector Undertakings at parity basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Vide guidelines issued on 14.1.1999 and 25.6.1999, the pay scales of employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) were revised with effect from 1.1.1997. According to these guidelines, the next pay revision of employees of CPSUs will become due only on 1.1.2007.

(c) The mode of recruitment, terms and conditions of service as well as the Industrial Dearness Allowance pattern pay scales of the employees in the CPSUs are altogether on different footing as compared to these aspects for functionaries in the Central Government in variious posts.

**Construction of Coastal Highway**

2201. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had received any proposal from the Government of Orissa for construction of Coastal highway from Balasore to Berhampur to connect the defence establishments;

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

(c) the progress made so far for acquisition of land by the State Government in the matter; and

(d) the estimated cost of the said project and funds provided by the Government therefor, so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No such request has been received by the Ministry of Defence from Government of Orissa.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Joint Venture Power Projects**

2202. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure to be incurred on the joint venture power projects of the Ministry of Railways and NTPC;

(b) the details regarding the approximate annual savings to the Railways from these projects; and

(c) the cost of the electricity procured by the Railways from NTPC during each of the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Rs. 5190 crore (Non mega status-IVth quarter 2003 price level) as cleared by Public Investment Board (PIB) on 13.2.2004.

(b) Annual saving of about Rs. 400 crore (approx.) is anticipated on commissioning of this project on the basis of the current level of traffic and electric traction tariff.

(c) Details in respect of cost of the electricity procured directly by the Railways from National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) during the last three years are as under:—

| Year | Average Unit Cost (in Rs.) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2.60 |
| 2002-03 | 2.61 |
| 2003-04 | 2.50 |

**Indigenous Production of BCMS**

2203. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Questions No. 4125 dated April 10, 2003 regarding setting up ordnance factory at Rajgir and state:

(a) whether the transfer of Technology from M/s. Somchem, South Africa for manufacture of BMCS (Bi-Modular Charge System) at Ordnance Factory, Rajgir has been completed;

(b) if so, whether indigenous production of BMCS has been started;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be started;

(d) whether full payment to Transfer of Technology charges has been made to M/s. Somchem; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir. Technical documents have been received and OFB personnel have been trained at

Somchem South Africa as part of the contract. The firm is required to render required assistance at the time of establishment of production, as a part of the contract.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Considering present status of the project, commencement of production is expected by November, 2007.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An amount of 11.192 million US dollars (equivalent to Rs. 53.43 crore) was released on 28.3.2003. Further, an amount of 2.798 million US dollars (equivalent to Rs. 12.72 crore) was released on 28.10.2003. The total amount paid therefore is 13.99 million US dollars, equivalent to Rs. 66.15 crore.

*[Translation]*

**Installation of Electronic Punching Clock**

2204. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to install electronic punching clock in all Ordnance Factories;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Electronic Attendance Recording System (EARS) has already been installed in 16 Ordnance factories. Further, purchase orders for EARS for 17 factories have been placed which are in different stages of supply/ installation. For remaining 6 factories, the cases for procurement are being processed.

(c) Expenditure involved for installation of the system is likely to be Rs. 14.71 Crore.

*[English]*

**Stolen Defence Data**

2205. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some computers and a multi-function device containing defence forces data were recently stolen from the Aerial Defence Research and Development Establishment, Agra;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken against the persons held responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) One laptop and one computer alongwith computer peripherals were stolen from Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra, on the night of 25/26 February, 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The inquiry established that the computer was being used for accessing Internet and the laptop for accessing Intranet and that there is no loss of any classified data.

(d) The Inquiry Officer has recommended actions to be taken against the defaulting officials.

**Oil Field in Qatar**

2206. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether OVL has got a oil field in Qatar recently as reported in the Times of India dated March, 3, 2005;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the terms and conditions of said contract thereof;

(c) the estimated reserves in the said oil field in Qatar; and

(d) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and the estimated earnings therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) have won the bid for the Najwat Najam Oil structure offshore Qatar and an Appraisal, Development and Production Sharing Agreement (ADPSA) in this regard

has been signed with Qatar Petroleum, the state oil company of the country, on 2.3.2005, which is subject to ratification by the Qatar Government.

(c) and (d) OVL will be the 100% stake holder in the block and, as the Operator will spend approximately US $ 15.5 million during the appraisal/delineation phase of the project.

As the project is at the appraisal/delineation phase, the reserves of the block as well as likely earnings from the project cannot be immediately estimated but the prognostications are encouraging.

**Social Awareness Programmes**

2207. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is educating general masses about its various welfare schemes by broadcasting radio programmes not only in Hindi but in other regional languages also;

(b) if so, whether such programmes are not being broadcast in the Northern States; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures being taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes Sir. Government is educating general masses by broadcasting radio programme in Hindi and other regional languages.

(b) No Sir. Radio programme is being broadcast on All India basis.

(c) Does not arise.

**World Bank Assistance for Rail Bridges**

2208. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought World Bank assistance for rail bridge projects including bridges over the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers;

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

(c) whether some of the projects have been delayed due to decline of help from World Bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had posed the project of a Rail-cum-Road Bridge over river Ganga at Munger (Bihar) at a cost of US$ 180 million to World Bank for funding.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Rake Points for Transportation of Fertilizers**

2209. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase the number of rake points for proper transportation of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government will accord sanction of rake points in commensurate with the demand; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Hydrographic Survey in Kankesanturai**

2210. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from Sri Lanka for conducting hydrographic survey in Kankesanturai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Indian Navy was providing post-Tsunami relief measures in Sri Lanka. Government of Sri Lanka requested the Government of India for a hydrographic survey of Kankesanturai harbour due to hydrological changes that had occurred as a result of the Tsunami. Indian Navy has conducted this survey and the results of the survey have been handed over to the Sri Lankan Navy.

**Methane in Abandoned Coal Mines**

2211. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge quantity of unexplored methane gas in abandoned coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government had conducted any technical and economic feasibility study in this regard;

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

(d) whether the Government has explored the possibilities of generating power by utilizing surplus methane in abandoned coal mines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Methane in known to occur in abandoned coal mines; however, because unstowed underground mines having large spatial extant are limited in nature, a systematic assessment of abandoned mine methane to establish the recoverable resource base, would first have to be undertaken. This falls in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Coal.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (d) above.

*[Translation]*

**Maintenance of Ajanta and Ellora Paintings**

2212. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has commenced work on Phase-II of Ajanta-Ellora scheme;

(b) if so, whether some Advisors have been appointed for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any agreement regarding maintenance of old paintings of Ajanta and Ellora has been signed between India and Italy;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the basis of agreement reached in this regard between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. ASI has commenced work on Phase-II of Ajanta-Ellora scheme.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism and Govt. of India have appointed the Association of Pacific Consultants International (PCI) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) as Project Management Consultants for Ajanta Ellora conservation and Tourism Development Project (Phase II).

(d) Yes, Sir. An MoU for the conservation of paintings of the Ajanta and Ellora caves has been signed on February 14, 2005 between India and Italy.

(e) and (f) After the initial visit of Italian Minister of Cultural Heritage and Activities to India in January, 2003 a team of Italian experts visited the Ajanta & Ellora Caves in January, 2005. Based on the proposal of Italian Government, an MoU has been signed between Italy and India on Cooperation for the Conservation of the Paintings of the Ajanta and Ellora Caves in February, 2005.

**Expenditure Incurred on Railway Police**

2213. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount payable to the Government of Madhya Pradesh on account of expenditure incurred by the State Government on Railway Police as on date; and

(b) the steps taken for early payment of outstanding amount to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Bills amounting to Rs. 7.26 crore pertaining to the State of Madhya Pradesh on account of expenditure incurred by the State Government on Railway Police are outstanding on date. This includes a bill of Rs. 3.93 crore received on 7.3.2005. The remaining amount is outstanding for want of Accountant General (AG)'s Certificate and operation of unsanctioned posts by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills after necessary internal check.

**Telecasting Rights of Indo-Pak Cricket Series**

2214. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has got the rights of live telecasting of ensuing Indo-Pak cricket series;

(b) if so, the arrangements made by DD for live telecast of said series;

(c) the total amount Doordarshan has to pay to BCCI;

(d) the revenue likely to be earned by the DD through advertisements during this series;

(e) whether the Doordarshan has decided to reduce the advertisement rates for the Indo-Pak cricket series; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In compliance of the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in writ petition No. 4120 of 2005 titled Zee Tele Films Vs. BCCI & others, Doordarshan is telecasting India-Pakistan Cricket Series-2005 on DD-National and DD-Sports Channel.

(c) Prasar Bharati has offered to pay a sum of Rs. 94.50 crores to BCCI.

(d) Revenue expected to be earned is over Rs. 100 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

**Declaration of Monuments as Centrally Protected Monuments**

2215. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by various State Governments to declare some monuments as centrally protected monuments during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the details of the monuments declared as centrally protected monuments alongwith funds allocated for their development during the said period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give publicity to these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No such proposal has been received from any State Government during the last one year.

(b) There are 3656 centrally protected monuments (State-wise list annexed). For their conservation, preservation and environment development, an expenditure of Rs. 3696.99 lakhs under Plan and Rs. 4580.99 lakhs under Non-Plan has been incurred during the year 2004-05 upto Feb. 2005. A statement is enclosed.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India brings out guide-books, brouchers and handouts on the important monuments and archaeological sites which attract large number of visitors. Besides signboards highlighting the significance of the monuments are installed at several monuments/sites.

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India also brings out numerous informative brouchers and CD roms on World Heritage Sites and other monuments of national importance.

***Statement***

*List of Centrally Protected Monuments under Archaeological Survey of India (circle-wise)*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Circles | No. of Monuments | Name of the State(s) covered | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| 1. | Agra | 264 | Uttar Pradesh | 264 |
| 2. | Aurangabad | 286 | Maharashtra | 286 |
| 3. | Bangalore | 207 | Karnataka | 207 |
| 4. | Bhopal | 287 | Madhya Pradesh | 287 |
| 5. | Bhubaneswar | 79 | Orissa | 79 |
| 6. | Calcutta | 134 | West Bengal | 131 |
| | | | Sikkim | 3 |
| 7. | Chandigarh | 161 | Haryana | 90 |
| | | | Himachal Pradesh | 40 |
| | | | Punjab | 31 |
| 8. | Chennai | 415 | Tamil Nadu | 408 |
| | | | Pondicherry (U.T.) | 7 |
| 9. | Dharwad | 300 | Karnataka | 300 |
| 10. | Dehradun | 44 | Uttaranchal | 44 |
| 11. | Delhi | 171 | Delhi | 171 |
| 12. | Goa (Mini-circle) | 21 | Goa | 21 |
| 13. | Guwahati | 72 | Assam | 49 |
| | | | Arunachal Pradesh | 5 |
| | | | Manipur | 1 |
| | | | Meghalaya | 8 |
| | | | Nagaland | 4 |
| | | | Tripura | 5 |
| 14. | Hyderabad | 136 | Andhra Pradesh | 136 |
| 15. | Jaipur | 160 | Rajasthan | 160 |
| 16. | Lucknow | 367 | Uttar Pradesh | 367 |
| 17. | Patna | 176 | Bihar | 65 |
| | | | Uttar Pradesh | 111 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Srinagar | 69 | Jammu & Kashmir | 69 |
| 19. | Raipur | 47 | Chhattisgarh | 47 |
| 20. | Ranchi | 12 | Jharkhand | 12 |
| 21. | Thrissur | 34 | Kerala | 26 |
| | | | Tamil Nadu | 8 |
| 22. | Vadodara | 214 | Gujarat | 202 |
| | | | Daman & Diu | 12 |
| | Total | 3656 | | 3656 |

*[English]*

**Construction of Over Bridges in Kerala**

2216. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of over bridges in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which these over bridges are scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) At present there are 49 works of Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the State of Kerala. Additional 3 more works have been included in the Railway Budget 2005-06. Out of above 49 works, for 30 works General Arrangement Drawings (GAD) and Estimates are under preparation/finalization. Remaining 19 works are in progress and same are in various stages of execution. In preceding two years *i.e.* 2002-03 & 2003-04, six works of ROBs taken up on cost sharing basis have been completed and out of 3 works targeted in current year *i.e.* 2004-05, one work has been completed upto Jan'05 in the State of Kerala. Incidentally 20 works of complete ROBs (both Railway portion and approaches) were given to Roads and Building Development Corporation, Kerala (RBDCK) in 2001 out of which only 5 works have been completed. Railways construct bridge proper (across the tracks) and approaches are constructed by the State Government concerned. Hence, completion of words depends upon completion of both works of bridge proper as well as of approaches. All out efforts are made by Railway to complete their portion of work simultaneously with the work of approaches by the State Government.

**Subsidy on Diesel**

2217. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy on the diesel supplied to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The prices of diesel are uniform for different sections of society throughout the country and no subsidy on diesel is provided for from the Union budget.

As regards subsidy to farmers using diesel pumps, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DOAC) have a capital subsidy scheme to provide subsidies to small and marginal farmers for the procurement of pump sets. Under the scheme, a capital subsidy on the purchase of pump sets is provided.

**Production Sharing Contract between ONGC and Cairon Energy**

2218. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether there is any difference between ONGC and Cairon Energy for their production sharing contract in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether under the agreement, ONGC is losing US$ 340 million; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Government of India have a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with M/s. Cairn Energy (acting through its two subsidiaries) and ONGC for block RJ-ON-90/1 falling in the Barmer district of Rajasthan.

The PSC provides for the rights and obligations of the respective parties viz. Government, ONGC and Cairn Energy. As per the provisions of the PSC, ONGC, being the licensee, has the liability to pay royalty and other charges levied in accordance with the Oilfield (Regulation and Development Act), 1948 and the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time.

Cairn Energy and ONGC are reported to be having some differences on the liability for the cess levied under the Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974, on crude oil under the PSC. In this regard, the position of the Government has been made clear after getting an opinion from the Ministry of Law. In terms of their legal opinion, the liability for cess on crude oil is of the producer, which, under the PSC, is the contractor. There is no provision under the PSC by which liability for the cess can be passed to the licensee *i.e.* ONGC.

**Supply of CNG**

2219. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the public sector oil and gas companies have drawn up plans for supply of CNG in all major cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time frame within which the CNG would be made available in major cities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) At present, apart from Delhi and Mumbai, CNG is also being supplied in a limited way in Vadodara, Surat, Bharuch, Ankleshwar and Gandhinagar. It is proposed to expand the CNG network in Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Noida, Gaziabad and Bareilly in U.P.; Gurgaon and Faridabad in Haryana; Pune, Navi Mumbai and Thane in Maharashtra, Vijaywada in Andhra Pradesh and Ahmedabad in Gujarat, in a phased manner. CNG will be progressively introduced in other cities with the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure and the increased availability of natural gas.

**National Policy on Aerospace**

2220. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to formulate a National Policy on Aerospace activities;

(b) if so, the main objectives of such policy; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Establishment of Petrochemical Complex and Special Economic Zone in Gujarat**

2221. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has signed a MoU with Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) to establish a Petrochemical Complex and Special Economic Zone at Dahej in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be established and become functional?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In addition to concentrating on its areas of core competence, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) are exploring various options for diversification by forward and backward integration. In this context, ONGC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) for setting up a Special Economic Zone at Dahej to facilitate the development of the required infrastructure for ONGC's value added projects which are at the concept stage.

No MOU has been signed with GIDC by ONGC for setting up any petrochemical complex at Dahej.

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of Auditorium**

2222. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications/proposals received by the Union Government since July, 2004 till date for setting up of auditoriums in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the applications/proposals out of them approved by the Government along with the amount sanctioned;

(c) the details of the applications out of them rejected along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the future schemes for which applications/proposals are to be called for by the Union Government and the amount proposed to be earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Ministry of Culture in the Government of India has been operating a Scheme for Building Grants to Cultural Organizations. The Ministry received 779 applications/proposals from Voluntary Cultural Organizations for construction of buildings/auditoriums and purchase of equipments routed through State Government/ U.T. Administration including 68 applications/proposals from Uttar Pradesh. Out of total 779 applications/proposals received from all States/U.T. Administrations 224 proposals, including 9 proposals from Uttar Pradesh, amounting Rs. 7,86,09,000/- have been approved for construction of building and purchase of equipments during current financial year *i.e.* 2004-05. The remaining proposals were scrutinized by an Expert Committee constituted for this purpose, but were not considered in the current year, for various reasons such as lack of complete documents or non fulfilment of the requirements of the Scheme.

The scheme is annually advertised inviting applications/proposals from Voluntary Cultural Organizations through their State Government/U.T. Administration for grant. Ministry of Culture has proposed a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores to be earmarked for this Scheme for the year 2005-06.

*[English]*

**Shifting of Railway Workshops from Kazipet**

2223. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to shift all the railway workshops from Kazipet to other regions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There are no Railway workshops at Kazipet. There are, however, locomotive sheds at Kazipet. There is no proposal to shift the locomotive sheds of Kazipet to other regions.

(b) Does not arise.

**Subsidy to Private Sector for Sale of LPG**

2224. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to give subsidy to private sector industries and GAIL for sale of LPG to domestic households;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility will be available to the entrants in marketing of petroleum products;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the estimated customers likely to be covered by these private companies and the estimated amount of subsidy Government is likely to give to them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration.

**Institutions, Schools/Hostels for Mentally Retarded Children**

2225. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) the number of recognized institutions, schools and hostels for rehabilitation and training of Mentally Retarded Children, State-wise;

(b) the number out of them aided by the Ministry under the scheme of assistance to organizations for disabled persons and the amount of grant-in-aid given to such Institutions during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the number of pending applications in this regard, particularly from Kerala;

(d) whether the Government is considering to enhance the grant-in-aid to Non-Government Organizations in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to associate these children with normal Government schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Under section 52 of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, certificate of registration is granted to establish or maintain institutions for persons with disabilities including Mentally Retarded Children by the competent authority designated by the State Governments. Details of certificate of registration granted are maintained by the respective State Governments.

Under section 12 of the National Trust for welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999, the National Trust also register associations/associations of parents of persons with disability, voluntary organisations, etc. The National Trust has so far recognized/registered 592 institutions, etc. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The number of organisations and financial assistance given for running various projects for Mentally Retarded Children during the last three years and the current year under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) of the Ministry and under Establishment of Relief Institutions Scheme of National Trust, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Applications are received upto 30th September of every financial year and are considered by the Screening Committee for funding during the year. No applications received upto 30th September 2004 is pending for consideration by the Screening Committee under DDRS. Under Establishment of Relief Institutions scheme of National Trust, applications are pending. However, none of them is from Kerala.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Ministry is supporting Special Schools for Mentally Retarded children under DDRS with the end-objective of bringing about varying degrees of improvement in their lives ranging from acquiring skills as basic as activities of daily living to their integration into regular institutions of learning and society in general.

***Statement I***

*Institution, School and Hostels Recognized by the National Trust for Rehabilitation and Training of Mentally retarded Children*

| S.No. | States/UTs | Number of Schools/ Institutions recognized |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 54 |
| 2. | Assam | 13 |
| 3. | Bihar | 21 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 6 |
| 6. | Daman & Diu | 1 |
| 7. | Delhi | 25 |
| 8. | Goa | 3 |
| 9. | Gujarat | 40 |
| 10. | Haryana | 12 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 5 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 6 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 32 |
| 14. | Kerala | 58 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 28 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 34 |
| 17. | Manipur | 13 |
| 18. | Meghalaya | 2 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 1 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 1 |
| 21. | Orissa | 33 |
| 22. | Pondicherry | 2 |
| 23. | Punjab | 12 |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 24 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 1 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 60 |
| 27. | Tripura | 3 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 46 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 4 |
| 30. | West Bengal | 50 |
| | Total | 592 |

***Statement-II***

State/UT-wise details of number of organisations and financial assistance provided to them during last three years and current year (i.e. upto 14.3.2005) under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme

State/UT-wise details of organisation and financial assistance provided to them during last three years and current year by National Trust for Welfare of Persons with autism, C.P., Mr. And Multiple Disabilities, Under its scheme establishment of relief institutions

| State | 2001-2002 | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | | 2001-2002 | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) | No. of Org. | Amount Released (Rs. In lakhs) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 69 | 566.12 | 79 | 970.20 | 74 | 780.97 | 70 | 704.49 | 5 | 40.52 | 2 | 17.87 | 1 | 7.51 | 7 | 29.48 |
| Assam | 4 | 18.93 | 4 | 17.23 | 3 | 13.45 | 2 | 1.97 | 1 | 6.8 | 1 | 9.98 | - | - | 2 | 3.62 |
| Bihar | 8 | 92.04 | 7 | 86.08 | 8 | 58.23 | 8 | 60.99 | 2 | 26.99 | 2 | 22.75 | 1 | 7.63 | 4 | 13.72 |
| Chhattisgarh | 2 | 9.96 | 2 | 7.21 | 2 | 8.22 | 2 | 8.22 | - | - | 1 | 14.47 | 1 | 6.18 | 1 | 0.61 |
| Delhi | 13 | 63.86 | 12 | 78.19 | 9 | 62.09 | 8 | 59.28 | 1 | 9.28 | 3 | 17.38 | 2 | 12.26 | 5 | 11.15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Goa | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 4.71 | 1 | 6.34 | - | - | 2 | 5.93 |
| Gujarat | 4 | 17.63 | 5 | 22.98 | 4 | 16.20 | 3 | 8.46 | 5 | 59.35 | 1 | 7.2 | - | - | 6 | 26.96 |
| Haryana | 9 | 38.16 | 10 | 63.59 | 7 | 53.37 | 13 | 84.98 | - | - | 3 | 28.84 | 1 | 7.63 | 1 | 1.97 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 0.65 | 1 | 2.18 | 1 | 2.41 | 1 | 3.04 | 1 | 11.18 | 3 | 24.74 | - | - | 4 | 18.64 |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 1 | 1.19 | 1 | 4.66 | 1 | 1.46 | 1 | 5.29 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Jharkhand | 1 | 4.25 | 1 | 7.20 | 1 | 0.05 | - | 0.00 | - | - | 1 | 7.85 | - | - | 1 | 3.34 |
| Karnataka | 17 | 106.16 | 19 | 136.68 | 20 | 149.27 | 18 | 111.86 | 2 | 9.93 | 3 | 16.31 | 1 | 7.03 | 5 | 18.29 |
| Kerala | 55 | 388.46 | 59 | 405.78 | 62 | 389.10 | 63 | 348.11 | 5 | 43.66 | 1 | 5.93 | - | - | 5 | 23.6 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 6 | 40.34 | 10 | 45.68 | 11 | 55.47 | 13 | 48.76 | - | - | 4 | 32.24 | - | - | 3 | 12.77 |
| Maharashtra | 11 | 23.89 | 5 | 29.70 | 4 | 35.49 | 4 | 20.29 | 2 | 13.79 | 3 | 16.84 | - | - | 5 | 15.84 |
| Manipur | 4 | 15.32 | 4 | 37.48 | 4 | 22.76 | 6 | 22.29 | 1 | 10.56 | 2 | 22.78 | 1 | 5.01 | 4 | 18.53 |
| Meghalaya | 1 | 6.52 | 1 | 7.75 | 1 | 5.56 | 1 | 7.14 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Mizoram | 1 | 18.41 | 1 | 17.92 | 1 | 12.43 | 1 | 13.35 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Orissa | 11 | 85.42 | 14 | 101.16 | 15 | 139.88 | 14 | 75.84 | - | - | 4 | 50.90 | 1 | 7.51 | 4 | 26.36 |
| Punjab | 5 | 18.42 | 6 | 26.77 | 7 | 29.18 | 5 | 24.70 | 1 | 14.23 | 1 | 7.63 | - | - | 2 | 10.52 |
| Pondicherry | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3.47 | - | - | 1 | 4.33 |
| Rajasthan | 8 | 38.96 | 6 | 43.93 | 7 | 38.80 | 6 | 35.96 | 3 | 29.61 | 5 | 27.65 | - | - | 7 | 22.05 |
| Tamil Nadu | 21 | 132.39 | 24 | 228.25 | 22 | 188.41 | 24 | 159.55 | 6 | 47.50 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 18.17 |
| Tripura | - | 0.00 | 1 | 0.90 | 1 | 4.59 | 1 | 4.47 | 1 | 11.22 | 1 | 8.82 | - | - | 1 | 4.03 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 7 | 36.51 | 11 | 73.86 | 10 | 57.02 | 12 | 51.76 | 2 | 25.63 | 1 | 4.6 | 1 | 7.03 | 4 | 14.04 |
| Uttaranchal | 4 | 13.15 | 4 | 33.28 | 5 | 28.78 | 4 | 10.86 | - | - | 1 | 11.78 | - | - | 1 | 5.04 |
| West Bengal | 27 | 135.50 | 27 | 253.49 | 26 | 215.42 | 22 | 159.55 | 7 | 77.63 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 22.68 |
| Total | 290 | 1872 | 314 | 2702 | 306 | 2369 | 302 | 2031 | 46 | 442.6 | 45 | 366.4 | 10 | 67.79 | 85 | 331.7 |

**Hiring of Private Properties**

2226. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Government for hiring and vacation of private properties;

(b) whether the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hired private properties on rental basis for residential/ official purposes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the private properties hired by Defence Establishments in Delhi/New Delhi have not been vacated after the termination of the lease;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such properties are likely to be vacated?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) According to the existing guidelines, houses can be hired for defence purposes, subject to willingness of the owner. After the expiry of hiring period, the houses will ordinarily be dehired. During the agreed hiring period, the house can be dehired on the request of the owner, subject to approval of the Government. Renewal of hiring for a fresh period beyond initial hiring period can be resorted to with the willingness of the owner. There is also a provision for re-fixation of rent at the time of renewal of hiring. For dehiring of buildings hired period to 9.3.1976, sanction of Ministry of Defence is to be taken.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. A total of 2611 properties have been hired by the three Services. Besides Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Ministry of Defence, has hired 242 residential houses and 2 office properties in Delhi.

(d) to (f) Properties are normally handed over to the respective owners after termination of lease. Seven properties in Delhi have been sanctioned for dehiring, but could not be handed over to their respective owners for reasons of dispute of ownership, non-availability of the owner, or being under unauthorised occupation. All these buildings can be handed over as soon as authorised owner is available. One property of Air Force is to be sanctioned for dehiring.

**Private Players in Container Traffic Business**

2227. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to entrust container traffic business to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages envisaged by entrusting the container business to private players; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that there will be no retrenchment in Railways on this count?

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

(b) In order to meet the growing demand for container trains, it has been decided that organisations other than Container Corporation of India will also be considered for movement of container traffic.

(c) This will increase Railways' share in Container traffic.

(d) No retrenchment is contemplated on the Railways on this account.

*[Translation]*

**Gauge Conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda Rail Line**

2228. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of gauge conversion of Gorakhpur-Gonda rail line of North-Eastern Railway is in progress;

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

(c) the details of the amount allocated for and spent on the above project so far?

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

(b) No target date has yet been fixed.

(c) The latest anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 386.17 crore. The anticipated expenditure upto March' 2005 is Rs. 41.99 crore. An outlay of Rs. 10 Lakh has been proposed for the project during 2005-06.

**Law to Check Atrocities against SC/ST and Minorities**

2229. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a special law to check atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for redressal of their complaints as reported in the 'Hindustan' dated January 12, 2005;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the time by which the said law is likely to be enacted;

(c) whether the Government is also contemplating to enact any law to check atrocities against minorities in the country and for early redressal of their complaints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 as a special law is already in existence and Rule 7 of the Rules notified under the Act also provides that the investigating officer has to complete the investigation on top priority within thirty days.

(c) and (d) A drafting Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Law and Justice to prepare a model comprehensive legislation to contain communal violence and to promote confidence and sense of safety in the minds of minorities.

*[English]*

**Shifting of Godown Facilities from Tumkur to Kyathasundara**

2230. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Railway station in Tumkur is over crowded with vehicles transporting goods to the godown;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to shift the godown facilities from Tumkur to Kyathasundara;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to solve the problem?

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

(b) to (d) The proposal to provide goods booking/ handling facilities at Kyatsandra is under process.

**Exploration of Oil and Gas from Panna/Mukta and Tapti Reserves**

2231. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has entered into joint venture with private/foreign oil companies for exploration of oil and gas from Panna/Mukta and Tapti oil and gas fields;

(b) if so, the details alongwith modalities of the joint venture; and

(c) the total expenditure to be invested on the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, ONGC entered into a joint venture with Reliance Industries Ltd. and BG Exploration and Production India Ltd. (renamed so after purchase of EOGIL by BG Group) for exploration and exploitation of oil and gas from Panna Mukta and Tapti field in 1994. The participating interest of the companies is ONGC-40%, RIL-30%, BGEPIL-30%. ONGC, RIL and BGEPIL have entered into a joint operatorship agreement to operate these fields jointly.

(c) The estimated investment to be made on the Expanded Plan of Development of Panna field is about US$ 196 Million and on the New Revised Plan of Development of Tapti Field is about US$ 498 Million.

**Outstanding dues of Railway from Power Plants**

2232. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-realization of earnings from power sector is a major concern of Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the total outstanding dues to be recorded from various power stations as on date; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from these power Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Accrual and realization of freight is a continuous process.

(b) Total outstanding dues to be recovered from power houses/State Electricity Boards (SEBs) upto December 2004 are Rs. 1754.01 crore.

(c) Steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues from these power Stations are:-

(1) Powerhouses are being encouraged to follow the scheme for pre-payment of freight for carriage of coal.

(2) Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues from State Electricity Boards (SEBs) by holding regular meetings with the representatives of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.

(3) Meetings are also held with Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the States from time to time.

(4) Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills done in respect of some SEBs.

(5) Extension of facility of Electronic Payment Gateway to all major customers including SEBs during the coming years, has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2005-2006.

*[Translation]*

**CBI Raid in North-Eastern Railways, Gorakhpur**

2233. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in December 2004 CBI had raided houses and other premises of the officers of North-Eastern Railways, Gorakhpur, working in its construction department;

(b) if so, the details of officers whose house/premises were raided;

(c) the details of unaccounted cash recovered from them during the raid;

(d) whether CBI has framed charges against these officers; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Railways against the officers charged by CBI?

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

(b) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Lucknow had raided the offices and residences of four railway officers/officials of North Eastern Railway on 10th and 11th December, 2004. The officers/officials concerned were Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)/P&D, Executive Engineer (Construction), Assistant Engineer (Construction)/ Design and Junior Engineer-1/Works/Construction/Hq.

(c) During the raid on 10.12.2004 in the official residence of XEN (Con), a cash amount of Rs. 19,51,000/ - was recovered.

(d) and (e) CBI, Lucknow has registered two separate regular cases against these railway officers/officials. The first First Information Report (FIR) relates to sub-standard work done at Domingarh railway station in which the railway has suffered a wrongful loss of Rs. 8.0 lakh, and all the four accused officers/officials have been named in the FIR. The second FIR relates to acquisition of assets by XEN (Con) which is disproportionate to the known sources of his income. Presently, both the cases are under investigation with the CBI, Lucknow. Charges will be framed and action will be taken only after the investigations are concluded by the CBI.

*[English]*

**Allocation of Natural Gas to States**

2234. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the production of natural gas in the country during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of gas allocated to the States during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production of natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Production of natural gas in the country during the last 3 years, namely 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04, was 29.71, 31.39 and 31.96 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM), respectively.

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

(c) Several important steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production. These include the following:

(i) improving the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes; in particular, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,972 crores, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields;

(ii) increasing exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); Under the four rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 90 blocks. The Fifth Round of NELP has been declared open from 4th January, 2005 to invite bids for 20 exploration blocks;

(iii) exploring new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also the deeper layers of already producing fields;

(iv) developing the newly discovered fields speedily and stepping up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

*[Translation]*

**High Powered Panel on Modernisation of Airports**

2235. SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a high powered panel to find a solution to the problems arising on modernization of the existing airports and construction of new airports in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of this panel; and

(c) the time by which the said panel is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has constituted an Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) comprising Defence Minister, Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Law & Justice Minister and Civil Aviation Minister to oversee the restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports through Joint Venture (JV) route.

(c) The entire process of restructuring of these two airports is likely to be completed by the later part of this year, 2005.

**Pilot Trains in Naxalite Affected Areas**

2236. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce Pilot Trains in naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the areas selected in this regard; and

(c) the likely impact of Pilot Trains on other trains?

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

(b) Dornakal-Warangal and Gooty-Anantapur sections of South Central Railway and Mughalsarai-Dhanbad section of East Central Railway are identified as vulnerable sections for running of Pilot Trains.

(c) There is no impact on passenger carrying trains.

*[English]*

**Oil and Gas Reserves in Tamil Nadu**

2237. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated deposits of Oil and Natural Gas in various areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the major drilling projects taken up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(c) the expected reserves of oil and gas in the Cauvery Basin; and

(d) the royalty paid to the State Government for petroleum generation in the State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The estimated in-place crude oil and natural gas reserves in Tamil Nadu as on 01.04.2004 are 54.69 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) and 62.89 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) respectively.

(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have drilled 61 exploratory wells and 15 development wells in the State of Tamil Nadu during the last three years *i.e.* from 1.4.2001 to 1.4.2004.

(c) The in-place oil and gas reserves of the Cauvery basin (both onland and offshore) as on 1.4.2004 are 65.11 MMT and 73.60 BCM respectively.

(d) The royalty paid to the State of Tamil Nadu during the last 3 years is as under:

| | (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 45.30 |
| 2002-03 | 71.06 |
| 2003-04 | 70.64 |

In addition, ONGC paid Rs. 14.56 crores as arrears for the period April 1998 to March, 2002 after implementation of the new royalty regime for ONGC's nominated fields.

*[Translation]*

**Expansion of Jamalpur Diesel Shed**

2238. SHRI RAJARAM PAL:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale maintenance and repair work of D.E.M.U. passenger trains is carried out in Jamalpur Diesel Shed under Malda Division of Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the number of D.E.M.U. trains, the maintenance of which is done every month in this shed;

(c) the number of routes on which the D.E.M.U. trains repaired in Jamalpur Diesel Shed is plied;

(d) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Eastern Railways for overall expansion of Jamalpur Diesel Shed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently, 14 Diesel Electrical Multiple Unit (D.E.M.U.) consisting of 14 driving coaches and 34 trailing coaches are based at Jamalpur for maintenance and repair work:

- 10 pairs of passenger trains run over East Central Railway with Diesel Electrical Multiple Unit (D.E.M.U.) rakes.
- Each rake is given monthly maintenance at Jamalpur as per prescribed schedules. In addition, higher schedules are also done as per arising.
- The weekly maintenance and the trip maintenance are given over East Central Railway.

(c) The Diesel Electrical Multiple Unit (D.E.M.U.) trains maintained at Jamalpur Diesel Shed ply in 5 sections of East Central Railway namely Patna-Digha, Bakhtiarpur-Rajgir, Fatuha-Islampur, Mokama-Beghusarai and Patna-Mokama-Kiul sections.

(d) and (e) A proposal for infrastructural development for maintenance facilities of Diesel Electrical Multiple Unit (D.E.M.U.), was received. However, the proposal has not been adopted, as it suffers from operational demerits.

*[English]*

**Review of Working of BHEL**

2239. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the working of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) especially in export front;

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

(c) whether BHEL has decided to enter in the Power distribution business in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 2003-04 Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) received export orders of Rs. 232 crore and achieved physical export turnover of Rs. 596 crore.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. BHEL is already supplying equipment and services to Power distribution Sector such as Switchgear, Energy Meters, Insulators, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA).

*[Translation]*

**Increase in Speed of Chitrakoot Express**

2240. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the speed limit of 5009/5010 Chitrakoot Express to reduce its travel time;

(b) whether the Members of Parliament have sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(d) if not, whether the Government proposes to declare it as a fast passenger train; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to speed up 5009/5010 Chitrakoot Express.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received from the public representatives and the same have been examined but not found feasible due to operational constraints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not raise.

**Closure of Railway Workshop at Kurduwadi**

2241. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to close the Railway Workshop at Kurduwadi in Maharashtra; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

**Manuscript of Indian Books in Pakistan's Possession**

2242. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of manuscripts of Indian books are in the possession of Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring back these manuscripts to India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) There are no records to indicate that the manuscripts of Indian Books are in possession of Pakistan.

**Closure of Recruitment Office**

2243. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army recruitment office in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan has been closed;

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

(c) the time by which this office is likely to be reopened?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Cancellation of Flights in N.E. Region**

2244. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Alliance Air's airline operations in the North-East region were grounded for more than two days in February this year, but for non-fulfilment of some demands of the pilots;

(b) if so, the details and the steps taken to resolve the same; and

(c) the number of flights cancelled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The pilots of ATR-42 aircraft of Alliance Air started reporting sick collectively from the evening of 14th February, 2005 leading to cancellation of flights operated with this aircraft. Subsequently most of the sectors were operated by positioning two Boeing 737 aircraft at Kolkata one with effect from 16th and the other with effect from 18th February, 2005. The situation was normalized with effect from 19th February, 2005.

(c) Forty one (41) flights with ATR aircraft could not be operated from the evening of 14th February, 2005 upto 18th February, 2005.

**Profit Sharing Formula**

2245. DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which commercial production of oil and natural gas is expected from Barmer-Sandor Basin;

(b) the formula by which the 'Profit Petroleum' earned by Government of India is being shared with oil producing States; and

(c) the percentage of profit that would go to Rajasthan State after the commercial production of oil and gas in Barmer-Sandor Basin?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The commencement of commercial production of oil in Block RJ-ON-90/1 will depend upon the submission of a development plan and its subsequent approval by the Management Committee and implementation thereof by the contractor. The operator has indicated that commercial production of oil from the block is expected in the 3rd quarter of 2007.

(b) and (c) RJ-ON-90/1 being a pre-NELP Block, there is no proposal to share profit petroleum with the Rajasthan Government.

*[Translation]*

**Facilities to Handicapped Women**

2246. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand for providing special facilities to the handicapped women is being raised; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission for Women has submitted a detailed note based on the recommendations of an Expert committee on employment, health, advocacy, training, barrier free facilities, insurance etc. A draft National Policy for Persons with Disabilities is at an advanced stage of formulation. All inputs received from various organizations will be utilized during this exercise.

**Implementation of Recommendations**

2247. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kohli Committee had been set up to find out the cause of accidents of fighter planes in 1997;

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

(c) the action taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Director General Aviation Security and Air Marshal have submitted a report on accidents recently;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was set up in the year 1997, which made various recommendations involving changes in organisational structure, improvement in training, design, technology, environmental factors, operational factors, etc. The recommendations of the Committee are being constantly pursued with a view to reduce aircraft accidents and to improve flight safety.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

**Purchase of Electricity**

2248. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual requirement of power to the Railways;

(b) whether railways has been purchasing electricity from the Electricity Boards of various States;

(c) if so, the rate at which the electricity is purchased;

(d) whether the rate is more than the cost of generation of electricity;

(e) if so, whether the issue of bringing down the said rate has been taken up with the Electricity Boards; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Electricity Boards in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways have consumed about 9500 Million Kilowatt Hours (kWh) for traction purpose during 2003-04.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 4.28 per unit (average).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. After setting up of State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) whenever any tariff revision proposals is submitted by SERCs, Zonal Railways make representation before the SERCs and plead for reduction in traction tariff.

(f) There has been a reduction in traction tariff in respect of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and M/s. TATA during the current financial year till date.

*[English]*

**Damage Caused by Tsunami**

2249. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ASI has carried out any survey to assess the extent of damage caused to the ancient historical monuments located along Tamil Nadu coast due to the recent Tsunami tidal wave;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of damage occurred;

(c) the measures taken/being taken to renovate and repair these damaged monuments; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes Sir, the Archaeological Survey of India has conducted survey of the protected monuments immediately after the recent Tsunami tidal wave.

(b) None of the centrally protected monuments have been affected by Tsunami. However, the waves have damaged the compound wall and the fencing around the Shore temple and Tiger caves.

(c) Immediate repairs to the compound wall of Shore temple & fencing of Tiger Caves have been taken up.

(d) For immediate repairs to the compound wall of Shore Temple the amount spent is Rs. 25,000/- so far.

**Retention of SC/ST status after Migration**

2250. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SC/ST personnel retain their status even after migration to another State in getting Government jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any case of violation in this regard has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, till date;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) In accordance with Article 341(1) and 342(1) of the Constitution, the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are State specific and, thus, after migration their Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe status is not carried to the migrated State. However, all Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, irrespective of their State or origin are eligible, in regard to appointments in Central Government services.

(c) No case of violation in this regard appears to have been received during the period.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Cadre for CPSUs**

2251. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) is planning to create a separate cadre for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) There is no recommendation by the BRPSE in regard to creation of a separate cadre for Central Public Sector Enterprises.

**Expansion of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala**

2252. SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the capacity to be expanded;

(c) the total expenditure involved on the project; and

(d) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

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

(b) A work for capacity expansion of Rail Coach Factory has been included in the Railway Budget 2005-06. It is proposed to enhance the manufacturing capacity from 1000 to 1400 coaches per annum.

(c) The anticipated cost of the work is Rs. 35 crore.

(d) The work will commence after the detailed plans and estimates are sanctioned.

**Slums at Mumbai Airport**

2253. SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge number of slums are creating obstacles in Mumbai Airport modernisation plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made alternative land available to provide housing to these slum dwellers to expedite the modernisation plan; and

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

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

(b) Presence of slums on airport lands has created obstacles for the expansion and development plans of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport both on airside as well as terminal and city side.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Procurement of Video Projectors**

2254. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Portable Video Projectors (PVPs) ordered for procurement during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of Portable Video Projectors purchased by the Government during the said period;

(c) whether serious financial irregularities have come to the notice of the Government in procurement of PVPs;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) No irregularities have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years. However, irregularities in regard to PVPs committed during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have come to the notice of the Ministry and disciplinary action has since been initiated.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

***Statement***

| | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Ordered | Procured | Ordered | Procured | Ordered | Procured |
| Doordarshan | Nil | Nil | One | Nil* | Nil | Nil |
| SRFTI, Kolkata | Nil | Nil | One | One | One | One |
| FTII, pune | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| DPD | Nil | Nil | One | One | Nil | Nil |
| Song & Drama Division | One | One | One | One | Nil | Nil |
| DFF | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| CFSI | Nil | Nil | Two | Two | Nil | Nil |
| DFP | Nil | Nil | Ten | Ten | Fifteen | Fifteen |
| Films Division | One | One | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| NFDC | One | One | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |

*No purchase could be effected as the order was cancelled due to failure of the firm to make delivery within the stipulated period.

**Punctuality of Trains**

2255. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality performance of trains since January, 2004 till date;

(b) the reasons for late arrival of trains;

(c) whether the responsibility/accountability has been fixed against Railway staff for the arrival of trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action being taken/to be taken by the Government for improving the operations of trains and ensuring punctuality alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The punctuality performance of trains on Indian railways during the period January 2004 to February 2005 was 90.2% in Broad Gauge and 96.8% in Metre Gauge.

(b) The reasons for late running of trains are agitations/bundhs, alarm chain pulling, miscreant activities, bad weather, flood, fog, land slide, cattle run over, late arrival of rake, engineering restrictions, human failures, grid failures, asset failures & human failures etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the period January 2004 to February 2005, 4530 staff have been taken up for detention to trains.

(e) Intensive chasing and round the clock monitoring at different level *i.e.* Division, Zonal Head Quarters and Railways Board are being undertaken regularly. In addition, punctuality drives both at Inspectorial and Officers level are also launched. Due to this, the punctuality of various trains has been satisfactory.

**Representation from Glass Manufacturing Industries**

2256. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from the glass manufacturing industries in Uttar Pradesh demanding reduction in distribution charges for supply of gas and also increase the gas supply; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR). (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As GAIL have made substantial investments in laying the pipeline from HBJ to customers in the Agra-Ferozabad area, it may not be viable for GAIL to make any further reduction in their transportation tariff. With regard to additional supply of subsidized gas, as gas supply to Agra-Ferozabad consumers is made through the HBJ pipeline, on which the availability is only about 39 MMSCMD as against allocations of about 49 MMSCMD. In view of these supply constraints, it would not be possible to entertain the request for additional supplies. However, these consumers could, perhaps tie up such Regassified LNG supplies as may be available at market-related prices.

*[Translation]*

**Investment in Defence Projects**

2257. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to invest Rs. 10000 crore on defence projects as reported in the "Hindustan" dated February 8, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has also proposed to invite foreign investors in the defence sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith percentage of share offered to foreign investors in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 11,078 crores for projects such as Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Kaveri Gas Turbine Engine and Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System.

(b) The present status of these projects are as under:-

Light Combat Aircraft:- Three prototypes of LCA (Tejas) have completed 376 tests flights including supersonic flights. Another four prototypes will join test flights during 2005. Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) is planned to be obtained by March, 2007.

Kaveri Gas Turbine Engine:- Kaveri engine has completed 1300 hrs of ground and high altitude testing. First Kaveri engine is scheduled to be integrated with LCA by March 2007.

Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System:- AEW&C was sanctioned on 6th October 2004. The system specifications vis-a-vis the operational requirements have been formulated. The project is likely to be completed in about seven years.

(c) and (d) Government has a policy to encourage the joint development and production with foreign investors. However, no concrete proposals have been received in this regard.

(b) the time by which work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The doubling between Bisanattam-Kuppam has been commissioned on 05.11.2004. With this, Bangalore-Jolarpettai has become a double line section.

**Duties of Coast Guard Board**

2259. SHRIMATI BHAVANA P. GAWALI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted the provisions of United Nations Third Conference on the sea law;

(b) if so, the details of the provisions of said law; and

(c) the duties of Indian Coast Guard Board?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Third United Nations (UN) Conference on the Law of the Sea, 1973 resulted in adoption of UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982. India has ratified the Convention. Legislation passed by India conforming to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea include the (i) Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zone and other Maritime Zones Act, 1976; (ii) Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by foreign vessels) Act, 1981; (iii) the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 2002; (iv) the Coast Guard Act, 1978; and (v) the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and amendments thereto.

(c) There is no board by the name of Indian Coast Guard Board.

**Howrah Railway Station**

2260. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is preparing an action plan to deal the huge rushes and crowd at Howrah Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be prepared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) At present, Howrah Station has 18 platforms. Two additional platforms are expected to be commissioned to deal with the extra rush and an additional coaching terminal is under construction at Chitpur to ease the extra passenger traffic presently being handled at Howrah Railway Station. Moreover, Railway Protection Force has installed a Closed-Circuit Camera Monitoring System to monitor the rush of passengers so that immediate action can be taken by the security forces to help ease the situation and take such regulatory measures as may be necessary. To deal with the rush on daily basis is an ongoing process.

*[Translation]*

**Construction of Overbridges during 10th Plan**

2261. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of overbridges planned to be constructed in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of overbridges already constructed out of them;

(c) the details of the status of each railway bridge under construction or for which the survey is underway in various parts of Maharashtra as on date;

(d) whether work on every overbridge is being carried out as per the time schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which all works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Works for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) are planned on annual basis and not on the basis of five year plan. However, during the last three years of 10th Five Year Plan, the works sanctioned and completed are as under:

| Year | Sanctioned | Completed |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 47 | 17 |
| 2003-04 | 53 | 22 |
| 2004-05 | 23 | 08 (upto Jan'05) |

In addition 23 works have been included in the Railway Budget 2005-06.

(c) to (f) Railways construct Road Over/Under Bridges on cost sharing basis in lieu of busy level crossings where traffic density is more than 1 lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs). In the State of Maharashtra, there are 19 works of ROB/RUBs already sanctioned on cost sharing basis which are at different stages of planning and execution.

Railways construct bridge proper (across the tracks) and approaches by State Government/Road Authority. All efforts are made by the Railway to complete their portion of work alongwith approaches by State Government. Detailed position of 19 works in State of Maharashtra is given in the enclosed Statement.

***Statement***

*Status of Road Over/Under Bridges on Cost Sharing Basis in the State of Maharashtra*

| S.No. | Name of Work | Year of Sanction | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Badalpur-ROB in lieu of Level Crossing (LC) No. 10/B Kms. 66/19-20 | 1995-96 | Railway portion of work completed in Feb. 2004. |
| 2. | Kandivili-Malad-ROB in lieu of LC No. 31 | 1996-97 | Work is in progress. 3 piers and 4 girders have already been cast. Clearance for Defence land has also been obtained and work on that portion is also in progress. |
| 3. | Santacruz-Vile Parle-ROB in lieu of LC No. 21 | 1996-97 | Mumbai Municipal Corporation has not resolved issue of rehabilitation of encroachment in approach portion due to which work could not be taken up. |
| 4. | Niphad-ROB in lieu of LC No. 99-B at Kms. 218/8-9 | 1996-97 | Detailed Estimate is under examination. |
| 5. | Chunabhatti-ROB in lieu of LC No. 1-A at Km. 13/12-13 | 1997-98 | Proposals sponsored by Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM). General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) could not be prepared because approach alignment is not finalized by MCGM. |
| 6. | Sewri-ROB in lieu of LC No. 7-HB 1 at Km. 7/3-4 | 1997-98 | Public Works Department (PWD) has not yet finalized alignment for approaches. Issue of transfer of land is also yet to be resolved. |
| 7. | Vikhroli ROB in lieu of LC No. 14 C at Km. 22/11-12 | 1997-98 | General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been received from MCGM which is under examination. |
| 8. | Virar-ROB in lieu of LC No. 40 | 1999-2000 | Virar Municipal Corporation is starting the approaches work, tender for Railway portion has to be discharged and reinvented. |
| 9. | Hinganghat-ROB in lieu of LC No. 13/A at Km 790/34-36 | 2000-01 | General Arrangement Drawing is yet to be approved by Chief Engineer/PWD. |
| 10. | Ramawadi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 55-B at Km. 456/0-1 | 2001-02 | GAD approved. Contract awarded by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC). Work is in progress. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 | Kurduwadi-ROB in lieu of LC No. 38A at Km 375/13-14 | 2001-02 | GAD approved. Work is being done on Build, Operate & Transfer basis. PWD Solapur has been reminded to complete initial formalities. |
| 12. | Jeur-ROB in lieu of LC No. 33A at Km. 342/3-4 | 2001-02 | Estimate of approaches submitted by State Govt. Sanction of detailed estimate received and the same is accepted by PWD. |
| 13. | Navade Road—ROB in lieu of LC No. 12A at Km. 65/4-5 on Diva-Panvel Sec. | 2001-02 | Railway portion work completed in March 2004. Work on approaches by Municipal Council is in progress. |
| 14. | Pachora ROB in lieu of LC No. 131/A at Km. 371/23-25 | 2002-03 | GAD approved. Estimate is under preparation. |
| 15. | Kalyan-ROB in lieu of LC No. 1/A at Km. 54/18-19 | 2003-04 | Advance copy of GAD received from Mumbai division of 6.11.03 and is under scrutiny. |
| 16. | Nagar Devla-ROB in lieu of LC No. 127/A at Km. 353/23-25 | 2003-04 | GAD is under preparation. |
| 17. | Kalyan-ROB in lieu of LC No. 47A at Km. 57/16 | 2003-04 | GAD is under preparation. |
| 18. | Jogeshwri South-ROB at LC No. 24 | 2004-05 | New work proposed in WP 2004-05. |
| 19. | Jogeshwri North-ROB at LC No. 24 | 2004-05 | New work proposed in WP 2004-05. |

*[English]*

**Joint Venture with US Companies**

2262. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is looking for a joint participation in defence system development and manufacturing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has also agreed to have a joint venture with US companies in defence sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the India will be benefited by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) It is the policy of Government to facilitate greater industry-to-industry collaboration in high technology areas for the benefit of the Indian defence industry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

**Private Airlines to Pakistan**

2263. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow Indian Private Airlines to operate in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Private Airlines have approached the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Private Indian scheduled carriers have been permitted to operate on all overseas routes available to Indian side except Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia. Although Jet Airways and Air Sahara have evinced interest to operate to Pakistan, they have not been designated for this purpose as our existing Air Services Agreement with Pakistan provides for designation of only one airline. Indian Airlines is presently designated for operations to Pakistan.

*[Translation]*

**Personnel Died due to Snow Storm**

2264. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of army personnel died due to snow-storm in Kashmir recently; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide financial assistance/compensation to the deceased families?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Three army personnel died in Jammu and Kashmir due to avalanches and snow storm in February, 2005.

(b) A comprehensive welfare package has been worked out and implemented for the next of kin/families of all soldiers who die in harness. This includes pensionary benefits, Ex-Gratia grant from Army Central Welfare Fund (ACWF), Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) and Army Officers Benevolent Fund. Further, Insurance cover is also available under the Army Group Insurance Fund. Financial assistance from the Army Central Welfare Fund and Army Wives Welfare Association amounting to Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 5000 has since been paid to the next of kin of each deceased personnel. Immediate relief from the Regimental Fund has also been paid.

*[English]*

**Regulation for DTH**

2265. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring a comprehensive legislation to regulate the entry/growth of Direct to Home Services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Uniform Scam in Samastipur Railway Division**

2266. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2630 dated December 16, 2004 regarding scam of uniform in Samastipur Railway Division and state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by the Government for inquiring into the matter has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(b) and (c) A few staff have been found responsible and accordingly, disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against the erring staff.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Training to Pilots**

2267. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of trained commanders in Air India;

(b) if so, whether overseas pilots would be joining the Air India as commanders;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has drawn up any plan to give the necessary training to the Indian pilots; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The gestation time for becoming a Commander is at least 6 to 7 years on basic aircraft and 10 to 12 years on advanced aircraft like B 747. Since Air India has embarked on a strategy of growth and network expansion in order to increase its market share, Air India has dry leased 18 aircraft so far. To tide over the shortage of Commanders arising out of this expansion, Air India has taken 15 foreign pilots on contract for a period of one year as a bridging arrangement till such time their pilots are trained on various types of aircraft in Air India's fleet.

(d) and (e) Air India has recruited 135 pilots since April 2002 who are undergoing training.

**SC/ST Component Plan**

2268. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC, Mumbai region earmarked Rs. 7.00 lakhs for 2002-03 and Rs. 7.00 lakhs for 2004-05 under SC/ST component Plan;

(b) if so, whether any Committee was constituted for implementation of SC/ST Component Plan;

(c) if so, whether the Committee had submitted any survey report for implementation of SC/ST Component Plan for 2002-03 to 2004-05;

(d) if so, whether ONGC Mumbai region implemented the survey report of Component Plan;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken against the ONGC officials for not implementing the above said plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (f) Component Committee has not given any unanimous recommendations. The final recommendations of the committee included the reservations expressed by one of the members and included various conditions precedent to establishing the genuineness of the prospective recipients for help. ONGC have taken up the identification process and out of the six institutions recommended by the committee only one has responded.

ONGC have mentioned that delays had taken place due to difference of opinion and the conditional nature of the recommendations given by the committee. There were no delays from the ONGC side.

*[Translation]*

**Connectivity of North-Eastern States by Rail**

2269. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to connect other States of North-Eastern region by railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A number of new line projects are in progress in Northeast Region which on completion would provide rail connectivity to the States. These include:-

(i) Harmuti-Itanagar (Assam & Arunachal Pradesh)

(ii) Jiribam-Imphal Road (Tupul) (Assam & Manipur)

(iii) Kumarghat-Agartala (Tripura)

(iv) Dudhnoi-Depa (Assam & Meghalaya)

(v) New Maynaguri-Jogighopa (West Bengal & Assam)

Apart from these, survey for the following new rail lines have recently been completed/are in progress:-

(i) Dimapur to Kohima (Nagaland)

(ii) Bhairabi to Sairang/Aizwal (Mizoram)

(iii) Sivok to Gielkhola (West Bengal)

(iv) Azara to Byrnihat (Assam & Meghalaya)

(v) Jogighopa-Panchratna to Silchar (Assam & Meghalaya)

(vi) Agartala to Sabroom (Tripura).

*[English]*

**Damage to Fence**

2270. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fencing on Line of Control has suffered huge damage due to heavy snowfall in J&K;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to repair the damaged portion of fencing?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The fencing of Line of Control has come under snow at various places due to heavy snow fall in Jammu and Kashmir. The post snow assessment of the damage is a continuous process and repairs undertaken keeping in view the extent of the damage.

**Financial Assistance to SC/OBC Students for Educational Purposes**

2271. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is giving any financial assistance to the students of SCs and OBCs for educational purposes, studying in rural areas, especially in Gujarat;

(b) if so, funds allocated and released for this purpose during 2004-05, State/UT-wise, especially to Gujarat;

(c) the funds actually spent by these States/UTs during the said period; and

(d) the number of SCs and OBCs, students benefited from such schemes during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Government is assisting the States/UTs, including Gujarat, for providing scholarships to students of SCs and OBCs in rural and urban areas under the following schemes:-

(i) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes.

(ii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes.

(iii) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the Children of those Engaged in Unclean Occupations which includes mostly Scheduled Castes students.

(iv) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for Other Backward Classes.

(b) to (d) Funds are not allocated State-wise but are released on the basis of anticipated expenditure of the State Governments/UT Administrations. The actual expenditure for a particular year under the schemes is reported in the next financial year. The State/UT-wise financial assistance released and number of students anticipated to be covered during 2004-05 under the aforesaid schemes is given in enclosed statement.

***Statement***

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for SC students—Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 15.3.2005 and anticipated number of students to be covered*

| Sl.No. | State | Central assistance released (Rs. In Lakh) | No of students covered (Anticipated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 8034.74 | 299030 |
| 2. | Assam | 228.28 | 21600 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1000.00 | 94965 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 1567.79 | 36877 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Goa | 1.93 | 115 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 412.11 | 86332 |
| 7. | Haryana | 301.66 | 22097 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 3.55 | NA |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 28.80 | 11491 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 84.31 | 13705 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 2699.58 | 165645 |
| 12. | Kerala | 800.97 | 83633 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 1366.60 | 91076 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 4220.47 | 317008 |
| 15. | Manipur | 84.13 | 3018 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 4.67 | 1464 |
| 17. | Orissa | Nil | NA |
| 18. | Punjab | Nil | 38583 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 750.9 | 95527 |
| 20. | Sikkim | No due | 294 |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 2291.78 | 275369 |
| 22. | Tripura | 195.84 | 8501 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 4957.16 | 512612 |
| 24. | Uttaranchal | 302.25 | 31092 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 649.74 | 190922 |
| 26. | Daman & Diu | 0.89 | 79 |
| 27. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Nil | NA |
| 28. | Delhi | 6.65 | NA |
| 29. | Pondicherry | 43.35 | 3936 |
| | Total | 30038.15 | 2404971 |

NA—Not Available.

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupations—Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 15.3.2005 and anticipated number of students to be covered*

| S.No. | Name of the State/UT | Central Assistance released (Rs. in Lakh) | No of students covered (Anticipated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 275.34 | 35676 |
| 2. | Assam | 4.22 | 3148 |
| 3. | Bihar | Nil | 4833 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 8.45 | 17241 |
| 5. | Delhi | Nil | Nil |
| 6. | Goa | 0.33 | 220 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 103.67 | 227764 |
| 8. | Haryana | Nil | 19700 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | Nil | NA |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | Nil | NA |
| 11. | Jharkhand | Nil | 988 |
| 12. | Karnataka | Nil | 4711 |
| 13. | Kerala | Nil | 539 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 126.56 | 58413 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 47.32 | 69482 |
| 16. | Orissa | Nil | NA |
| 17. | Pondicherry | 5.00 | 1780 |
| 18. | Punjab | 5.55 | 8472 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 63.88 | 31652 |
| 20. | Sikkim | Nil | NA |
| 21. | Tamil Nadu | 27.31 | 44452 |
| 22. | Tripura | 5.98 | 4198 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 88.32 | 62853 |
| 24. | Uttaranchal | Nil | 2531 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 2.05 | NA |
| | Total | 763.98 | 598653 |

NA—Not Available.

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-Matric Scholarship for OBC students—Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 15.3.2005 and anticipated number of students to be covered*

| S.No. | State | Central Assistance released (Rs. in Lakh) | No of students covered (Anticipated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 457.87 | 16229 |
| 2. | Gujarat | 335.30 | 59320 |
| 3. | Manipur | 75.00 | 2790 |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu | 242.55 | 48510 |
| 5. | Tripura | 120.67 | 54889 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 217.91 | 850439 |
| 7. | Uttaranchal | 1.60 | 38141 |
| | Total | 1450.90 | 1070318 |

*Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Post Matric Scholarship for OBC students—Central assistance released during the financial year 2004-05 as on 15.3.2005 and anticipated number of students to be covered*

| S.No. | State | Central Assistance released (Rs. in Lakh) | No of students covered (Anticipated) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 299.02 | 15454 |
| 2. | Assam | 100.02 | 8580 |
| 3. | Goa | 5.96 | 285 |
| 4. | Gujarat | 365.25 | 152000 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 16.28 | 2197 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 248.45 | 18439 |
| 7. | Manipur | 108.51 | 8840 |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 13.76 | 1 |
| 9. | Pondicherry | 10.00 | 2137 |
| 10. | Punjab | 109.53 | 8266 |
| 11. | Sikkim | 6.55 | 1028 |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 266.63 | 25120 |
| 13. | Tripura | 94.51 | 6611 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 625.89 | 146787 |
| 15. | Uttaranchal | 62.32 | 7458 |
| | Total | 2332.68 | 403203 |

**Gas Distribution Schemes of GAIL**

2272. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas distribution schemes of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) on which work has already been started by GAIL to meet the gas requirements of the country;

(b) the number of gas distribution schemes of the GAIL which are pending with the Government for clearance; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) GAIL have recently commissioned the Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline project and taken up the implementation of the Dahej-Uran and Vijaipur-Kota pipeline projects.

(b) The GAIL Board is competent to approve gas pipeline projects and Government approval is not required for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Appointment on Compassionate Grounds**

2273. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilian employees working in URC canteen, Army Headquarters, died in harness during the last three years;

(b) whether the family members of these deceased employees have been appointed on compassionate grounds;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the dependents are likely to be given employment on compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) One.

(b) No.

(c) There are no provisions for appointment on compassionate grounds in the rules regulating the terms & conditions of service of civilian employees of Unit-run-canteen paid out of non public fund and Government guidelines regarding appointment on compassionate grounds do not apply.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Construction of Community Centre**

2274. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware of the existence of a vacant land in Puliyanthope High Road, Chennai (Park Town) belonging to Southern Railways;

(b) if so, whether there is a long pending demand for construction of Community Centre in the vacant land; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) No, Sir. There is no demand from Railway Staff.

(c) Does not arise.

**Under Weight LPG Cylinders**

2275. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Companies had instructed to LPG distributors to ensure that delivery man carry with him a spring balance, so as, to check weight of LPG cylinders while supplying to the consumers;

(b) whether these instructions are being complied with;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide complaint cards to the delivery man and action taken on the complaints by the customers within a fortnight;

(e) whether the Government proposes to issue directives to the LPG distributors in the country to replace the under-weight cylinders immediately; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In a bid to enhance customer satisfaction levels, distributors in selected markets have been advised by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to provide a spring balance to enable the customer to verify the correctness of weight of LPG in the cylinder. OMCs have introduced this scheme in major markets of the country.

(d) A complaints register is kept at distributorship locations in addition to operating Customer Relations Centres (CRCs) at selected markets to enable customers to lodge complaints.

(e) and (f) Underweight cylinders detected at distributors'/customers' premises are replaced free of cost in the event of the seal of the cylinder being intact.

**Protection to Women in Trains**

2276. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued directions to the Ministry of Railways to ensure protection of female passengers in trains, against sexual harassment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Railways on their implementation;

(d) whether the Commission has also asked for a report on the issue from the Railway Board;

(e) if so, whether the said report has since been sent to the Commission; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) are given below:-

1. Although it was pointed out by the representatives of Ministry of Railways that instructions have already been issued by the Railway Board, regarding process of filing First Information Reports (FIRs) in running trains and display of information about it, it was reiterated that there are still complaints that the First Information Report (FIR) forms are not available and that it should be ensured that the forms are easily available and the public is provided with complete information about the procedure to be followed.

2. Railway Board should come up with appropriate notices at strategic points in all railway stations/ coaches mentioning thereby the sexual assault, obscene remarks, stares, gestures, songs and unwanted attention were all forms of sexual harassment and therefore offences punishable by law under the IPC and the Railways Act. It was further suggested that the contents of the above notice could also be put on the Close Circuit TV at the Railway Platforms.

3. The Railways should also disseminate information at all Railway Stations as well as within the trains as to whom the women passengers should approach and lodge their complaints.

4. Train routes on which maximum complaints were registered should be given priority with regard to implementation of steps mentioned above.

5. The different functionaries attached to various trains ought to be sensitized to issues relating to women. The Railway Board may organise Gender Sensitization Programmes for which they could seek the help of the Non-Government Organization (NGO) "Jagori" and other women's groups involved in this issue and that they may be incorporated into the regular training programmes conducted by the Ministry of Railways for their functionaries from time to time.

6. The Railway Ministry may form the State level co-ordination committees with representatives of Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) in order to periodically review the progress of implementation of the measures taken for the safety of women passengers.

(c) The following actions have already been taken to implement the suggestions:-

1. Instructions have been reiterated to Zonal Railways that FIR Forms should be available with all the Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs), Train Superintendents, and Train Guards and with the Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police personnel escorting the trains and that they should get them filled by aggrieved passengers and hand over the same of the Government Railway Police Stations. For the period July to December, 2004 alone, the Railway Protection Force has received 533 FIRs including some cases of sexual harassment from the affected passengers and given to the concerned Railway Police for expeditious registration and enquiry.

2. Instructions to provide Unified Notice in all Metre Gauge (MG) and Broad Gauge (BG) coaches incorporating the Graphics on Eve teasing and detailing the process of lodging of FIR on running trains have already been issued to all Zonal Railways.

3. Announcements will be made at all major Railway Stations to the effect that if any woman passenger faces any harassment, she should immediately bring it to the notice of the Coach Attendant/TTE or to the RPF/GRP personnel on duty; and that they will extend all necessary help in taking remedial and legal action. The Railway staff on duty at stations and on trains, including RPF, have been gender sensitised and also sensitised to passenger expectations in the special training programmes held at various Railway Institutes.

4. Regular drives against male passengers travelling in ladies compartment have been conducted and prosecuted under section 162 of the Railways Act, 1989. Presently most of the passenger trains are being escorted by GRP/RPF with a view to ensuring safety and security of travelling women passengers.

5. Modules covering aspects like Gender Sensitisation & Human Rights have been made part of the syllabus in all training programmes for RPF. In addition to existing programmes, a new capsule course of 5 days' duration has also been drawn up. Training based on this new module is being introduced in the RPF training institutions shortly.

6. Consequent upon the amendments to RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act 1989, the RPF personnel have been entrusted with additional responsibilities of Security of Railway Premises and the passengers travelling on trains including the women passengers. RPF and GRP have been collectively manning the task of safety and security of the travelling public, including the women passengers. Meetings are held periodically between RPF and GRP to monitor the situation. On the recommendations regarding state level co-ordination committees, the Ministry of Railways wrote to the State Governments and later to the Ministry of Home Affairs for the State Governments to formally institutionalize co-ordination between the State and the Railways for better synergy and co-ordinated action with reference to security of women passengers. The matter is being pursued with the States for a holistic approach to security on the Railways.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Action taken report is under process.

*[Translation]*

**Pay Scale of Hindi Translators**

2277. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindi Translators working in the subordinate offices of the Ministry of Defence have been given the same scales of pay as given to the Hindi Translators of the Central Secretariat Official language cadre as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the subordinate offices where their pay scales have been made applicable; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government of India has not extended the upgraded Pay Scales to Hindi Translators in subordinate offices.

*[English]*

**Oil Fields in Egypt**

2278. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether OVL has obtained equity in the oil fields in Egypt recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated production of crude oil from these oil fields;

(d) the terms and conditions settled between OVL and Texas International; and

(e) the expenditure proposed to be incurred by OVL thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) On 24.2.2005 a consortium of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) and IPR has won the bid for exploration Block-6 (North Ramadan) in Egypt. Offer of the block is subject to finalization of the contract and its ratification by the Egyptian Government.

The block is at the exploration stage and hence the likely production therefrom cannot be immediately estimated but the prognostications are encouraging.

OVL and IPR, having 70% and 30% stakes, respectively in the block, will jointly develop the block, while IPR will take the lead during the exploration phase.

(e) OVL's share of investment in the first exploration phase is estimated at about US$ 14 million.

**MoU with Venezuela on Petroleum Sector**

2279. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

(a) whether he has discussed issues related to petroleum sector with the President of Venezuela who visited India recently;

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

(c) whether any MoU was signed relating to petroleum sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) During the recent visit of the President of Venezuela to India, the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas held discussions with the former, on various issues related to the Hydrocarbon sector including participation of Venezuelan companies in the Indian oil sector, participation of India in the oil and gas fields of Venezuela, technology transfer and possible crude oil purchase from Venezuela.

An Agreement on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector between the two countries was signed on 5.3.2005. This umbrella Agreement envisages establishing the general framework for implementing actions of cooperation of mutual interest and also to strengthen South-South cooperation, consolidate friendly ties and offer mutually beneficial opportunities in the Hydrocarbons sector.

**Supply of Gas to KSEB**

2280. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka State Electricity Board has requested the Union Government for allocation of more gas to thermal power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka State Electricity Board has entered into a gas supply contract with Gas Authority of India Limited for allocation of gas;

(d) if so, whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has reduced the quantity of gas to be supplied to KSEB;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

**Setting up of National Institute for Research on Guru Granth Sahib**

2281. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has cleared a project for setting up of a National Institute at Amritsar for research work on Guru Granth Sahib;

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

(c) whether Sikh religion organisations have been involved in the project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has given its approval to support establishment of an autonomous institution as "National Institute of Studies in Shri Guru Granth Sahib", at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.83 crores. The project was formulated by the University in consultation with eminent scholars on the subject. The proposal was approved by the UGC on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee consisting of eminent experts.

**Petroleum Rules, 2002**

2282. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received by suggestion to amplify Rule 43 of Petroleum Rules, 2002 to cover ship breaking activities;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government have received a suggestion from the Government of Gujarat to amend Rule 43 of the Petroleum Rules, 2002 to include ship breaking activities so that inspection of ships after beaching is done by the Explosive Department. No decision has been taken as yet.

*[Translation]*

**Projects from Finance and Development Corporations of Gujarat**

2283. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation have received some projects from Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation and Gujarat Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects approved by the Corporations and financial assistance allocated/released thereunder; and

(d) the time by which remaining projects are likely to be approved alongwith the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) and National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) received proposals from their State Channelising Agencies in Gujarat viz. Gujarat Scheduled Castes Development Corporation (GSCDC) and Gujarat Minorities Finance and Development Corporation (GMFDC) respectively.

Details of proposals received by NSFDC during the last three years are as under:

| Year | No. of project proposals received (For SC beneficiaries only) | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Term Loan | Micro Credit Finance | Total |
| 2001-02 | 05 | 02 | 07 |
| 2002-03 | 10 | 02 | 12 |
| 2003-04 | 02 | — | 02 |

A statement showing number of schemes sanctioned and funds released during the last three years is enclosed.

The GMFDC submits the proposals of Annual Action Plan to NMFDC at the beginning of each year. The NMFDC examines the proposal and based on the resource availability and capacity of the SCA decides the annual allocation for the respective year. The Annual Action Plan approved by the NMDFC for the last three years as well as the funds released during the respective years in respect of GMFDC is indicated below:

(Amount released in Lakhs)

| Year | Funds sanctioned | Funds released |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 726 | 2025* |
| 2002-03 | 926 | 700 |
| 2003-04 | 900 | 600 |
| 2004-05 | 900 | — |

*Additional funds of Rs. 1299 Lakhs disbursed for earthquake victims.

(d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*Number of schemes sanctioned and funds released during the last three years by the National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC)*

**Gross Disbursement:**

| Year | Gross Disbursement | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | No. of schemes | | | Amount (Rs. in lakhs) |
| 1 | 2 | | | 3 |
| 2001-02 | 27 | Term Loan | — | 297.42 |
| | 02 | Micro Credit Finance | — | 355.00 |
| | 29 | Total | | 652.42 |

| 1 | | 2 | | 3 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 42 | Term Loan | — | 455.85 |
| | 01 | Micro Credit Finance | — | 225.00 |
| | 43 | Total | | 680.86 |
| 2003-04 | 09 | Term Loan | — | 691.23 |
| | 01 | Micro Credit Finance | — | 404.10 |
| | 10 | Total | | 1095.33 |

Note: The amount disbursed pertains to proposals received during the particular year and the previous years.

*[English]*

**Fifth Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission Meeting**

2284. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether he visited Kazakhstan to attend the Fifth Indo-Kazakh Joint Commission meeting held recently; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed and how many of the points raised by India have been agreed to in the meeting and to what extent Kazakhstan has agreed to help India in the Oil Sector?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the 5th Session of the India-Kazakhstan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade-Economic Scientific-Technology, Industry and Cultural cooperation held in Astana, Kazakhstan on 17-18 February, 2005, both sides noted the progress and positive dynamics of the increase in bilateral cooperation in various fields and agreed to provide necessary support for further strengthening the relationship.

In the area of oil and gas, the following points emerged:-

1. The Kazakh side invited Indian oil and gas companies to participate in tenders for onland E&P Projects.
2. ONGC Videsh Ltd. and Kazmunaigaz, the national oil company of Kazakhstan entered into an MOU to jointly study opportunities in Kazakhstan and identify a suitable project and negotiate with the Government of Kazakhstan for joint participation.
3. The Indian and Kazakh side agreed to form a Joint Working Group on Hydrocarbons under the aegis of the Joint Commission. The Working Group would examine and develop various concepts for joint participation, including oil and gas evacuation and transportation facilities within Kazakhstan and across the border to other countries, gas processing plants, petrochemical industries, various service activities like seismic survey, exploratory drilling, development of fields, R&D and training.

*[Translation]*

**Houses for Handloom Weavers**

2285. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Minorities has taken a decision to construct houses for the handloom weavers in Uttar Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of weavers likely to benefit from this decision;

(d) whether urban Awas Vikas Nigam has been consulted in this regard;

(e) if so, the suggestions made by the Nigam in this regard; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

**Construction of Rail Lines in Sudan**

2286. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to construct rail lines in Sudan;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the agreement reached between both the countries in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the construction of rail lines in Sudan is likely to commence?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Railway Projects**

2287. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has submitted a status report on the railway projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects to avoid cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A monthly flash report on all Central Sector Projects costing more than Rs. 100 crore has been received from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. As per the 230th flash report for the month of Dec' 04, there are 132 railway projects in their monitor. The status brings out progress of various projects with bottlenecks, if any.

(c) The progress of projects depends upon the availability of resources over a period of time. Efforts are being made to generate non-budgetary resources to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. A number of initiatives have been taken for getting additional resources through Public/Private partnership, cost sharing with State Governments, funding through Ministry of Defence, National Rail Vikas Yojana and National Projects to be funded as an additionality to the normal railway's plan. Recently, Remote Area Rail Samparak Yojana has also been announced. However, funds for the Yojana are yet to be tied up. With all the above initiatives, the ongoing projects are expected to be completed within five years period.

**Jogighopa-New Moinaguri Broad Gauge Line**

2288. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed construction of Jogighopa (Assam)-New Moinaguri Broad Gauge railway track;

(b) whether the construction is yet to start on the project despite allocation of funds by the Railways;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there have been demands from the people of Assam and West Bengal to expedite the work on the project; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) Final location survey from New Maynaguri to Jogighopa has been completed and part detailed estimate has been sanctioned. Land acquisition is in progress and land for 28.93 Km in West Bengal and 0.8 Km in Assam has so far been handed over by the State Governments. Earthwork and bridgeworks are in progress in New Maynaguri Road-Mathabhanga section. An outlay of Rs. 50 crore is proposed for the project in Budget 2005-06.

*[Translation]*

**Diesel Rail Engine Factory at Varanasi**

2289. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diesel rail engine factory at Varanasi has not been able to meet its target;

(b) if so, the targeted and actual figures during each of the last three years; and

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

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

(b) The target and actual figures of production of engines by the Diesel Locomotive Works for the last three years are as under:-

| Year | Target | Actual |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 90 | 94 |
| 2002-03 | 100 | 100 |
| 2003-04 | 109 | 109 |

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Investment in Defence Projects**

2290. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount invested by the Government on (i) Light Combat aircraft, (ii) Kaveri Gas Turbine engine, and (iii) Airborne Early Warning System projects; and

(b) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 11,078 crores for projects such as Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Kaveri Gas Turbine Engine and Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System.

(b) The present status of these projects is as under:-

Light Combat Aircraft:- Three prototypes of LCA (Tejas) have completed 376 test flights including supersonic flights. Another four prototypes will join test flights during 2005. Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) is planned to be obtained by March 2007.

Kaveri Gas Turbine Engine:- Kaveri engine has completed 1300 hrs of ground and high altitude testing. First Kaveri engine is scheduled to be integrated with LCA by March 2007.

Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) System:- AEW&C was sanctioned on 6th October 2004. The system specifications vis-a-vis the operational requirements have been formulated. The project is likely to be completed in about seven years.

**International Facilities at Srinagar Airport**

2291. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Srinagar Airport has been accorded the status of an International Airport;

(b) if so, whether the facilities to cater to the needs of the international flights are available;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the names of the foreign carriers who allowed/ proposed to be allowed to operate to and fro flights from this airport?

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

(b) and (c) Srinagar Airport belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF) and Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave. The existing terminal has got limited facilities to handle regular international operations. However, AAI has undertaken development works such as expansion/modification of terminal building to cater to 950 passengers at a time alongwith the provision of all the modern passenger amenities like escalators, elevators, baggage conveyor system etc. so as to cater to regular international operations. Enhancement of the aircraft parking capacity has also been undertaken to accommodate wide-bodied aircraft, which is likely to be completed by December, 2005.

(d) Operations of foreign carriers are not permitted at Srinagar airport.

**Supply of Gas to Power and Fertiliser Consumers**

2292. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the joint owners of the offshore Panna/Mukta and Tapti oil and

gas fields have cut gas supplies to the power and fertiliser consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to meet the demand of gas of the existing power and fertiliser consumers;

(d) whether the additional development plan for allocation of gas from Tapti gas fields has been finalised; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Panna Mukta and Tapti Joint Venture is supplying the gas produced from the fields to GAIL (India) Limited.

However, in view of the deadlock between the joint venture and GAIL on the issue of price revision, Government have permitted the joint venture to make their own marketing arrangement for the gas w.e.f. 1st April, 2005. The joint venture have been asked by the Government to give preference to power and fertiliser sectors in selling the gas.

(d) and (e) The joint venture have submitted their development plan for approval by the Management Committee in accordance with the provisions of the PSC. The development plan has been approved by the Management Committee on the 15th March, 2005.

**Provision of Sleeping Beds/Woollens in Trains**

2293. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways is aware that the passengers are to carry their sleeping beds/woollens alongwith them due to non-availability in the trains itself in the Non-AC/ Sleeper Class coaches, especially during winter seasons;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to introduce provision of sleeping beds/woollens in the trains for the passengers of Non-AC/Sleeper Class coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the railways make the rail passenger to reduce their luggage on travel?

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

(b) to (d) Provision of bed rolls in Sleeper Class is not practicable due to logistics problem.

**Import of Liquefied Natural Gas**

2294. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to the effect that companies importing liquefied natural gas will have to use Indian flagged vessels only;

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

(c) whether this decision will have any impact on the commissioning of Hazira terminal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for early commissioning of Hazira terminal?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In terms of Director General (Shipping)'s guidelines of 5th July 2004, no licence shall be granted for any chartered LNG vessel unless:-

(i) the said LNG vessel is an Indian flag vessel; and

(ii) the 'Indian partner' owns the LNG vessel wholly or owns not less than 26% of the ownership of the company owning the said LNG vessel.

It has been, *inter-alia*, mentioned in the guidelines that the object of this policy is to promote Indian tonnage in general and LNG tonnage in particular.

(c) to (e) M/s Shell Hazira Gas Pvt. Ltd., the promoter of the Hazira LNG terminal, have submitted that the stipulation requiring the use of Indian flag LNG ships for the import of LNG could adversely impact on the commissioning and commercial operations of the Hazira LNG terminal.

The matter is under examination.

*[Translation]*

**Prasar Bharati's Share in Advertisements**

2295. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total share of revenue earnings of Prasar Bharati through advertisements in comparison to private TV channels during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Prasar Bharati's share is low in comparison to the other private channels;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase their share in advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The total ad spend on television according to the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)/FRAMES reports from 2002 to 2004 are as follows:

| Calendar Year | Amount |
|---|---|
| 2002 | Rs. 3900 crores |
| 2003 | Rs. 4220 crores |
| 2004 | Rs. 4676 crores (estimated) |

Doordarshan's commercial revenue in the last three years is as under:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2001-2002 | = | Rs. 615.21 crores |
| 2002-2003 | = | Rs. 553.81 crores |
| 2003-2004 | = | Rs. 530.23 crores |

When compared to the total ad spend figures Doordarshan's share is in the range of 11-16% during the last three years.

Doordarshan is a Public Service Broadcaster and is not motivated by purely commercial considerations. It is, however, the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to enhance its commercial revenue through more attractive and innovative programme formats.

**Restructuring of National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes**

2296. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the National Commission for Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes as reported in 'Jansatta' dated January 5, 2005;

(b) if so, the details alongwith terms and reference and composition thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Commission is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The Government has decided to re-constitute the National Commission to study the developmental aspects of the Denotified Tribes, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic 'Tribes' for a period of one year with the following Terms of References:-

(i) to specify the economic interventions required for raising the living standards of Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic 'Tribes' by asset creation and self-employment opportunities;

(ii) to recommend measures to utilize the existing channeling agencies set up for the economic development of SCs/STs and OBCs for extending an economic development package to these groups, keeping in view their specific requirements;

(iii) to identify programmes required for their education, development and health; and

(iv) to make any other connected or incidental recommendation, that the Commission deems necessary. The Commission will comprise of one Chairperson, one Member and a Member Secretary. The Commission will submit its report within a period of one year from the date of appointment of Chairperson.

*[English]*

**Utilization of Metre Gauge Wheel Sets**

2297. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has properly utilized the imported Metre Gauge Wheel sets;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated revenue loss to the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Railways has decided to upgrade the existing Metre Gauge Wheel sets but failed to comply its decision;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to utilize such wheel sets and save the revenue loss to the exchequer?

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

(b) Ministry of Railways has imported 2000 Metre Gauge (MG) wheel sets suitable for 14 Tonne axle load in 1992 for manufacture of upgraded MG wagons. Subsequently due to uni-gauge policy, it was decided not to manufacture upgraded MG wagons. These wheel sets were then earmarked for retrofitment on existing MG wagon stock of N.F. Railway. Accordingly, work was sanctioned in Rolling Stock Program of 1995-96. This work had to be stopped in 1996 by the Northeast Frontier (NF) Railway after retrofitting 60 wagons only because the Lumding-Silchar section also was proposed for conversion to Broad Gauge. This further reduced the scope of utilization of MG wagons. In this process, 240 imported wheel sets were consumed and remaining 1760 wheel sets are still available on NF Railway.

(c) Nil.

(d) Yes, Sir. In view of the newly introduced uni-gauge policy.

(e) Work for upgrading existing Metre Gauge wheel sets for 500 MG wagons was sanctioned in 1995-96. This work had to be stopped in 1996 after retrofitting 60 wagons as explained in para (b) above.

(f) After retrofitment on small number of wagons, when the work was discontinued due to proposed conversion of the Lumding-Badarpur-Silchar section into BG, M/s. RITES & M/s. IRCON were then approached for assisting Indian Railways in reselling Wheel sets outside India to countries having MG Rail systems. So far, they have not succeeded in locating any foreign Railway system which can use these wheel sets.

As a parallel exercise, it has been decided in consultation with RDSO that these MG wagon wheel sets would be used for making coaching wheel sets. The work for this purpose has already been started in NF Railway. It is likely that the first 4 coaching wheel sets would be made ready shortly.

**Upgradation of Railway Stations**

2298. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has modified/upgraded some of the Railway Stations in the country as Model Stations;

(b) if so, the names of railway stations which have been upgraded ad Model Stations so far in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether there are any proposals for upgrading railway stations into Model Stations pending with the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Presently, there are 319 stations listed for development as Model Stations. Out of these, following 61 stations have been developed as Model Stations. State-wise list is not maintained. However, Railway-wise list of developed Model Stations is as under:

*'Railway-wise' list of stations developed as 'Model Stations'*

| Railway | Names of Stations |
|---|---|
| Central | Mumbai CST, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (Kurla), Kalyan, Bhusaval, Nagpur, Pune, Chandrapur & Wardha |
| Eastern | Nil |
| Northern | Delhi, New Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Ludhiana, Jammu Tawi, Haridwar & Lucknow |
| North Eastern | Gorakhpur, Gonda, Lucknow, Chhapra, Manduadih, Izzatnagar, Kathgodam & Basti |
| Northeast Frontier | Nil |
| Southern | Chennai Central, Coimbatore, Erode Jn., Salem, Palghat, Trivandrum Central, Madurai & Tiruchirappalli |
| South Central | Vijayawada, Guntur, Nanded |
| South Eastern | Adra, Tamluk |
| Western | Okha, Nimbahera, Dharangaon, Bamnia |
| East Central | Nil |
| East Coast | Bhubaneswar, Sambalpur, Visakhapatnam |
| North Central | Nil |
| North Western | Ajmer, Aburoad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Hisar, Rewari, Sriganganagar, Chittaurgarh |
| South East Central | Nil |
| South Western | Bangalore Cantt. |
| West Central | Habibganj, Bhopal, Hoshangabad, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Kota |

Works at remaining stations selected for development as Model Stations are in various stages of progress.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Joint Venture Projects with Railways**

2299. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the public sector oil companies have given their consent for setting up joint venture projects with the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between the oil companies and the railways in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits likely to be accrued by the oil companies from the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) M/s. Indian Oil Corporation Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Railways to plant Jatropha saplings on land to be provided by Indian Railway. Accordingly, Indian Railways have provided 70 hectares of land to Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Surendra Nagar district of Gujarat. Out of this land, Indian Oil Corporation have utilized an area of 48 hectares and planted 1,10,000 saplings. This pilot project is aimed at generating the base-line scientific data on growth of plants, seeding, yield of the oil seeds, oil from seeds etc.

**Construction of Coaching Terminal**

2300. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct coaching terminal at Korba in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds proposed to be allocated by the Government for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government also propose to set-up coaching terminal in other States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The coaching terminals are proposed depending upon requirement of passenger trains. Some of the places where coaching terminals are in progress are as under:

| | Name of the coaching terminal | State |
|---|---|---|
| (i) | Chitpur Yard-Additional Terminal | West Bengal |
| (ii) | Anand Vihar Terminal | Delhi |
| (iii) | Gomtinagar-New terminal station | Uttar Pradesh |
| (iv) | Kochuveli-2nd Coaching terminal of Trivandrum | Kerala |

Apart from these, augmentation of coaching facilities at various terminals is taken up from time to time depending upon the traffic requirements.

*[English]*

**Compensation to Land Owners**

2301. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) has been appointed as a nodal agency for development of multi-modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub Project at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether MADC has been authorised to acquire land for the project and pay compensation to land owners; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the compensation paid so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the name of Maharashtra Airport Development Company (MADC) for providing focused and speedy implementation of the proposed multi-modal International Passenger and Cargo Hub Airport (MIHAN) project integrated with existing airport at Nagpur.

(c) and (d) Government of Maharashtra has acquired 272 hectares of land and an amount of Rs. 4.05 crores as compensation have been distributed to the land owners.

*[Translation]*

**Medical Facilities to Ex-servicemen**

2302. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some clinics have been set up at selected places for providing medical facilities to Ex-servicemen;

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

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether these clinics have been provided with facilities according to prescribed criteria; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIJOY K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State-wise list of 152 polyclinics already established and 75 polyclinics yet to be established is enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Out of total capital expenditure of Rs. 118 crores and Revenue expenditure of Rs. 150 crores, the following expenditure is expected to be incurred by 31st March, 2005.

(i) Capital — Rs. 17.98 crores

(ii) Revenue — Rs. 93.42 crores

(d) and (e) The polyclinics have been provided with facilities as authorized. However, there is shortfall of medical staff and medical equipment at some of the selected places. The shortfall is due to non-availability of medical staff as per the prescribed qualifying criteria and delay in placement of order for medical equipments.

***Statement-I***

*152 Operational ECHS Polyclinics*

| S.No. | Regional Centre | State | Polyclinics | Command | Type | Military/Non Military |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Chandimandir | Haryana | Chandimandir (Panchkula) | WC | C | Non Military |
| 2. | Chandimandir | Himachal Pradesh | Hamirpur | WC | B | Non Military |
| 3. | Chandimandir | Himachal Pradesh | Bilaspur | WC | C | Non Military |
| 4. | Chandimandir | Himachal Pradesh | Una | WC | C | Non Military |
| 5. | Chandimandir | Himachal Pradesh | Shimla | WC | D | Military |
| 6. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Hoshiarpur | WC | A | Non Military |
| 7. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Gurdaspur (Pathankot) | WC | A | Military |
| 8. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Jalandhar | WC | A | Military |
| 9. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Ludhiana | WC | A | Military |
| 10. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Ropar | WC | B | Non Military |
| 11. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Muktsar | WC | C | Non Military |
| 12. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Bhatinda | WC | C | Military |
| 13. | Chandimandir | Rajasthan | Bikaner | WC | D | Military |
| 14. | Chandimandir | Chandigarh | Chandigarh | WC | C | Military |
| 15. | Chandimandir | Himachal Pradesh | Solan | WC | D | Military |
| 16. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Amritsar | WC | A | Military |
| 17. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Sangrur | WC | B | Military |
| 18. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Fatehgarh Sahib | WC | C | Non Military |
| 19. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Faridkot | WC | C | Military |
| 20. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Firozpur | WC | C | Military |
| 21. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Kapurthala | WC | C | Military |
| 22. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Patiala | WC | C | Military |
| 23. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Moga | WC | C | Military |
| 24. | Chandimandir | Rajasthan | Sriganganagar | WC | D | Military |
| 25. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Vellore | SC | A | Non Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Chennai | SC | B | Military |
| 27. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Tirunelveli | SC | C | Non Military |
| 28. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Coimbatore | AIR | C | Military |
| 29. | Chennai | Andaman & Nicobar | Port Blair | NAVY | D | Military |
| 30. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Wellington | SC | D | Military |
| 31. | Guwahati | Assam | Kamrup (Guwahati) | EC | D | Non Military |
| 32. | Guwahati | Assam | Jorhat | AIR | D | Military |
| 33. | Guwahati | Meghalaya | Shillong | EC | D | Military |
| 34. | Guwahati | Nagaland | Zakhama (Kohima) | EC | D | Military |
| 35. | Guwahati | Assam | Masimpur (Silchar) | EC | D | Military |
| 36. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Guntur | SC | C | Non Military |
| 37. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Hyderabad | SC | C | Military |
| 38. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Vishakapatnam | NAVY | C | Military |
| 39. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Bangalore (Urban) | AIR | A | Military |
| 40. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Belgaum | SC | B | Military |
| 41. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Kodagu (Madikeri) | SC | C | Non Military |
| 42. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Mangalore | SC | D | Non Military |
| 43. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Bangalore (Yelahanka) | AIR | D | Military |
| 44. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Karwar | NAVY | D | Military |
| 45. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Indore (Mhow) | CC | D | Military |
| 46. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Jabalpur | CC | D | Military |
| 47. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Ghazipur | CC | B | Non Military |
| 48. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Gorakhur | AIR | D | Military |
| 49. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Allahabad | CC | D | Military |
| 50. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Fatehpur | CC | D | Non Military |
| 51. | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh | Rewa | CC | D | Non Military |
| 52. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Faizabad | CC | D | Military |
| 53. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Varanasi | CC | D | Military |
| 54. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Jhunjhunu | SC | A | Non Military |
| 55. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Jodhpur | SC | B | Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 56. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Jaipur | SC | C | Military |
| 57. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Kota | SC | D | Military |
| 58. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Barmer (Jalipa) | SC | D | Military |
| 59. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Nagaur | SC | B | Non Military |
| 60. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Ajmer | SC | D | Military |
| 61. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Alwar | SC | B | Military |
| 62. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Bharatpur | SC | C | Military |
| 63. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Udaipur | SC | D | Military |
| 64. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Jaisalmer | SC | D | Military |
| 65. | Jammu | Himachal Pradesh | Mandi | NC | C | Non Military |
| 66. | Jammu | Himachal Pradesh | Yol (Dharmashala) | NC | A | Military |
| 67. | Jammu | Himachal Pradesh | Chamba | NC | D | Non Military |
| 68. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Jammu | NC | A | Military |
| 69. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Udhampur | NC | C | Military |
| 70. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Srinagar | NC | D | Military |
| 71. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Rajouri | NC | D | Military |
| 72. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Junglot (Kathua) | NC | C | Military |
| 73. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Samba | NC | C | Military |
| 74. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Doda | NC | D | Military |
| 75. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Poonch | NC | D | Military |
| 76. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Baramulla | NC | D | Military |
| 77. | Jammu | Jammu & Kashmir | Leh | NC | D | Military |
| 78. | Kochi | Kerala | Trivandrum | SC | A | Military |
| 79. | Kochi | Kerala | Kannur | SC | B | Non Military |
| 80. | Kochi | Kerala | Palakkad | SC | B | Non Military |
| 81. | Kochi | Kerala | Kochi | NAVY | B | Military |
| 82. | Kochi | Kerala | Pathanamthitta | SC | B | Non Military |
| 83. | Kochi | Kerala | Kozikode | SC | C | Non Military |
| 84. | Kolkata | Manipur | Imphal | EC | D | Military |
| 85. | Kolkata | Mizoram | Aizawal | EC | D | Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 86. | Kolkata | Sikkim | Gangtok | EC | D | Military |
| 87. | Kolkata | Tripura | Agartala | EC | D | Military |
| 88. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Krishnanagar | EC | C | Non Military |
| 89. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Darjeeling | EC | C | Military |
| 90. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Kolkata | EC | D | Military |
| 91. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Bardwan | EC | D | Non Military |
| 92. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Bengdubi (Jalpaiguri) | EC | D | Military |
| 93. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Meerut | CC | B | Military |
| 94. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Agra | CC | C | Military |
| 95. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Bareilly | CC | C | Military |
| 96. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Lucknow | CC | C | Military |
| 97. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Muzaffarnagar | CC | D | Non Military |
| 98. | New Delhi | Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad (Hindon) | AIR | D | Military |
| 99. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Dehradun | CC | A | Military |
| 100. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Chamoli | CC | B | Non Military |
| 101. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Lansdowne | CC | B | Military |
| 102. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Pauri Garhwal | CC | C | Non Military |
| 103. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Pithoragarh | CC | A | Military |
| 104. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Fatehgarh | CC | C | Military |
| 105. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Kanpur | AIR | C | Military |
| 106. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Mathura | CC | D | Military |
| 107. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Saharanpur | AIR | D | Military |
| 108. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Shahjahanpur | CC | D | Military |
| 109. | New Delhi | Delhi | Delhi | WC | A | Military |
| 110. | New Delhi | Haryana | Bhiwani | WC | A | Non Military |
| 111. | New Delhi | Haryana | Jhajjar | WC | B | Non Military |
| 112. | New Delhi | Haryana | Rewari | WC | B | Non Military |
| 113. | New Delhi | Haryana | Rohtak | WC | B | Non Military |
| 114. | New Delhi | Haryana | Gurgaon | WC | A | Non Military |
| 115. | New Delhi | Haryana | Hissar | WC | B | Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 116. | New Delhi | Haryana | Faridabad | AIR | C | Non Military |
| 117. | New Delhi | Haryana | Karnal | WC | C | Non Military |
| 118. | New Delhi | Haryana | Ambala | WC | C | Military |
| 119. | New Delhi | Uttar Pradesh | Noida | WC | A | Non Military |
| 120. | New Delhi | Delhi | Delhi (Lodhi) | WC | A | Non Military |
| 121. | New Delhi | Haryana | Jind | WC | C | Non Military |
| 122. | New Delhi | Haryana | Sirsa | AIR | D | Military |
| 123. | Patna | Bihar | Bhojpur (Ara) | CC | B | Non Military |
| 124. | Patna | Bihar | Muzaffarpur | CC | C | Non Military |
| 125. | Patna | Bihar | Danapur (Patna) | CC | C | Military |
| 126. | Patna | Bihar | Gaya | CC | D | Military |
| 127. | Patna | Jharkhand | Ranchi | CC | C | Military |
| 128. | Patna | Orissa | Ganjam (Brahmapur) | NAVY | D | Non Military |
| 129. | Patna | Bihar | Chhapra | CC | C | Non Military |
| 130. | Patna | Orissa | Cuttack/Bhubneswar | NAVY | C | Military |
| 131. | Patna | Orissa | Balasore | NAVY | D | Military |
| 132. | Pune | Gujarat | Ahmedabad | SC | C | Military |
| 133. | Pune | Maharashtra | Satara | SC | C | Non Military |
| 134. | Pune | Maharashtra | Kolhapur | SC | B | Non Military |
| 135. | Pune | Maharashtra | Mumbai | NAVY | B | Military |
| 136. | Pune | Maharashtra | Pune | SC | B | Military |
| 137. | Pune | Maharashtra | Nagpur | AIR | C | Military |
| 138. | Pune | Maharashtra | Akola | SC | D | Non Military |
| 139. | Pune | Maharashtra | Nasik (Deolali) | SC | D | Non Military |
| 140. | Pune | Maharashtra | Aurangabad | SC | D | Military |
| 141. | Pune | Madhya Pradesh | Bhind | SC | D | Non Military |
| 142. | Pune | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal | SC | D | Military |
| 143. | Pune | Gujarat | Vadodara | SC | D | Military |
| 144. | Pune | Gujarat | Jamnagar | SC | D | Military |
| 145. | Pune | Maharashtra | Sholapur | SC | C | Non Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 146. | Pune | Maharashtra | Ahmednagar | SC | C | Military |
| 147. | Pune | Maharashtra | Mumbai (Upnagar) Powai | NAVY | D | Military |
| 148. | Pune | Madhya Pradesh | Gwalior | SC | D | Military |
| 149. | Pune | Madhya Pradesh | Sagar | SC | D | Military |
| 150. | Pune | Uttar Pradesh | Jhansi | SC | D | Military |
| 151. | Pune | Maharashtra | Buldana | SC | D | Non Military |
| 152. | Pune | Goa | Panaji | SC | D | Military |

***Statement II***

*75 ECHS Polyclinics—Yet to be Established*

| Sl.No. | Regional Centre | State | Polyclinics | Command | Type | Military/Non Military |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Chandimandir | Punjab | Mansa | WC | D | Non Military |
| 2. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Thiruvannamalai | SC | C | Non Military |
| 3. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Thiruvallur | SC | C | Non Military |
| 4. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Virudhnagar | SC | C | Non Military |
| 5. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Dindigul | SC | D | Military |
| 6. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Madurai | SC | C | Non Military |
| 7. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Dharamapuri | SC | C | Non Military |
| 8. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Kanchipuram | SC | C | Non Military |
| 9. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Salem | SC | C | Non Military |
| 10. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Tiruchi | SC | C | Non Military |
| 11. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Cuddalore | SC | D | Non Military |
| 12. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Kanyakumari | SC | D | Non Military |
| 13. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Nagapattinam | SC | D | Non Military |
| 14. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Tanjavur | SC | D | Non Military |
| 15. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Theni | SC | D | Non Military |
| 16. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Tuticorin | SC | D | Non Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17. | Chennai | Tamil Nadu | Villupuram | SC | D | Non Military |
| 18. | Guwahati | Nagaland | Mokkchung | EC | D | Military |
| 19. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Chittor | SC | C | Non Military |
| 20. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Ongole | SC | C | Non Military |
| 21. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Bijapur | SC | D | Non Military |
| 22. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Rangareddy | SC | C | Non Military |
| 23. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | East Godavari | SC | D | Non Military |
| 24. | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh | Krishna | SC | D | Non Military |
| 25. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Dharwad | SC | D | Non Military |
| 26. | Hyderabad | Karnataka | Mysore | SC | D | Non Military |
| 27. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Pratapgarh | CC | D | Non Military |
| 28. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Balia | CC | C | Non Military |
| 29. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Deoria | CC | C | Non Military |
| 30. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Azamgarh | CC | D | Non Military |
| 31. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Sikar | SC | B | Non Military |
| 32. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Churu | SC | C | Non Military |
| 33. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Pali | SC | D | Non Military |
| 34. | Jaipur | Rajasthan | Sawai Madhopur | SC | D | Non Military |
| 35. | Kochi | Kerala | Alleppy | SC | D | Non Military |
| 36. | Kochi | Kerala | Quilon | SC | B | Non Military |
| 37. | Kochi | Kerala | Trissur | SC | B | Non Military |
| 38. | Kochi | Kerala | Kottayam | SC | C | Non Military |
| 39. | Kochi | Kerala | Malappuram | SC | C | Non Military |
| 40. | Kolkata | West Bengal | 24 Parganas (Barackpore) | EC | B | Non Military |
| 41. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Howrah | EC | D | Non Military |
| 42. | Kolkata | West Bengal | Midnapur | EC | D | Non Military |
| 43. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Etawah | CC | C | Non Military |
| 44. | Jabalpur | Uttar Pradesh | Sultanpur | CC | C | Non Military |
| 45. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Bulandshahar | CC | B | Non Military |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 46. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Mainpuri | CC | C | Non Military |
| 47. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Aligarh | CC | D | Non Military |
| 48. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Badaun | CC | D | Non Military |
| 49. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Firozabad | CC | D | Non Military |
| 50. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Kanpur Dehat | CC | D | Non Military |
| 51. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Rae Bareilly | CC | D | Non Military |
| 52. | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh | Etah | CC | D | Non Military |
| 53. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Almora | CC | B | Non Military |
| 54. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Nainital (Haldwani) | CC | B | Non Military |
| 55. | Lucknow | Uttaranchal | Raiwala (Haridwar) | CC | D | Non Military |
| 56. | New Delhi | Haryana | Narnaul | WC | B | Non Military |
| 57. | New Delhi | Haryana | Sonipat | WC | B | Non Military |
| 58. | New Delhi | Haryana | Panipat | WC | C | Non Military |
| 59. | New Delhi | Haryana | Yamunanagar | WC | C | Non Military |
| 60. | New Delhi | Haryana | Fatehabad | WC | D | Non Military |
| 61. | New Delhi | Haryana | Kaithal | WC | D | Non Military |
| 62. | New Delhi | Haryana | Kurukshetra | WC | D | Non Military |
| 63. | Patna | Bihar | Dharbanga | CC | D | Non Military |
| 64. | Patna | Jharkhand | Singhbhum | CC | D | Non Military |
| 65. | Pune | Uttar Pradesh | Jalaun | SC | D | Non Military |
| 66. | Pune | Madhya Pradesh | Morena | SC | D | Non Military |
| 67. | Pune | Maharashtra | Sangli | SC | B | Non Military |
| 68. | Pune | Maharashtra | Ratnagiri | SC | C | Non Military |
| 69. | Pune | Maharashtra | Sindudurg | SC | C | Non Military |
| 70. | Pune | Maharashtra | Thane | SC | C | Non Military |
| 71. | Pune | Maharashtra | Amravati | SC | D | Non Military |
| 72. | Pune | Maharashtra | Jalgaon | SC | D | Non Military |
| 73. | Pune | Maharashtra | Osmanabad | SC | D | Non Military |
| 74. | Pune | Maharashtra | Alibagh | SC | D | Non Military |
| 75. | Pune | Maharashtra | Latur | SC | D | Non Military |

**Underbridge/Overbridge Projects**

2303. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new/on-going/pending overbridge/ underbridge projects in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other States and their present status;

(b) the details of proposals submitted by the State Governments during the last three years for the construction of overbridges/underbridges at level crossings;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the amount of funds allocated for the construction of such bridges during the last three years and till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Railways undertake construction of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) on cost sharing basis in lieu of existing busy level crossings where the traffic density is more than one lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs). Otherwise, proposals are considered on deposit terms. In both the cases proposals are to be sponsored by the State Government duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites under extant rules.

As on 31.12.2004, there are total 436 works of ROBs/ RUBs sanctioned on cost sharing basis failling in different States. All these works are at various stages of planning and execution. The details of these bridges are enclosed in Statement.

(b) to (d) All the firm proposals received during last three years from State Governments duly fulfilling the criteria have been included in Railway Budget. The detail of works sanctioned and fund allotted in last three years is as under:

| Year | No. of Works sanctioned | Budget allotment (Rs. in Cr.) |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 47 | 325 |
| 2003-04 | 53 | 313 |
| 2004-05 | 23 | 251 |

***Statement***

*Status of Road Over/Under Bridges sanctioned in various States*

| State | No. of Works sanctioned | New Works included in Budget 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|
| Andhra Pradesh | 51 | 4 |
| Assam | 3 | 0 |
| Bihar | 49 | 0 |
| Chhattisgarh | 5 | 0 |
| Delhi | 1 | 0 |
| Guajarat | 5 | 0 |
| Haryana | 13 | 1 |
| Jharkhand | 20 | 0 |
| Karnataka | 38 | 0 |
| Kerala | 53 | 3 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 9 | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 23 | 4 |
| Orissa | 9 | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 3 | 0 |
| Punjab | 28 | 0 |
| Rajasthan | 8 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 46 | 6 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 26 | 4 |
| West Bengal | 46 | 0 |
| Total | 436 | 23 |

*[English]*

**News on FM Channels**

2304. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned broadcasting of news on the private F.M. channels;

(b) whether the Government is aware that despite the ban, private FM channels are explaining the news in their own ways and broadcasting them; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The private FM radio operations are governed by the terms and conditions of license agreement signed between the Government and the private broadcasters. These conditions, *inter alia,* prescribe that the license is for free to air broadcasts of audio, excluding news and current affairs. The cases of violation of the license conditions are dealt with as per the provision of the license agreement.

A complaint from Prasar Bharati was received in June, 2002 regarding broadcasting of news & current affairs on a Private FM channel in Mumbai. The matter was taken up with the broadcaster, who had responded that it had happened inadvertently and that they have taken measures to ensure that this is not repeated. Other broadcasters were also asked to ensure the same. No further complaint regarding transmission of FM radio channel of any Licensee has been received.

The Ministry is drawing the attention of all private FM broadcasters to adhere to the norms, *i.e.,* not to broadcast news & current affairs.

*[Translation]*

**Opening of News Report Centres in Rajasthan**

2305. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati proposes to open news report centres in Rajasthan, particularly in Jodhpur city;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel**

2306. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel were slashed in January, 2005;

(b) if so, the extent to which these prices were slashed;

(c) whether the operational expenses of aeroplanes have also comedown as a result of the reduction in prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel;

(d) if so, the extent of which the operational expenses have comedown; and

(e) the extent to which the annual average profit is likely to rise due to it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Aviation Turbine Fuel price was Rs. 27,300 per kilolitre in January, 2005 as against Rs. 31,000 per kilolitre in December, 2004 for domestic operations. The average ATF price was Rs. 27,500 per kilolitre from April to December, 2004.

(c) to (e) As there was only a marginal decrease in ATF prices in January, 2005 compared to the average ATF price from April to December, 2004, this would have nominal impact on ATF cost, operational expenses and profitability of airlines during current financial year 2004-2005.

*[English]*

**Transportation of Gas and Crude Oil from Paradeep to Barauni**

2307. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of pipeline to transport gas and crude oil from Paradeep to Barauni;

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on this project;

(c) whether the project is going on as per schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) IOCL's Paradip Haldia crude oil pipeline is under implementation at an estimated cost of Rs. 1178 crore. Environmental clearance and acquisition of Right of Way (RoW) in land have been completed. Coated mainline pipes production and laying are in progress. This pipeline would be connected to the existing Haldia-Barauni pipeline. The project is on schedule and is expected to be completed by March 2006.

**Gas Pipeline from Dadri to Punjab**

2308. SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government announced the laying of gas pipeline to Punjab from Dadri;

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

(c) the quantity to be made available to Punjab; and

(d) the time by which work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) GAIL plan to lay the Dadri-Panipat-Nangal gas pipeline subject to tying up sources of supply and marketing the gas. The project is at an initial stage.

*[Translation]*

**Corruption in Tatkal Scheme**

2309. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of corruption rampant in Tatkal scheme;

(b) if so, whether any railway officials has been found to be involved in this illegal practice;

(c) if so, the action taken against them; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government to curb such practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) No report of rampant corruption in revised Tatkal Scheme has come to notice. However, one railway official has been found indulging in securing reservation through Tatkal Scheme unauthorisedly and necessary action has been initiated against him.

(d) Checks are conducted from time to time to apprehend the staff indulging in malpractices in reservation including Tatkal Reservation Scheme.

**CD on Historical Monuments/Temples**

2310. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to make multi media active CD on centrally protected historical monuments/temples in the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal. However, the Publication Division, Ministry of I & B, has taken up a project of producing multi media CDs under the 10th Plan. The Publication Division, to date, has taken up CDs on Brihadeshwara Temple (Tamil Nadu), Sanchi Stupa (Madhya Pradesh), Qutub Minar (Delhi), Goa (Goa State), Aadi Shankara and Indian Paintings.

*[English]*

**Throwing out of Passengers**

2311. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army has ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident of throwing out of passengers from Farrakka Express near Shikohabad Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh by the Army personnel;

(b) if so, whether the investigation has been completed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the personnel found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Army has ordered a Court of Inquiry to investigate involvement, if any, of Army personnel in the incident. The report has not yet been received.

**Jagidshpur-Haldia Pipeline Project**

2312. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the Jagidhspur-Haldia pipeline has been started;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started; and

(d) the proposed outlay for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Jagdishpur-Haldia gas pipeline project is yet to receive approval of GAIL's Board of Directors.

**Medical Drug Abuse**

2313. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Medical drugs abuse is rapidly increasing in the cities in the country;

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

(c) whether drugs having content of narcotic are very much popular among college students;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare propose to formulate any strategies to check the Medical Drugs abuse in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) There is no authenticated report to indicate the increase/decrease of medical drug abuse, as no timeline data for benchmarking is available. No specific study has been undertaken on college students.

(d) and (e) The Drug Controller General of India, Ministry of Health has taken following measures to check the medical drug abuse in the country:

- Chemists and Druggists have been directed to sell these drugs only against prescription of registered medical practitioners;
- Manufacturers have been advised to revise the formulation of certain drugs to bring down the narcotic content and put the warning "the drug has potential of abuse and should be used under strict medical supervision" in red colour on the label.
- The State authorities have been directed to prevent easy availability of these drugs through retail outlets.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment provides financial support to NGOs for conducting awareness generation programmes about ill effects of drug abuse to different settings including educational institutions.

**Institutes for Hydrocarbons Technology**

2314. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to start institutes at the level of IITs for Hydrocarbons Technology;

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

(c) the time by which these institutes are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Auction of Old Aeroplanes**

2315. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to auction old aeroplanes after acquiring the new ones in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the present planes in Indian Airlines were procured;

(d) whether the life span of these planes has been expired; and

(e) if not, the reasons for disposing of these aeroplanes?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Age profile of the aircraft owned by Indian Airlines as on 1st March, 2005 is given in the table below:

| Type | Fleet | Average Age (Years) |
|---|---|---|
| A300 | 03 | 22.5 |
| A320 | 30 | 13.6 |
| B737 | 11 | 23.5 |
| DO228 | 02 | 19.7 |
| ATR-42 | — | — |
| All Type | 46 | 16.8 |

(d) There is no prescribed age limit in terms of flight hour, flight cycle or calendar year for the commercial aircraft. The aircraft remain in operation as long as they are maintained in airworthy condition as per the maintenance procedures and norms prescribed by the aircraft manufacturers and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

(e) Replacement/renewal of the old aircraft is an on-going process and is considered necessary to ensure that the product offered to the passengers compares favourably with the competitors. The new aircraft with latest technology offer better economics and improve reliability of operation.

*[English]*

**Amendment to PWD Act, 1995**

2316. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2643 dated December 16, 2004 regarding Amendment in Disability Act and state:

(a) whether the suggestions received for the amendment of Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 has been processed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) to (c) The suggestions for amendment to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 are at various stages of processing. Any amendment to the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 can be done only through an Act of Parliament. In view of this, no specific time frame for amendment to the Act can be given at this stage.

**Arms Business with America**

2317. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has requested the US to correct its dependability deficit if it is to emerge as a major arms supplier to India;

(b) if so, whether India has pointed out that US laws leave buyers of American equipment sanctions-prone;

(c) if so, whether India wants assurance in its defence preparedness won't be affected by sanctions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) India and USA have shown interest in developing a defence equipment and technology relationship in the framework of positive trends in India-US relations in areas of mutual interest. In this context, the US has been advised that because of its implications for national security, for any defence trade and equipment relationship to prosper, concerns regarding reliability of supplies, including sanctions, under US laws, must be addressed.

**Night Landing Facilities at Airports**

2318. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Airports in the country do not have the Night Landing facilities;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for providing Night Landing facilities at these airports; and

(d) the time by when all these Airports will be provided such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Night landing facilities are provided at 42 operational airports in the country. Number of such airports State-wise are Andhra Pradesh-4, Assam-3, Bihar-2, Chhattisgarh-1, Delhi-1, Gujarat-3, Jammu & Kashmir-1, Jharkhand-1, Karnataka-4, Kerala-2, Madhya Pradesh-3, Maharashtra-3, Manipur-1, Nagaland-1, Orissa-1, Punjab-1, Rajasthan-2, Tamil Nadu-4, Tripura-1, Uttar Pradesh-2 and West Bengal-1.

(c) and (d) Provision of night landing facilities is considered depending upon operational feasibility, site conditions and demand by airlines. At some airports like Kullu, Kangra, Shimla and Jabalpur, night landing is not feasible due to safety reasons and hence, has not been provided. At other airports, provision of this facility is contingent on demand by airlines.

**Sound and Light Show in Temple at Warrangal**

2319. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2123 dated July 22, 2004 regarding 'Sound and Light Show in Warrangal' and state:

(a) whether reconstruction and repairing work of Kalyana Mandapa and Rudreshwara Temple has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government has now taken any decision on the proposal seeking permission to conduct a sound and light show in 1000 pillared Temple at Warrangal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Reconstruction of Kalyana Mandapa is in progress, and conservation work of Rudreshwara temple at Hanamkonda has been completed.

(b) and (c) Archaeological Survey of India has not given permission so far for conducting sound and light show in the premises to Thousand Pillared Temple, Hanamkonda, Distt. Warrangal.

(d) The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation has approached ASI to grant permission for commissioning the light and sound show in the premises to Thousand Pillared Temple, Hanamkonda. Rudreshwara Temple which is in front of Thousand Pillared Temple is under worship. The State Tourism Department has acquired 200 sq. yards of land on south east of temple which is inadequate to meet the car parking and other requirements of light and sound show. Hence AP Tourism Development Corporation has been requested to acquire more land to facilitate this show.

*[Translation]*

**Assistance for Construction of Museums**

2320. SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides assistance to the State Governments for construction of new museums under the Centrally sponsored schemes;

(b) if so, the details of projects for which the amount has been provided, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi during each of the last three years;

(c) the present status of these projects; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for timely completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Import of Gas**

2321. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the countries from which the gas was imported during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government has proposal to import gas in 2005-06 and in subsequent years; and

(c) if so, the details alongwith the countries from which it is proposed to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The import of natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has started only from the current financial year with 2.5 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) of LNG being imported from Qatar by M/s. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) during 2004-05. During the year 2005-06, besides the import of 5 MMTPA of LNG by M/s. PLL from Qatar, M/s Shell is projected to start importing LNG for its 2.5 MMTPA LNG terminal at Hazira, Gujarat which is scheduled to be commissioned during the course of the year.

To meet the projected shortfall in natural gas supply, Government is encouraging the import of natural gas in the form of LNG as well as through transnational pipelines from gas rich countries in West Asia (including Iran), Central Asia and South East Asia. Government is pursuing, in particular, gas imports through pipelines from Iran transiting through Pakistan and from Myanmar through Bangladesh. The negotiations for these transnational pipeline initaitives are at initial stages.

**Use of Alternative Aviation Fuels**

2322. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is exploring the possibilities of using alternative aviation fuels as reported in the 'Times of India' dated March 3, 2005;

(b) if so, whether any discussion has been held with the Aviation Industry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Aeronautical Society of India has recently organized an International Seminar on emerging trends in Aviation Fuels and Lubricant on 11th March, 2005 at New Delhi. During the seminar issue of alternative fuel was deliberated upon and it emerged that new fuels are in the process of being developed.

**LNG Terminal**

2323. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the increase in demand of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the Government proposes to set up another LNG terminal;

(b) if so, the details of the annual increase registered during each of the last three years;

(c) the estimated cost in setting up of such terminal; and

(d) the time by which the terminal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) As against the existing demand of more than 150 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), the total availability of gas is only about 80 MMSCMD. In order to meet the existing and projected shortfall in the supply of gas, initiatives

have been taken for the import of natural gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). M/s. Petronet LNG Limited's (PLL) 5 Million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) LNG import terminal in Dahej has been commissioned in the year 2004-05. PLL have imported 2.5 MMTPA LNG during 2004-05. The PLL Board have also approved the setting up of a 2.5 MMTPA LNG terminal at Kochi, Kerala Projected for commissioning in the year 2008-09. M/s. Shell's 2.5 MMTPA LNG terminal at Hazira, Gujarat is scheduled to be commissioned during 2005-06. The proposals for setting up LNG terminals at Ennore in Tamil Nadu and Mangalore in Karnataka are at the initial stages.

The estimated cost of setting up a green field LNG terminal of 5 MMTPA capacity is about Rs. 2,7000 crores.

*[Translation]*

**NOC by CBFC**

2324. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commercial and feature films got 'No Objection Certificate' from Central Board of Film Certification with cuts and without cuts separately during the last one year, language-wise;

(b) the number of such films for which 'No Objection Certificate' was not issued alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that movies, now a days, have more violent scenes and sex that harms the viewers especially the children;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to make changes in certification procedure;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to give more powers to the Central Board of Film Certification and to change the definition of obscenity to make it unambiguous and transparent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The Central Board of Film Certification certifies films for public exhibition in terms of the Cinematopgrah Act, 1952. While the details of the feature films (celluloid) certified for the period 01.01.2004 to 31.12.2004 are given in Statement-I, the details of the feature films (video) are given in Statement-II and information in respect of short films is provided in enclosed Statement-III. The commercial films which includes promos and advertisements falls under the category short films.

(b) and (c) The Central Board of Film Certification has informed that thirty one feature films were refused certification during the calendar year 2004 as they were found to violate the certification guidelines issued under the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

(d) and (e) Changes in the Cinematograph Act and the Certification Rules is an on-going process and is periodically undertaken to update the provisions in tune with the times.

(f) The certification guidelines under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 have adequate provisions empowering the Central Board of Film Certification for issuing cuts wherever required in order to curb the exhibition of obscenity.

***Statement-I***

*Indian Feature Films*

*(Celluloid)*

*From 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2004*

*(Language-wise and Category-wise)*

| Sl.No. | Language | U | U* | UA | UA* | A | A* | Total | | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Clear | Cuts | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Hindi | 53 | 14 | 25 | 31 | 40 | 81 | 118 | 126 | 244 |
| 2. | Tamil | 28 | 23 | 13 | 35 | 9 | 22 | 50 | 80 | 130 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Telugu | 55 | 35 | 22 | 37 | 23 | 31 | 100 | 103 | 203 |
| 4. | Malayalam | 52 | – | 18 | – | 1 | – | 71 | – | 71 |
| 5. | Kannada | 17 | 27 | 1 | 23 | – | 7 | 18 | 57 | 75 |
| 6. | Bengali | 40 | – | 2 | – | 4 | – | 46 | – | 46 |
| 7. | Gujarati | 6 | 3 | 3 | – | 1 | – | 10 | 3 | 13 |
| 8. | Marathi | 30 | 4 | 10 | 9 | 3 | – | 43 | 13 | 56 |
| 9. | English | 3 | – | – | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 13 |
| 10. | Nepali | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | 2 |
| 11. | Oriya | 19 | – | – | – | – | – | 19 | – | 19 |
| 12. | Assamese | 9 | – | – | – | – | – | 9 | – | 9 |
| 13. | Garhwali | 1 | – | 2 | – | – | – | 3 | – | 3 |
| 14. | Punjabi | 3 | – | – | 1 | – | – | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 15. | Bhojpuri | 10 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 21 |
| 16. | Chhattisgarhi | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 17. | Rajasthani | 4 | – | – | – | – | – | 4 | – | 4 |
| 18. | Bodo | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 19. | Kumayani | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 20. | Punjabi & Urdu | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| 21. | Maithili | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 22. | Nagpuri | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 23. | Himachali | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 24. | Aaodhi | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 25. | Tamil (Dub) | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 26. | Konkani | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | 2 |
| 27. | Telugu (Dub) | – | – | – | – | 5 | – | 5 | – | 5 |
| 28. | Silent | – | – | – | 1 | – | – | – | 1 | 1 |
| 29. | Banjara | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| 30. | Sadri | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | 2 |
| 31. | Kokbork | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | 1 | – | 1 |
| | Total | 345 | 109 | 100 | 141 | 90 | 149 | 535 | 399 | 934 |

*with cuts

***Statement II***

*Central Board of Film Certification*

*Indian Video Feature Films*

*Certified from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2004*

| Language | U | U* | Total | UA | UA* | Total | A | A* | Total | Grand Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hindi | 55 | 24 | 79 | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | 80 |
| Tamil | 5 | 15 | 20 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 20 |
| Malayalam | 9 | – | 9 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 9 |
| Telugu | 9 | 12 | 21 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 21 |
| Gujarati | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Bengali (Dub) | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Marathi | 6 | – | 6 | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | 7 |
| English | 4 | – | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | – | 1 | 7 |
| Bhojpuri | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | 2 | – | 2 | 3 |
| Bhojpuri (Dub) | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Gadwali | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Manipuri | 23 | – | 23 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 23 |
| Kannada | 3 | 4 | 7 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 7 |
| Konkani | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Assami | 18 | – | 18 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 18 |
| Sadri | 2 | – | 2 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 2 |
| Nagpuri | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Bodo | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Rajbangshi | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Kokborok | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – | – | – | 1 |
| Total | 143 | 56 | 199 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | – | 3 | 206 |

*with cuts

***Statement III***

*Central Board of Film Certification*

*Indian Video Short Films*

*Certified from 1.1.2004 to 31.12.2004*

| Sl.No. | Language | Promos | Clear | Cuts | Total | Advertisement | Clear | Cuts | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Hindi | 462 | 450 | 12 | 462 | 28 | 28 | – | 28 |
| 2. | Tamil | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 3. | Telugu | 31 | 28 | 3 | 31 | 5 | 5 | – | 5 |
| 4. | Malayalam | 11 | 11 | – | 11 | 4 | 4 | – | 4 |
| 5. | Kannada | 35 | 32 | 3 | 35 | – | – | – | – |
| 6. | Bengali | 10 | 8 | 2 | 10 | – | – | – | – |
| 7. | Gujarati | 8 | 8 | – | 8 | – | – | – | – |
| 8. | Marathi | 130 | 125 | 5 | 130 | 4 | 4 | – | 4 |
| 9. | English | 82 | 81 | 1 | 82 | 8 | 8 | – | 8 |
| 10. | Garhwali | 75 | 15 | – | 75 | – | – | – | – |
| 11. | Punjabi | 75 | 73 | 2 | 75 | – | – | – | – |
| 12. | Bhojpuri | 39 | 33 | 6 | 39 | – | – | – | – |
| 13. | Rajasthani | 15 | 15 | – | 15 | – | – | – | – |
| 14. | Kumayani | 13 | 13 | – | 13 | – | – | – | – |
| 15. | Urdu | 6 | 6 | – | 6 | – | – | – | – |
| 16. | Hariyanvi | 52 | 51 | 1 | 52 | – | – | – | – |
| 17. | Maithili | 2 | 2 | – | 2 | – | – | – | – |
| 18. | Music | 4 | 4 | – | 4 | – | – | – | – |
| 19. | Himachali | 1 | 1 | – | 1 | – | – | – | – |

*[English]*

**Expenditure on Advertisements by Oil Companies**

2325. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Public Sector Oil Companies on the advertisements and modernization of pumps during each of the last three years; item-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the net refinery and marketing margin of public sector oil companies on sale of diesel and petrol during each of the last three years, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Increase in the Prices of Petroleum Products**

2326. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the number of times the prices of crude oil, petrol and cooking gas has been increased during the last three years; and

(b) the amount of increased price each time of these products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Revisions in the prices of crude oil, petrol and domestic LPG during the last three years are given at enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

***Statement I***

*Monthly average price of marker Crude Oil which constitute the Indian Basket*

| | Dubai US$/Bbl | Brent Dated US$/Bbl |
|---|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 |
| April-2001 | 24.18 | 25.66 |
| May-01 | 25.60 | 28.51 |
| June-01 | 25.65 | 27.83 |
| July-01 | 23.43 | 24.58 |
| Aug.-01 | 24.53 | 25.74 |
| Sep.-01 | 24.12 | 25.57 |
| Oct.-01 | 19.63 | 20.49 |
| Nov.-01 | 17.67 | 18.98 |
| Dec.-01 | 17.83 | 18.68 |
| Jan.-2002 | 18.48 | 19.48 |
| Feb.-02 | 19.02 | 20.22 |
| Mar.-02 | 22.96 | 23.73 |
| Apr.-02 | 24.51 | 25.66 |
| May-02 | 24.69 | 25.33 |
| June-02 | 23.91 | 24.13 |
| July-02 | 24.67 | 25.81 |
| Aug.-02 | 25.24 | 26.66 |
| Sep.-02 | 26.80 | 28.38 |
| Oct.-02 | 26.32 | 27.58 |
| Nov.-02 | 23.31 | 24.10 |
| Dec.-02 | 25.73 | 28.67 |
| Jan.-2003 | 28.02 | 31.32 |
| Feb.-03 | 30.02 | 32.67 |
| Mar.-03 | 27.38 | 30.54 |
| Apr.-03 | 23.45 | 24.85 |
| May-03 | 24.36 | 25.72 |
| June-03 | 25.51 | 27.51 |
| July-03 | 26.72 | 28.35 |
| Aug.-03 | 27.66 | 29.79 |
| Sep.-03 | 25.37 | 27.08 |
| Oct.-03 | 27.27 | 29.65 |
| Nov.-03 | 27.66 | 28.73 |
| Dec.-03 | 28.10 | 29.87 |

| | 1 | 2 |
|---|---|---|
| Jan.-2004 | 28.88 | 31.23 |
| Feb.-04 | 28.61 | 30.83 |
| Mar.-04 | 30.85 | 33.79 |
| Apr.-04 | 31.68 | 33.25 |
| May-04 | 34.74 | 37.80 |
| June-04 | 33.43 | 35.04 |
| July-04 | 34.65 | 38.32 |
| Aug.-04 | 38.55 | 43.04 |
| Sep.-04 | 35.55 | 43.25 |
| Oct.-04 | 37.54 | 49.64 |
| Nov.-04 | 34.87 | 42.84 |
| Dec.-04 | 34.20 | 39.53 |
| Jan.-2005 | 37.92 | 44.23 |
| Feb.-05 | 39.87 | 45.37 |
| Mar.-05 | 44.36 | 52.38 |

Note:
March 2005-Upto 14.03.2005
Source-Platts

***Statement II***

*Retail Selling Price of Petrol at Delhi—amount of Increase/(Decrease)*

| Date | Petrol | |
|---|---|---|
| | Delhi (Rs./Ltr.) | Increase/ (Decrease) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 01.03.02 | 26.54 | (1.00) |
| 04.06.02 | 28.94 | 2.40 |
| 16.06.02 | 29.18 | 0.24 |
| 16.08.02 | 29.00 | (0.18) |
| 01.09.02 | 29.20 | 0.20 |
| 16.09.02 | 29.66 | 0.46 |
| 01.10.02 | 29.91 | 0.25 |
| 17.10.02 | 30.24 | 0.33 |
| 16.11.02 | 29.57 | (0.69) |
| 01.12.02 | 28.91 | (0.66) |
| 03.01.03 | 29.93 | 1.02 |
| 16.01.03 | 30.33 | 0.40 |
| 01.02.03 | 30.71 | 0.38 |
| 01.03.03 | 32.10 | 1.39 |
| 16.03.03 | 33.49 | 1.39 |
| 16.04.03 | 32.49 | (1.00) |
| 27.04.03 | 31.49 | (1.00) |
| 16.05.03 | 30.40 | (1.10) |
| 01.06.03 | 30.30 | (0.10) |
| 01.09.03 | 32.40 | 2.10 |
| 16.10.03 | 31.70 | (0.70) |
| 16.12.03 | 32.70 | 1.00 |
| 01.01.04 | 33.70 | 1.00 |
| 16.06.04 | 35.71 | 2.00 |
| 01.08.04 | 36.81 | 1.10 |
| 5.11.04 | 39.00 | 2.19 |
| 16.11.04 | 37.84 | (1.16) |

***Statement-III***

*Retail Selling Price (RSP) of Domestic LPG in Delhi—Amount of Increase/Decrease*

| Date | RSP per Cylinder (in Rs.) | Increase/(Decrease) in RSP per Cylinder (in Rs.) |
|---|---|---|
| 01.03.02 | 259.95 | - |
| 17.03.02 | 240.45 | (19.50) |
| 16.06.04 | 261.60 | 21.15 |
| 05.11.04 | 281.60 | 20.00 |

**Opening of LPG Agencies in Cooch Behar, West Bengal**

2327. SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

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

(a) whether the Government has invited new tenders to open more LPG agencies in Cooch Behar and Barasat in West Bengal to meet the demand of the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new agencies are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) advertised LPG distributorships in Cooch Behar, West Bengal in January, 2004. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) also plans to commission LPG distributorships at two locations namely, Mekhliganj and Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar District. At present, there is no proposal for setting up LPG distributorship at Barasat.

(c) LPG distributorships are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in accordance with their commercial considerations. The commissioning of LPG distributorships depends upon various factors such as identification of viable locations, release of advertisements, conducting interviews, ability of the candidate to secure land for godown, showroom etc. In view of this, it is not possible to indicate a time frame for commissioning distributorships at the locations referred to at (a) above.

**Indo-Russia Agreement in Oil Sector**

2328. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether he visited Moscow recently to press ONGC's case for acquiring the main unit of Yukos;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Russia in the Oil Sector; and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During the visit of Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to Moscow on 21-22 February, 2005, discussions were held at the ministerial, official and commercial levels about possible areas of collaboration between the two countries in the hydrocarbon sector, including the possibility of VOL's acquiring a stake in Yuganskneftgas, the main subsidiary of Yukos, now with Rosneft, the national oil company of Russia. The response has been encouraging.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Gazprom, in which the Russian Government have a large interest, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which envisages joint participation of Gazprom and OVL in oil and gas sectors in Russia and third countries and also of Gazprom and ONGC in India.

A Strategic Cooperation Agreement was signed between GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) and Gazprom on 3.12.2004. In terms of this agreement, the parties would evaluate various opportunities, with a special focus on the gas sector in India, Russia and other countries, and develop projects for implementation.

**Allotment of Retail Outlets in Karnataka**

2329. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited in Karnataka for which the Company had issued Letter of Intent (LoI) to the selected applicants in the recent past.

(b) the number of retail outlets allotted so far;

(c) the criteria adopted for allotment of the retail outlets;

(d) the number of applications pending with IOC for allotment for retail outlets for LPG, Petrol Pumps and Kerosene; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) During the period April, 2004 to January, 2005, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has issued 126 number of Letters of Intent for retail outlet dealerships in the State of Karnataka.

(c) The allotment of retail outlet dealerships is done by IOC in accordance with the guidelines laid down for the purpose.

(d) and (e) As on 31.1.2005, while there was no case pending in respect of the allotment of retail outlet dealerships and SKO-LDO dealerships in the State of Karnataka, IOC did have one case pending in the State, where the location for the allotment of an LPG distributorship had been advertised by the Company but further action was pending. That case is *sub judice* and further action in the matter will depend on the orders of the Supreme Court of India.

**Action Plan for Railway Stations in Delhi**

2330. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating an Action Plan to deal with the heavy rush and crowd at all the Railway Stations in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action plan is likely to be formulated and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) This year special trains for Holi festival going towards eastern sector are being originated in Delhi Sarai Rohilla station instead of Delhi or New Delhi station. As and when a heavy rush of *bonafide* passengers is anticipated, the Divisional Railway Protection Force authorities make additional arrangements for crowd control by mobilizing more men from within the existing resources or by deploying Railway Protection Special Force. Moreover, the Closed-Circuit Camera Monitoring System at New Delhi Railway Station being operated by Railway Protection Force has been recently upgraded to provide monitoring facility at all vantage points/pressure points to enable the Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police to respond instantaneously for better control of the situation. To deal with the rush on daily basis is an ongoing process.

**Preservation of Sun Temple**

2331. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on preservation of Sun Temple at Konark during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken for proper preservation of monuments in Orissa, particularly Sun Temple?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Amount spent on preservation of Sun Temple, Konark during each of the last three years is:

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 2001-2002 | 50.13 |
| 2002-2003 | 41.44 |
| 2003-2004 | 65.22 |

(b) Archaeological Survey of India is taking proper care for preservation of all protected monuments in Orissa.

During the last three years, the amount spent for the conservation of the monuments in Orissa are as below:

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 2001-2002 | 129.60 |
| 2002-2003 | 102.00 |
| 2003-2004 | 190.00 |

The restoration work on the south side and north-west corner of the plinth (Adhisthan) of Jagmohan of the Konark temple has been carried by way of refixing architectural stone members. The loose stones have been refixed by pinning and grouting the surrounding areas. Besides, the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, has carried out soil investigation, geo-radar studies and Core Sampling with would enable the ASI to plan and undertake long term conservation works.

Other scientific conservation measures being undertaken at the Sun temple Konark include removal of soluble salts, surface consolidation and protection of the stone surface.

**Development of Kaveri Jet Engine**

2332. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of the Kaveri jet engine is one of the DRDO's most ambitious projects;

(b) if so, whether the testing facility of the kind being used for Kaveri jet engines does not exist in India;

(c) if so, whether the Karveri jet engine has been tested successfully in Russia for its ability to operate at high altitudes; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to develop testing facility in India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ground test facilities are available at Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bangalore. Other major and important test facilities such as High Altitude Simulation Facility, Flying Test Bed and some structural test facilities are not available in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir. Several phases of simulated high altitude testing have been completed in Russia.

(d) It is not cost-effective to set up such facilities.

*[Translation]*

**Improvement in Goods Transportation**

2333. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Department has given the top priority to bring in improvement in its goods transportation during the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether the capacity of high density corridors has been increased;

(c) if so, whether the speed of trains has been increased upto 100 Km per hour so as to reduce the gap in the speed of goods transport services;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures being taken by the Government for this purpose; and

(e) the estimated quantity of goods likely to be transported as a result of increased speed of trains alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) One of the stated objectives of the Tenth Five Year Plan was to increase capacity on the High Density Network, improve through put and increasing average speed of the goods train.

For this purpose a special purpose vehicle the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited was set up to execute the works of strengthening of the Golden Quadrilateral in order to increase capacity, throughput and average speed of the goods train in a period of five years.

The Railways have planned to increase the speed of the goods trains upto 100 Kilometre Per Hour (KMPH) on the Golden Quadrilateral and its diagonals.

Since the amount of traffic carried is dependent on a number of factors, it is not possible to calculate the quantity of goods that are likely to be carried as a result of increased speed of goods trains. However, it has been planned to achieve an originating freight loading of 776 Million Tonnes by the year 2009-2010.

**Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets to SCs/STs**

2334. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received from General/ Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Women category by the different oil companies for allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail Outlets in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Maharashtra, Haryana during 2004 till date, category-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of graduate and post-graduate applicants;

(c) whether any priority has been given to the graduate and post-graduate applicants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the action will be taken for allotting Petrol/Diesel retail outlets to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The State-wise total number of applications received, during the period 1.1.2004 to 31.1.2005, by the four public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), *viz.*, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Limited, for allotment of retail outlet dealerships in respect of locations earmarked for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/ Open categories, including the locations reserved for women under these categories, in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana and Maharashtra were as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Uttar Pradesh | — | 18,800 |
| Uttaranchal | — | 856 |
| Haryana | — | 7,070 |
| Maharashtra | — | 9,917 |

(b) OMCs do not maintain separate record in respect of applications received from Graduates and Post-Graduates.

(c) and (d) In terms of the criteria laid down in the existing guidelines of these companies for evaluation of applicants for dealerships, post-graduates are awarded 12 marks and graduates are awarded 10 marks out of a maximum of 15 marks earmarked for educational qualifications of candidates.

(e) It is not possible to indicate the time-frame for the allotment of retail outlets to the applicants as the exercise involves various steps like scrutiny of applications and documents, conduct of interviews of the eligible candidates for selection of dealers, release of merit panels, field investigation in respect of selected candidates, etc.

**Implementation of Jhuggi Rehabilitation Scheme**

2335. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from several State Governments for approval to implement the Jhuggi Rehabilitation Scheme on the railway land;

(b) if so, whether the necessary 'No Objection Certificate' has been issued to the State Governments for this programme for providing free accommodation to the residents of jhuggis; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Some State Governments have requested for sparing of Railway land for resettlement and rehabilitation of encroachers settled on that land.

(b) and (c) Railways do not have any policy of sparing Railway land for resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of encroachers. However, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi, as per the R&R policy of the State Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, adopted by the Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation, Railway is required to share the cost of R&R of the encorachers of Railway land in the safety zone, or land required for sanctioned projects. Similarly, in Mumbai for the Mumbai Urban Transport Project, Railways are sharing the cost of R&R of the project affected households with the State Government of Maharashtra.

**Industries engaged in Defence Production**

2336. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of small and large scale industries are presently engaged in the production of defence related items; and

(b) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government to promote Indian industries in Defence sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To promote Indian Private Industries in the Defence Sector, in May 2001, Defence Industry Sector which was hitherto reserved for the Public Sector, was opened for Private Sector Participation upto 100% with FDI permissible upto 26% both subject to licensing. Government has also set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar, Former Adviser to the Finance Minister to modify the current acquisition process on an approach based on "products strategy" and recommend modalities for integration of users, Ministry of Defence and the Indian industry both Public and Private Sector.

*[English]*

**Extraction of Hydrocarbons**

2337. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether keeping in view the limited reserves of Hydrocarbons in India, whether the Government has asked the Public Sector Oil Companies and other corporate bodies to extend their activities in exploration and extraction of Hydrocarbons outside India;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to remove the cap on investment in this sector in Gulf, African and Asian countries where Hydrocarbons reserves are high;

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

(d) the incentives proposed to be given by the Government to the companies who invest in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) To enhance the country's energy security, in keeping with the objectives of the Energy Security section of the National Common Minimum Programme, National Oil Companies such as ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), IOC, OIL and GAIL, have been pursuing the acquisition of equity oil and gas abroad, as well as the overseas acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties. These companies have Participating Interests in oil and gas projects located in Vietnam, Sudan, Russia, Iraq, Iran, Myanmar, Libya, Syria, Australia, Ivory Coast, Qatar and Egypt.

(b) Government give approvals based on the merits of the proposal and its overall policy to enhance the energy security of the country. There is no cap on investment.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Companies may seek certain fiscal incentives for their overseas operations, which requests Government decides on merits.

*[Translation]*

**Committee on Funds Allocation to NGOs**

2338. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee in regard to provision of funds to non-government organizations engaged in various welfare schemes;

(b) if so, the details alongwith composition thereof;

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(d) if so, recommendations given by the Committee and the follow up action taken by the Government on their implementation;

(e) if not, the time by which said Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(f) the number of meetings held yearly by the said Committee since its constitution, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

An 'Advisory Committee on issues relating to NGOs' headed by Shri S. Satyam, I.A.S. (Retd.) and five other Members was constituted.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Committee in its report has made certain recommendations which are advisory in nature. These recommendations relate to National Voluntary Organisations-Mother Voluntary Organisation-Field Voluntary Organisations (NVO-MVO-FVO) model for grant-in-aid administration, decentralization of power to release grant-in-and to Empowered Committees at State level, classification of NGOs, transparency in functioning, developing computerized network for administration of grant-in-aid, system of monitoring and inspection. As a follow up of these recommendations, representatives of the Voluntary Organisations have been included as members of the Screening Committee that scrutinizes the applications received from the Voluntary Organisations for sanction of grant-in-aid in respect of new cases. The website of the Ministry is updated regularly. Wide publicity of the schemes and programmes are made through print and electronic media. Funds are transferred to the bank accounts of the Voluntary Organisations telegraphically. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure effective functioning of the Voluntary Organizations.

(e) and (f) The committee has already submitted its report.

*[English]*

**Beautification in and around Red Fort**

2339. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken a beautification drive in and around Red Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(d) whether the Government is aware that after execution of said drive visitors are facing parking problem in and around Red Fort; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The area on the east and west side of the Red Fort has been landscaped.

(c) The expenditure incurred by the ASI on the works executed in and around the Red Fort is as under:—

| Year | Expenditure (Rs. in Lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 2001-2002 | 40.69 |
| 2002-2003 | 192.88 |
| 2003-2004 | 292.53 |
| 2004-2005 | 160.85 |

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Area for developing of parking facilities has been identified and the work has been entrusted to the CPWD.

**Rationalization of Interest Rates Charged by SCA**

2340. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main objective of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) is to provide concessional finance to OBCs for setting up self-employment ventures and starting income generating schemes;

(b) if so, the number of OBCs to whom concessional finance was provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) are charging high rate of interest from OBCs despite their poor financial conditions; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken to rationalize the rate of interest charged by SCAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) are charging 3% as service charges from the beneficiaries which is utilized by the SCAs for identification of eligible beneficiaries and their verification, disbursement of loan, recovery of loan and monitoring of the implementation of the Schemes at the grass-root level. The service charges can be reduced if the State Governments/UTs extend

adequate administrative subsidy to their respective SCAs to implement the NBCFDC's schemes. Further, the rate of interest indicated by NBCFDC as service charges for SCAs is the maximum rate of interest that can be charged from the beneficiary and the SCAs are free to charge lower than the prescribed rate.

***Statement***

*N.B.C.F.D.C.*

*State-wise Disbursement, No. of Beneficiaries for the last three years and current year (till 10.03.2005)*

(Rs./lacs)

| Sl.No. | Name of States | 2001-02 | | 2002-03 | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 (As on 10.03.05) | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Disbursement | Beneficiaries | Disbursement | Beneficiaries | Disbursement | Beneficiaries | Disbursement | Beneficiaries |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2045.00 | 16584 | 1750.00 | 41917 | 1150.00 | 24065 | 150.00 | 300 |
| 2. | Assam | 159.53 | 585 | 327.44 | 241 | 95.68 | 274 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 3. | Bihar | 500.00 | 680 | 175.00 | 180 | 7.50 | 10 | 70.00 | 123 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | 0 | 101.50 | 203 | 25.00 | 40 | 108.19 | 137 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 12.00 | 21 | 0.00 | 0 | 15.00 | 25 | 24.70 | 72 |
| 6. | Delhi SC/ST | 0.00 | 0 | 100.00 | 200 | 50.00 | 55 | 50.00 | 78 |
| 7. | Daman & Diu | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 1040.00 | 2475 | 2210.42 | 3136 | 350.00 | 615 | 250.00 | 615 |
| 9. | Goa | 112.38 | 57 | 122.56 | 72 | 46.67 | 26 | 28.45 | 15 |
| 10. | Haryana | 100.00 | 470 | 0.00 | 0 | 200.00 | 940 | 150.00 | 655 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 333.50 | 282 | 199.75 | 176 | 182.84 | 256 | 154.26 | 265 |
| 12. | Jammu & Kashmir | 5.00 | 50 | 10.00 | 40 | 15.00 | 30 | 40.60 | 97 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 270.30 | 540 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 1276.25 | 7350 | 1200.98 | 9276 | 1690.77 | 7757 | 866.25 | 5878 |
| 15. | Kerala | 2032.61 | 7083 | 3133.40 | 17635 | 3067.50 | 11900 | 1147.50 | 3488 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 515.22 | 2358 | 275.50 | 993 | 492.50 | 1292 | 48.75 | 107 |
| 17. | Manipur | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 18. | Maharashtra | 798.64 | 1131 | 1169.65 | 3088 | 2684.00 | 5570 | 1950.00 | 5941 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Orissa | 646.00 | 2298 | 5.00 | 50 | 50.00 | 105 | 25.00 | 400 |
| 20. | Punjab | 0.00 | 0 | 100.00 | 196 | 43.00 | 629 | 50.00 | 85 |
| 21. | Pondicherry | 71.98 | 196 | 50.00 | 170 | 50.00 | 173 | 50.00 | 176 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 100.00 | 190 | 199.75 | 397 | 114.68 | 278 | 243.40 | 660 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 154.14 | 170 | 60.00 | 230 | 125.00 | 170 | 124.90 | 154 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 212.04 | 965 | 325.00 | 2146 | 1075.00 | 28717 | 650.00 | 23219 |
| 25. | Tripura | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 1144.00 | 1732 | 700.00 | 1894 | 550.00 | 1138 | 416.00 | 4403 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 9.00 | 40 | 27.75 | 37 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 677.25 | 1250 | 377.00 | 2442 | 750.00 | 1675 | 400.00 | 1708 |
| | Total | 11935.54 | 45927.00 | 12592.95 | 84682.00 | 13109.44 | 86320.00 | 7025.75 | 48613.00 |

**Theft from Museums**

2341. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a standing Ganesha and Brahma with his consort were stolen from Open Sky Museum, Patan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the persons found involved therein;

(e) whether such type of cases are increasing day by day in various parts of the country;

(f) if so, the details of the cases reported during 2004-05; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to stop recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A four armed standing image of Ganesha made in sandstone and a four armed image of Bramha seated in a Lalitasan with his consort datable 11th Century were stolen from Sahastarlinga Talab, Open Sky Museum, Patan. The Monument attendants on duty were found guilty in the departmental inquiry and departmental action was taken. An FIR was lodged with the local police and enforcement authorities have been requested to take necessary steps to recover the stolen antiquities.

(e) to (g) One sculpture named 'Buddha Head (Sarnath)' was found missing from the Archaeological Gallery of Indian Museum, Kolkata on 29th December, 2004. The matter has been referred to the Kolkata Police for investigation. The Ministry has reviewed from time to time the security arrangements of all the museums and passed necessary directions. The Government has also constituted a Security Committee to look into the issues related to Museum Security, which has members from CISF and IB. The mandate of the committee is to review the existing policy, identify critical gaps, and to recommend minimum standard for Museum Security measures that are at par with International Standard.

A variety of factors which includes inadequate police cover in remote area, inability to provide watch and ward staff in each monument and poor communication facilities

have resulted in such thefts. Armed guards, in addition to private security, have been deployed at selected centrally protected monuments and sites to avert the recurrence of such incidents.

*[Translation]*

**Publication of Books in Indian Languages**

2342. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Publication Division has published books in Indian Languages especially in Hindi and Marathi during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the separate titles of these books especially of the said languages;

(c) the amount spent thereon during the said period, language-wise; and

(d) the efforts made/being made by the Government to publish more books in the Indian languages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The requisite details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) An amount of Rs. 3,69,248 was spent on Marathi titles and Rs. 1,36,69,307 was spent on Hindi titles during the said period.

(d) Besides Hindi, Publications Division brings out books in different regional languages such as Marathi, Urdu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Oriya, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bengali etc. Under the Builders of Modern India Series, biographies of eminent personalities are published in Hindi, English and regional languages. In addition, popular titles of any language are translated into regional languages depending on their demand in the market.

***Statement***

The following Hindi and Marathi titles were published during the last three years, till date. The year-wise break-up is given below:—

YEAR 2002-03

NEW TITLES

1. Shyamjee Krishan Verma
2. Bhartiya Mahilayen Nai Dishayen
3. Hawa Ki Beti
4. Bhartiya Patrakarita Ka Itihas
5. Bhartiya Press 1955 Se Ab Tak
6. Nandu Bhaiya Ki Patange
7. Jivan Ki Uttpatti Aur Vikas
8. Loknayak Jai Prakash Narayan (BMI)
9. Meera Mukti Ki Sadhika
10. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhayanmala-1999
11. Chaudah Ghante
12. Hindustani Shastriya Sangeet Ki Gharana Parampara
13. Man Ka Rishta
14. Kabootar Ud Gaye
15. Bharat Ke Gaurav Granth-Telugu
16. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (BMI)
17. Bansuri Ki Awaz
18. Do Dost
19. Desh Videsh Ke Chidiaghar
20. Tantrivadak
21. Antriksh Mein Bharat
22. Birsa Munda (BMI)
23. Sadharan Avishkaron Ki Asadharan Safaltayen
24. Bharat Ke Gaurav Granth-Marathi
25. Katha Kathak Ki
26. Bharat-2003
27. Lal Phoolon Wala Ped
28. Bhartiya Samvidhan Aur Aam Adami
29. Qurbani Anjan Shahidon Ki
30. Hamare Aaj Ke Cricket Sitare
31. Number Ek Kaun : Sachin, Waugh Ya Lara
32. Govindaswami (Ashtachhap Kavi)
33. Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (BMI)

34-68. CWMG (Revised Volumes 1 to 35)

REPRINTS

1. Sukumaliya Ka Tyag
2. Krantikariyon Ka Bachpan
3. Betal Kathaen
4. Videshi Yatrion Ki Nazar Mein Bharat
5. Adi Kavi Maharishi Valmiki
6. Pauranik Bal Kathaen
7. Maharathi Karan
8. Amar Shahid Bhagat Singh
9. Lakshadweep Ki Samudri Kathaen
10. Hamare Scouts Guide
11. Bharat Ke Mahan Shiksha Shastri
12. Hamari Jheelein Aur Nadiyan
13. Bhartiya Sanskriti Ki Jhankiyan
14. Ek Desh Ek Hirdaya
15. Apni Hindi Sudharein
16. Hamare Muslim Sant Kavi
17. Pauranik Bal Kathaen (Part II)
18. Antariksh Yan Ke Karname
19. Khargosh Ke Seengh
20. Vishwa Ki Shrestha Lok Kathaen-Part I
21. Bharat Ke Pracheen Samarak
22. Dhanua Raja
23. Sabu Satpat
24. Bal Bodh Kathaen
25. Lakshagrah
26. Man Ka Ujala
27. Gopal Krishna Gokhale
28. Kamal Aur Ketki
29. Ustad Bhure Lal
30. Rajasthan Ke Nari Ratan
31. Sher Ka Dil
32. Lo Gubbare
33. Desh Videsh Ki Kahaniyan

YEAR 2003-04

NEW TITLES

1. Bharat Ke Prachin Shastrastra
2. Saras Kahaniyan
3. Ustad Allauddin Khan
4. Jhanki Hindustan Ki
5. Chhoti Aankhon Ka Bada Sapna
6. Anokhi Shaadi
7. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (BMI)
8. Uttaranchal Rajya
9. Chheet Swami
10. Akshar Katha (Revised)
11. Bharat-2004
12. Jankathakar Shailesh Matiyani
13. Nupur Nakshatra
14. Nikolai Rorik
15. Cloning
16. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhyanmala (1996-1998)
17. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Vyakhyanmala (2000-2002)
18-82. CWMG (Revised Volumes 36-100)
83. Aadivasi Garh Chhattisgarh
84. Naye Vishwa Ki Aur-Nirnayak Daur
85. Viksit Arthvyavastha Ki Aur-Nirnayak Daur

REPRINTS

1. Kartabi Jaanwar
2. Kheer Ki Gudiya
3. Bodh Kathayein
4. Guru Ramsingh Aur Kuka Vidroh
5. Jangal Ka Nyay
6. Haadi Rani
7. Uttar Pradesh Ki Lok Kathayein
8. Nobel Puraskar Vijeta Mahilayein
9. Chetak Aur Pratap
10. Gyani Chuha

11. Rani Lakshmibai
12. Vishva Ki Shreshtha Lok Kathayein
13. Betaal Kathayein
14. Bharat Ke Nari Ratan
15. Anjaane Mein Huye Avishkar
16. Barf Ka Dulha
17. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
18. Bharat Ki Veer Gaathayein
19. Saral Panchatantra
20. Amar Shahid Ram Prasad Bismil
21. Ek Din Ka Mehmaan
22. Paheliyan
23. Swaran Hans Tatha Anya Jatak Katheyein
24. Hamare Paramveer
25. San Sattavan Ke Bhule Bisre Shahid
26. Satkhandi Haveli Ka Malik
27. Mahapurushon Ke Prerak Prasang
28. Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (BMI)
29. Bhartiya Janjatiyan
30. Hamare Vriksha
31. Birsa Munda (BMI)
32. Aallah Udal
33. Bharat Ke Lok Gatha Geet

YEAR 2004-05

NEW TITLES

1. Jan Kavi Nagarjun
2. Kavita Ajkal
3. Antriksh Mein Bharat (Revised)
4. Bagwani Kaise Karein
5. Swami Sahjanand Saraswati (BMI)
6. Chhuppam Chhupai
7. Desh Bhakti Ke Natak
8. Kahani Ajkal
9. Viklangata, Kaaran, Bachav Va Nidan
10. Samay Ka Safar
11. C. Subramanyam Bharati (BMI)
12. Ved Gatha
13. Taron Bhara Aakash
14. Andhra Kesari T. Prakasam (BMI)
15. Umar Ke Is Daur Mein
16. Bharat 2005
17. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay (BMI)
18. Bal Shiksha Aur Bal Swasthya

REPRINTS

1. Bharat 2004
2. Yugpurush Ambedkar
3. Bhimrao Ambedkar (BMI)
4. Sukumaliya Ka Tyag
5. Vishwa Ki Shreshtha Lok Kathayein Part-I
6. Videshi Yatriyon Ki Nazar Mein Bharat
7. Kheer Ki Gudiya
8. Bal Bodh Kathaein
9. Pauranik Bal Kathayein
10. Sanskritik Ekta Ka Guldasta
11. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
12. Ekta Ki Bolti Tasvirein
13. Lakshadweep Ki Samudri Kathayein
14. Lakshagrah
15. Apni Hindi Sudharein
16. Ek Desh Ek Hirday
17. Kabootar Ud Gaye
18. Rochak Etihasik Kahaniyan Part-II
19. Nobel Puraskar Vijeta Mahilayein
20. Hamare Aaj Ke Cricket Sitare
21. Safar Ka Sathi
22. Chetak Aur Pratap

23. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay (BMI)

24. Lo Gubbare

25. Hamare Bahadur Bachche

26. Jawaharlal Nehru (BMI)

27. San Sattavan Ke Bhule Bisre Shaheed

28. Bharat ke Prachin Samarak

29. Hamari Jheelein Aur Nadiyan

30. Saral Panchtantra

31. Chhoti Ankhon Ka Bada Sapna

32. Lal Phoolon Wala Ped

33. Kurbani Anjaan Shaheedon Ki

34. Aallah Udal

35. Haveli

36. Adikavi Maharishi Valmiki

YEAR 2002-03

MARATHI TITLES

No Marathi title was brought out during the year.

YEAR 2003-04

1. Indian Tribes Through the Ages

2. Dr. K.B. Hedgewar

YEAR 2004-05 (TILL DATE)

1. Great Men Great Deeds

*[English]*

**ONGC Overseas Projects**

2343. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas (ONGC) Limited has evinced interest to launch Joint Venture projects in other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the overseas proposals mooted by ONGC;

(c) the present status of those proposals; and

(d) the amount of investment involved in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Although, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have no proposal at present for launching joint venture projects in other countries, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) the wholly owned subsidiary of ONGC engaged in E&P activities overseas is participating, alongwith partner companies, in a number of overseas E&P projects, the details of which, as on 31.12.2004, are given in the statement enclosed.

***Statement***

(In US $ Million)

| Sl.No. | Country | Project | Year of Acquisition | OVL Participating Interest (PI) | Partners with their PI | OVL share in currently Estimated Capital Investment/ Acquisition Consideration/ Work Programme |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Vietnam | Block 06.1 | 1988 | 45% | British Petroleum-35% with operatorship Petro Vietnam-20% | 228 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Iraq | Block-8 | May, 2001 | 100% | | 15 |
| | Russia | Sakhalin-1 | July, 2001 | 20% | Exxon-Mobil 30% with operatorship Sodeco-30% SMNG-S-11.5% RN-Astra-8.5% | 2770 |
| 4. | Myanmar | Block A-1 | April, 2002 | 20% | Daewoo International Corporation-60% with operatorship KOGAS-10% GAIL-10% | 27 |
| 5. | Iran | Farsi Offshore | December, 2002 | 40% with operatorship | Indian Oil Corporation-40% Oil India Limited-20% | 15 |
| 6. | Sudan | GNOP | March, 2003 | 25% | China National Petroleum Company (CNPC)-40% Petronas-30% Sudapet-5% Joint operatorship | 669 |
| 7. | Libya | NC-188 & NC-189 | June, 2003 | 49% | Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company-51% with operatorship | 30 |
| 8. | Syria | Block-24 | January, 2004 | 60% | IPR International-40% with operatorship | 6 |
| 9. | Sudan | Block 5A | May, 2004 | 24.125% | Petronas-68.875% Sudapet-7% Petronas and Sudapet Joint Operator | 269 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Sudan | Block 5B | May, 2004 | 23.5% | Petronas-41% Sudapet-11% Lundin-24.5% Petronas and Sudapet Joint Operator | 26 |
| 11. | Sudan | Pipeline Project | June, 2004 | 90% | Oil India Ltd.-10% | 111 |
| 12. | Australia | WA 306P | Aug., 2004 | 55% | Antrim Energy Inc.-32.5% with operatorship Magellan-12.5% | 7 |
| 13. | Ivory Coast | CI-112 | Sept., 2004 | 23.5% | Oil India Ltd.-11.5% Vanco-30% with operatorship, Sinopec-30% Petroci-5% | 17.85 |

**Land Occupied by ONGC on Rental Basis**

2344. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether ONGC has occupied land on rental basis for pumping the crude oil from the wells;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has directed ONGC to purchase the land from the farmers;

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

(d) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by ONGC in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) ONGC acquires land on rental basis or permanently as required for carrying out its exploration and production activities. Once the hydrocarbon potential is established, the land is acquired on a permanent basis.

*[Translation]*

**Sale of Ethanol Mixed Petrol**

2345. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the estimated annual production of Ethanol in the country;

(b) whether any difficulty is being experienced in sale of ethanol mixed petrol; and

(c) if so, the manner in which this difficulty is being tackled?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Molasses, a derivative of sugar used for manufacture of ethanol is a decontrolled item. As such, no data regarding production of ethanol is maintained.

(b) and (c) Since late 2003 and in 2004, the availability of ethanol has been scarce and erratic in the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, Karnataka and

Andhra Pradesh. The price of ethanol also rose significantly at all locations.

After discussions with State Governments, the Government has notified *vide* GSR 705(E) dated 27.10.2004 that five percent ethanol-blended petrol, as per BIS specification, shall be sold in notified States and Union territories if the price of sourcing indigenous ethanol for supply of ethanol-blended petrol is comparable to the price of indigenous ethanol for alternative uses and the delivery price of ethanol at the location is comparable to the import parity price of petrol at that location and the indigenous ethanol industry is able to maintain the availability of ethanol for ethanol-blended petrol at such prices.

*[English]*

**Gas Connections in Rural Areas**

2346. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy in regard to providing LPG cooking gas connections in rural areas in the country, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the places in different States including Karnataka where gas agency has not been opened despite being included in the gas agency marketing plan during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which the gas agencies at these places are likely to be opened; and

(d) the places at which the alternative arrangements of gas supply have been made?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Government do not approve the Marketing Plan of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for setting up LPG distributorships. These are set up by them on commercial considerations. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas to propagate the use of LPG in these areas. As on 1.2005, OMCs had commissioned 8,808 LPG distributorships in the country, including 479 distributorships in Karnataka.

OMCs have taken steps to increase the supply of LPG to rural and other low consumption areas. These include the opening of community kitchens in villages and the sale of 5 kg. LPG cylinders.

**Increase in Cable Subscription**

2347. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether cable operators have threatened to increase the subscription for customers in view of the hike in fees charged by broadcasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The charges payable by cable subscribers to cable operators and by cable operators to Multi system operators/broadcaster are regulated by TRAI. The charges were frozen at the levels of 26.12.2003. To allow for inflation, these charges have been allowed an increase upto 7% with effect from 1.1.2005. These ceilings do not apply to pay channels, which came up after 26.12.2003 or to Free-to-Air channels converted to pay channels after 26.12.2003. However, TRAI has specified that rates of these channels must be similar to the rates of similar channels as on 26.12.2003 and provided on a stand-alone basis either individually or as a part of new separate bouquet.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India examines complaints of hike in cable charges in accordance with their Tariff Order issued in this regard and takes action as required under the law.

**Yatri Niwas**

2348. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more Yatri Niwas to meet the growing demand of rail users in the country;

(b) if so, the details of Yatri Niwas proposed to be set up during Tenth Plan along with the locations identified for the purpose, zone-wise; and

(c) the specific steps proposed to be taken to meet the growing demand of rail users for affordable boarding and lodging facilities in the State capitals as well as in the major cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) in the first phase has proposed to set up Yatri Niwas/Budget Hotels at Chandigarh (Northern Railway), Habibganj (Bhopal) (West Central Railway), Secunderabad (South Central Railway), Bangalore (South Western Railway), Madurai (Southern Railway) and Sealdah (Eastern Railway) with public-private participation.

(c) IRCTC will undertake construction of Yatri Niwas/ Budget Hotels with public-private participation at several locations. However, Indian Railways is already providing lodging through Retiring rooms, Air conditioned (AC) and Non-AC dormitories and Catering Services through vegetarian and non-vegetarian refreshment rooms, multi cuisine Food Plazas, stalls and trolleys etc. at all important State Capitals/major Stations at affordable tariff to meet the growing demand. Occupancy of existing retiring rooms at the State Capitals and major cities is regularly reviewed and accordingly efforts are made for provision of additional rooms/beds.

**Upgradation of Su-30 MKI**

2349. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are planning for joint futuristic upgradation of Su-30 MKI multi-role fighter plane;

(b) if so, whether India has started indigenously building Su-30 MKI fighters;

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

(d) whether India is planning to expert Su-30 MKI variant to third world countries with Russian permission; and

(e) if so, the response received so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) There is no plan for joint futuristic upgradation of Su-30 MKI multi-role fighter plane. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has started manufacturing Su-30 MKI aircraft indigenously under licence from Russia. A contract for the first batch of aircraft has been signed by the Government with HAL.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

**Ban on Selling of Books**

2350. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently imposed a ban on selling of books of Sarva Seva Sangha at the Railway Book stalls;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) time since when the books of the Sarva Seva Sangha are being sold at the book stalls?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sarva Seva Sangha is running books stalls since the year 1963 on different stations of Indian Railways.

**Orders to HEC**

2351. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently extended economic held to the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi and also placed orders for procurement of various defence items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) During the current financial year (2004-05), Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi (HEC) has been provided budgetary support of Rs. 125.65 crore for liquidating arrears of salary/wages and outstanding statutory dues as on 31.7.2004.

HEC has received orders worth Rs. 4.36 crores from Defence Sector in year 2004-05.

*[English]*

**Corruption/Irregularities in Railways**

2352. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed Vigilance Officers in each Division to see mis-deeds of Railways Divisional Managers;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Vigilance Officers who are permanent employees of Railways, instead of checking the mis-deeds of Divisional Managers, they are reporting to Divisional Managers in place of reporting to CVC;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to appoint Vigilance Officers other than railway employees;

(d) the measures taken to curb corruption/irregularities in Railways; and

(e) the details of vigilance cases instituted against the officers of Northern Railways and Divisional Managers during each of the last three years?

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

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Vigilance to reduce corruption in the Railways:—

- Bridge the gap between demand and supply by augmentation of the capacity of trains.
- Intensify checks at reservation offices, booking counters, parcel and goods booking offices and other such offices, which deal with the public not only by Vigilance Organization but also by the senior officers of the concerned departments.
- Keeping a watch on the working of officials of doubtful integrity.
- System improvements and procedure amendments to improve transparency and reducing possibility of corruption/leakage of revenue.
- Investigation of complaints alleging corruption/ leakage of revenue.
- Stringent exemplary action against those found guilty of corruption.
- Educating and training of senior officers in the matter of tenders and contracts.
- Empowerment of Railway Protection Force for taking action against the touts and unauthorized travel agents who try to corner accommodation in trains. This being a legal matter may take some time and till then, a greater liaison with the Civil Police administration.
- Implement rotational transfers of officials posted on sensitive seats to prevent the staff from developing unholy nexus.
- Delegate more powers to field organizations to enable speedy decisions as delay breeds corruption.
- Man the Railway Recruitment Boards by officials of proven integrity.
- Seeking assistance of the public not to succumb to their desire of achieving favours by greasing palms of corrupt staff and instead bringing up such matters to the notice of Vigilance Organization.

(e) No vigilance case has been instituted against any of the Divisional Railway Managers of Northern Railway during the last three years. However, the details of the vigilance cases instituted against other officers of Northern Railway, during the same period are indicated below:—

| Sl.No. | Year | No. of Vigilance Cases instituted against the officers |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | 2002 | 31 |
| 2. | 2003 | 24 |
| 3. | 2004 | 12 |

**Royalty Rate on Crude Oil**

2353. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when last royalty rate on crude oil was revised by the Government;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to increase the royalty rate;

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

(d) the amount on account of royalty given to the Government of Gujarat during each of the last three years and the amount pending with the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for regular payment of royalty to the Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Royalty rate on crude Oil was last revised *vide* Government Resolution dated the 17th March, 2003. The revised rates, applicable with effect from 1.4.1998, were decided after taking into account the request of stakeholders including the State Govt. of Gujarat. The State Government had proposed that the rate of royalty should be 40% of net back value or import parity price, whichever is higher.

(d) Royalty is payable to the State Government by the holders of the mining leases granted by the concerned Government. During the last three years, ONGC, as mining lease holder, have paid the following amounts of royalty in addition to Rs. 175.91 crore paid towards arrears of royalty on crude oil produced from April, 1998 to March, 2002:—

| Year | Royalty paid (Rs. in Crore) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 577.61 |
| 2002-03 | 886.77 |
| 2003-04 | 859.09 |

Further, the contracting parties to the production sharing contracts have paid the following amounts of royalty:—

| Year | Royalty paid (Rs. in Crore) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 897.00 |
| 2002-03 | 4856.00 |
| 2003-04 | 4520.00 |

(e) The Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules contain adequate provisions to deal with cases of delayed/short payment of royalty. State Governments are competent to take requisite action.

**New Oil & Gas Fields**

2354. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies have failed to find new oil and gas fields in the past few years in the country whereas private sector oil companies have made significant oil and gas finds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new strategies to be adopted by public sector oil companies to find new oil and gas fields in the country to compete with private oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No Sir, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have made 19 and 12 hydrocarbon finds respectively in the States of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Rajasthan, Tripura and of the coast of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Under the new fiscal and contractual regime following the announcement of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) by the Government in 1997, oil public sector units have reoriented their exploration strategies and are actively collaborating as well as competing with, private companies to get exploration blocks offered under NELP to enhance their exploration acreages.

**Railway Projects**

2355. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of Railway projects are slow down due to naxalite activities in the various parts of the country;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate security to the workforce deployed by the construction companies/agencies so that the completion schedules of the projects are not delayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The progress of some of the projects has suffered due to militant activities and adverse law and order conditions in some parts of the country including Jammu & Kashmir, North East Region, Bihar, Jharkhand, etc. Security aspect is gone into while reviewing the progress of projects and matters are taken up with the concerned State Government authorities for providing adequate security from time to time.

**New Airports**

2356. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the various State Governments for establishment of new airports in their respective States for the benefit of the tourists;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A number of cities and towns have been proposed by the concerned State Governments for construction of new airports. For instance, Pakyong, Gangtok in Sikkim, Chiethu, Kohima in Nagaland, Mopa, Panaji in Goa, Chakan, Pune & Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Ludhiana in Punjab, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Devanhalli (Bangalore), Gulbarga, Bellary & Bijapur in Karnataka, Shamshabad (Hyderabad) in Andhra Pradesh, Kannur in Kerala and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) Government of India has already accorded approval for setting up of new international airports at Devanhalli near Bangalore, Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Mopa in Goa. Other proposals for new airports are in preliminary stages of consideration.

*[Translation]*

**Electrification of Siding**

2357. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its Report No. 9 of 2004 has observed that indecisiveness on the part of both Central Organisation for Railway Electrification and Northern Railway Administration resulted in non-electrification of a siding and consequential loss of earning capacity of Rs. 2.38 crore on account of detention to the rolling stock;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

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

(b) The electrification of siding was not part of the sanctioned estimate. Therefore, the work was not taken up for electrification.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Procurement of Rail Wagons**

2358. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rail wagons procured during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of rail wagons proposed to be procured during the current financial year;

(c) the estimated demand of wagons in the country by the end of 11th Plan; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the future demand of rail wagons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Wagons in terms of Four Wheeler Units (FWUs) procured during the last three years are as under:

| Year | Quantity (in FWUs) |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 12647 |
| 2002-03 | 16584 |
| 2003-04 | 16573 |

(b) Provision of acquisition of 20000 wagons in terms of Four Wheeler Units was made in the current year's Budget *i.e.*, 2004-05. Out of which a quantity of 17613.5 has been procured till 28.2.2005. Efforts are being made to achieve the budgetary target for the current year.

(c) The wagon requirement for the 11th Plan have not been worked out. This exercise will be done when the 11th Plan is prepared. As per the Mid-term Review of the 10th Plan sent to Planning Commission, wagon requirement has been assessed as 94214 FWUs.

(d) For balance two years of 10th Plan, adequate provision will be made for manufacture of required wagons by increasing supply of wheel sets and other inputs.

**Menace of Touts at Stations**

2359. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 150 touts have been arrested recently by railway police from stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether railway employees are in nexus with these touts;

(d) if so, the details of vigilance cases pending against railway employees found involved in black-marketing of railway tickets; and

(e) the stringent measures taken by the Government to curb menace of touts in black-marketing of tickets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the year 2004, a total of 2,145 persons have been arrested and prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

(c) and (d) Though on direct involvement was found, 21 Railway Employees who were found at fault by the Vigilance Department in such cases, have been taken up under the Discipline and Appeal Rules as under:—

| Railways | Number of Employees |
|---|---|
| Central Railway | 1 |
| Northern Railway | 6 |
| Western Railway | 9 |
| East Coast Railway | 2 |

(e) The following measures are being taken to curb the menace of touts:—

(i) Railway Protection Force (RPF) staff is deployed to keep incognito watch over touts and other undesirable elements at reservation complexes.

(ii) Special joint raids by RPF, Vigilance and Commercial staff are organized from time to time at suspected booking counters and reservation centres.

(iii) Intelligence machinery is geared up to collect intelligence about the activities of touts at suspected places.

(iv) Announcement is being made at stations and reservation complexes to alert and educate the passengers not to purchase tickets from touts or any unauthorized agents/sources.

**Renewal of Insurance Cover of Aircraft**

2360. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed private players to participate in renewal of the insurance cover of aircraft of the two State-owned Airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any policy framework in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The aviation insurance policy has since been reviewed and directions have been issued to public sector airlines that, in future, participation of all bidders, including those in private sector—if eligible, is to be ensured and contracts

are awarded at the most economical prices, through a transparent, equitable and fair system.

*[Translation]*

**Expenditure Incurred on Republic Day and Beating Retreat Celebrations**

2361. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on Republic Day and Beating Retreat celebrations during each of the last three years; and

(b) the revenue earned by the Government from the sale of tickets for Republic Day and Beating Retreat celebrations during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Although the Ministry of Defence is responsible for organising the Republic Day Parade and the Beating Retreat Ceremony at New Delhi every year, the organisation of these ceremonies requires co-ordinated efforts of various Central Ministries and Departments, the State Governments, the Union Territory Administration, the Central Public Sector Undertakings, Local Bodies and various other agencies. As expenditure on various items regarding these arrangements is borne by the concerned organizations/agencies and is not compiled or exhibited under one Head, it is not possible to indicate the amount spent on these ceremonies during each of the last three years.

The revenue earned by the Government from the sale of tickets on these occasions during the last three years as given below:—

| | 2003 (Rs.) | 2004 (Rs.) | 2005 (Rs.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Republic Day Parade | 7,78,670 | 11,20,980 | 12,48,110 |
| Beating Retreat | 37,160 | 53,010 | 92,370 |

**Contracts for Oil Exploration**

2362. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Public Sector Oil Companies have been awarded contracts for oil exploration in the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details stating *inter-alia* the foreign countries which have awarded contracts to these companies for oil-exploration during 2004-2005; and

(c) the total share of the work estimated to be awarded to the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) During 2004-05, the public sector oil companies *viz.* ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) acquired Participating Interests in various Exploration and Production (E&P) properties in Sudan, Australia, Ivory Coast, Qatar, Egypt and Libya. The details are given below:—

| Sl.No. | Country | Name of the Block | Public Sector Oil Company | Participating Interest |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Sudan | Block 5A | OVL | 24.125% |
| 2. | Sudan | Block 5B | OVL | 23.5% |
| 3. | Australia | Block WA 306P | OVL | 55% |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Ivory Coast | Block CI-112 | OVL/OIL | 30%/10% |
| 5. | Qatar | Najwat Najam | OVL | 100% |
| 6. | Egypt | North Ramdan Block No. 6 | OVL | 70% |
| 7. | Libya | Block 86 | IOC/OIL | 50%/50% |

**Delivery of Tanks**

2363. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

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

(a) whether any Departmental inquiry has been conducted to fix responsibility for delivery of less thickness tanks to petrol pumps in Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials/persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has appointed a committee of senior officials of the company to conduct an enquiry to fix responsibility for the delivery of some tanks to a few petrol pumps in Delhi where the thickness of the tanks was found to be less than the specifications. Necessary action will be taken by HPCL on the basis of the enquiry report, after it is submitted.

*[English]*

**Kelkar Committee Report on Defence**

2364. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Kelkar Committee Report on Defence;

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

(c) the number of recommendations accepted by the Government and the steps taken/being taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Increase in SKO Quota**

2365. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Government of Haryana for increase in State quota of SKO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government is aware that the residents/card holders of other States are being released 10 litres of SKO who are not having any LPG connection whereas in Haryana card holders belonging to poor families and SC/ST categories are not being released 10 litres SKO; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken to remove anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has received representations from various State Governments/Union Territories (UTs), including Haryana, for the enhancement of their SKO quota.

(c) Additional allocations have been made to various States/UTs to meet their demand including an additional allocation of 3,551 Metric Tonnes (MTs) of SKO for the period January to March, 2005 to Haryana. The Central Government have also commissioned the National Council of Applied Economic Research to undertake the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country.

(d) and (e) Kerosene oil allocated to the States/UTs by the Central Government for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) is meant for cooking and illumination purposes. States/UTs further distribute this product under PDS as per their own norms.

*[Translation]*

**Computerisation of Railway Stations**

2366. SHRI SHYAM CHARAN GUPTA:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for establishing Computerised Reservation Centres;

(b) the number of railway stations and city booking offices where the computerised reservation facilities are available, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received requests from various State Governments and organisations to increase the number of such Computerised Centres in their States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of such centres proposed to be established in each State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The extant Passenger Reservation System (PRS) policy provides for provision of computerised reservation facilities at all stations having a reservation related workload of 100 or more transactions per day, all District Headquarters both, rail-head and non rail-head and also at important tourist places and other important stations.

PRS facilities are to be provided in a phased manner subject to availability of funds. In case of non-rail-head District Headquarters, space is to be provided by the District Administration free of charge.

(b) State-wise list showing the number of railway stations and city booking offices where the computerised reservation facilities have been provided is given in Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A list of requests received from State Governments/various organisations for provision of PRS for the period January 2004 till 15.03.2005 is given in enclosed Statement-II. State-wise list showing the number of PRS sanctioned in the Annual Budget 2005-2006 is given in Statement-III.

***Statement I***

*State-wise list showing the number of railway stations and city booking offices where the Computerised Reservation Facility has been provided as on 15.3.2005*

| Sl.No. | State | No. |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 97 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1 |
| 3. | Assam | 25 |
| 4. | Bihar | 115 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 22 |
| 6. | Delhi | 29 |
| 7. | Goa | 3 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 46 |
| 9. | Haryana | 20 |
| 10. | Himachal Pradesh | 11 |
| 11. | Jammu & Kashmir | 22 |
| 12. | Jharkhand | 37 |
| 13. | Karnataka | 45 |
| 14. | Kerala | 37 |
| 15. | Madhya Pradesh | 56 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 115 |
| 17. | Manipur | 1 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 18. | Meghalaya | 1 |
| 19. | Mizoram | 1 |
| 20. | Nagaland | 3 |
| 21. | Orissa | 35 |
| 22. | Punjab | 32 |
| 23. | Rajasthan | 61 |
| 24. | Sikkim | 1 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 91 |
| 26. | Tripura | 2 |
| 27. | Union Teritories | 9 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 130 |
| 29. | Uttaranchal | 21 |
| 30. | West Bengal | 101 |
| | Total | 1170 |

***Statement II***

*List of requests received from State Government/various organisations for provision of Computerised Reservation System (PRS) for the period Jan., 04 till 15.3.205*

| Sl.No. | Requested Locations | Requested by | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | PRS at Kokrajhar | Ex. Bodoland Liberation Tiger Welfare Society, Assam | Sanctioned |
| 2. | PRS at 19, Jatindra Mohan Avenue, Kolkata | Shri Vinod Kumar Vidyasaria, President/Biplabi Smritiraksha Samity, Kolkata | Not justified |
| 3. | PRS at Bundelkhand University | Prof. Ramesh Chandra/Vice Chancellor, Bundelkhand Univ. | Under consideration |
| 4. | PRS at Roopnagar | Ms. Seema Jain, Deputy Commissioner, Roopnagar | Sanctioned |
| 5. | PRS at Ambasamudram | Thiru Silver C. Ramasamy, President, Chamber of Commerce, Tirunelveli Distt. | Not justified |
| 6. | PRS at Ambasamudram | Shri M. Abul Kalam Azad, Treasurer, Multi-religious Federation, Tirunelveli Distt. | Not justified |
| 7. | PRS at Ambasamudram | Thiru M. Shahjahan, Managing Trustee, All India Handicapped Rehabilitation Trust, Vickramasingapuram | Not justified |
| 8. | PRS at VIT Campus/Vellore | Shri G. Viswanath, Chancellor/Vellore Institute of Technology | Not justified |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | PRS at Surajgarh | Shri Sevaram Gupta, Zila Adhyaksha, Jhunjhnu | Not justified |
| 10. | PRS at Chitrakut/Satna | Shri Umakant Umrao, Distt. Magistrate, Satna | Under consideration |
| 11. | PRS at Haj Manzil | Shri Abdul Sami Salmani, Chairman, Delhi State Haj Committee | Under consideration |
| 12. | PRS at University Campus/Jammu | Dr. O.S. Sudan, Registar, University of Jammu | Under consideration |
| 13. | Public Reservation Centre at Surat | Shri Girish Kantharia, Corporator, Surat Municipal Corporation | Facilities already exist |
| 14. | PRS at Raj Pipla | Smt. Jesmaben S. Vasava, President of Distt. Panchayat, Narmada | Sanctioned |
| 15. | PRS at Siwan Kachahri | Shri Awadbihari Chaudhary, Rural Development Minister of Bihar Government | Not justified |
| 16. | PRS at Fatehpur Sikri | Shri Chaudhary Babu Lal, MOS in U.P. Government | Sanctioned |
| 17. | PRS at Chamba, Keylong, Rampur, Kaza, Mall road/Simla, HP Civil Secretariat | Shri Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh | Under consideration |
| 18. | PRS at Birur | Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Hubli | Not justified |
| 19. | PRS at Sambalpur Town | Shri Jayanarayan Mishra, MOS, Commerce & Transport, Orissa | Under consideration |
| 20. | PRS at Namchi | Shri Pawan Chamling, Chief Minister, Sikkim | Sanctioned |
| 21. | PRS at Sidhi | Shri Devender Singh 'Munnu', Chairman, Municipal Corpn. of Sidhi | Sanctioned |
| 22. | PRS at Quilandi | Shri P. Sankaran, Minister of Tourism, Govt. of Kerala | Not justified |
| 23. | PRS at Gumia | Shri Madgav Lal Singh, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, Govt. of Jharkhand | Not justified |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24. | PRS at Attari | Shri Jagmohan Singh Kang, Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries and Tourism, Punjab | Sanctioned |
| 25. | PRS at Rajampet | Dr. (Sh.) Y.E. Rajeskhar Reddy, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh | Not justified |
| 26. | PRS at Mahoba | Shri Sidh Gopal Sahu, MOS for Coal & Mines, Lucknow | Sanctioned |
| 27. | PRS at Thana Bhawan | Ms. Anuradha Chaudhary, Minister of Irrigation, Lucknow, UP | Not justified |
| 28. | PRS at Dhampur | Swami Omvesh, MOS for Molasses Development, UP | Under consideration |
| 29. | PRS at Tetulmari | Dr. Saba Ahmad, Dy. Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Jharkhand | Not justified |
| 30. | PRS at Jiradei | Shri Avadh Bihari Chaudhary, Minister of Rural Development and Transport, Bihar | Not justified |
| 31. | PRS at Markacho Prakhand | Smt. Annapoorna Devi, Chairman, Women & Children Development Committee, Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha | Not justified |
| 32. | PRS at Kamptee | Shri K.L Khandelwal, Chairman, Passenger Association, Kamptee | Not justified |
| 33. | PRS at Dalmau | Shri Dheeraj Kumar Srivastava, Chairman, Nagar Panchayat, Dalmau Raibareilly | Not justified |
| 34. | PRS at Duvvada | Smt. B. Vijaya Reddy, General Secy., A.P. State Mahila Congress | Sanctioned |
| 35. | PRS at Dabhoi | Shri Mukesh K. Shah, President, Dabhoi City Corpn. | Not justified |
| 36. | PRS at Dighwara | Shri Gauri Shankar, Chairman, Shiksha Prabandhak Committee, Nagar Panchayat, Dighwara | Sanctioned |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37. | PRS at Palej | Sh. Abdul V. Matak, Vice President, Karjan Taluka Panchayat, Gujarat | Not justified |
| 38. | PRS at Sultanpur Lodhi | Shri B.S. Talwandi, Secy., Shiromani Akali Dal, Punjab | Not justified |
| 39. | PRS at Kuliithurai | AVM Delphin, Chairperson, Kulithurai Municipality, Tamil Nadu | Not jsutified |
| 40. | PRS at Walajah | Shri S. Satyamurthy, President Ammur Panchayat | Not justified |
| 41. | PRS at Santaldih | Shri Basudev Acharya, Chairman Committee of Railways | Not justified |
| 42. | PRS at Lalganj | Shri Surinder Vikaram Singh, MOS for Food & Supply, Uttar Pradesh | Under Consideration |
| 43. | PRS at Sainthia (a) PRS at Chowrigacha (b) | Shri Dheeraj Srivastava, OSD, National Advisory Council | (a) Sanctioned (b) Not justified |
| 44. | PRS at Annaparti | Secy., Navodaya Seva Samiti, Youth Organization Rural Development & Social Welfare Society, Annaparti, Andhra Pradesh | Not justified |
| 45. | PRS at Mukundharayapuram | Bhel Backward Class Welfare Association | Not justified |
| 46. | PRs at Renebennur and Alnavar | Karnataka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Hubli | Not justified |

***Statement-III***

*State-wise List showing the number of PRS sanctioned in Annual Budget, 2005-06*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Assam | 4 |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 6 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 2 |
| 4. | Haryana | 2 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 3 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 2 |
| 7. | Kerala | 2 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 3 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 2 |
| 10. | Manipur | 1 |
| 11. | Meghalaya | 1 |
| 12. | Mizoram | 1 |
| 13. | Orissa | 6 |
| 14. | Punjab | 2 |
| 15. | Union Territories | 2 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 6 |
| | Total | 45 |

*[English]*

**Exploratory Drilling in Sunderban Areas**

2367. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has decided to pick up 26% stake in 750 MW gas based power project in Tripura;

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

(c) whether ONGC is also considering exploratory drilling in Sunderban areas in the State of West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC Ltd. entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with M/s. Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) on 16.7.2004 to develop a combined cycle gas based power plant in Tripura in the public/private partnership mode of project implementation with a view to magnetizing the idle and locked up gas pools in Tripura. Subsequently, IL&FS has created a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with the Government of Tripura as co-promoters which has been registered on 27.9.2004 as the "Tripura Power Development Company Private Ltd." (TPDC). With the approval of Government, ONGC have decided to acquire 26% equity in this company from the Government of Tripura.

(c) ONGC's present exploration activities do not extend to the Sunderban area of the State of West Bengal. However, exploratory drilling will take place in accordance with the work programme given under the Production Sharing Contract for offshore block WB-OSN-2000/1 located south of the Sunderbans.

(d) Does not arise.

**NOC to NDMC for Construction of Building**

2368. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued 'No Objection Certificate' to the NDMC recently for construction of a huge building adjacent to Jantar Mantar in Delhi in violation of Notification 1992 in this regard;

(b) if so, whether this condition will also apply in other areas of residential building etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for granting permission to NDMC only?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) The Archaeological Survey of India had granted ex-post-facto licence for construction of NDMC Phase-II building in the prohibited/regulated area of Jantar Mantar subject to certain restrictive conditions eg. sealing of the portions of building in prohibited area, incorporation of elements of ancient architecture in the facade of the building, appropriate maintenance of environment etc. Moreover, only a minor portion of the NDMC building was in the prohibited area of Jantar Mantar, a protected monument. In granting such a ex-post-facto licence NDMC was directed to seal this entire area and not put it to any use. Besides, NDMC has incurred substantial expenditure from public funds in the construction of the building which is to be used in public interest. Above conditions would not apply to the residential buildings as each case would have to be examined on merits and in the light of the legal provisions.

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of Petrol Pumps by Private Companies**

2369. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI MOHD. MUKEEM:

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

(a) whether any policy/guidelines has been formulated by the Government permitting private sector oil companies to set up petrol/diesel pumps;

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

(c) the number of petrol pumps set up by private companies in various parts of the country till date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints that these companies are not complying with the norms laid down for opening the retail outlets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Government have granted authorization to market transportation fuels to three private companies, namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) as per guidelines laid down in Government Resolution dated the 8th March 2002.

(c) The details of Retail Outlets (ROs) set up by M/s. RIL and M/s. EOL as on 31st December, 2004 in various States is given in the enclosed Statement. M/s. SIMPI had not set up any ROs as on the 31st December 2004.

(d) and (e) Government have not received any specific complaint. The setting up of ROs by these companies is being regularly monitored by the Government to ensure that Government guidelines are complied with.

***Statement***

*Details of Retail outlets set up by Private Oil Companies*

| State | M/s. Reliance Industries Limited | M/s. Essar Oil Limited |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Gujarat | 59 | 68 |
| Rajasthan | 27 | 16 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 8 | 16 |
| Chhattisgarh | — | — |
| Maharashtra | 33 | 66 |
| Goa | — | — |
| Karnataka | 19 | 11 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 35 | 6 |
| Kerala | 2 | 1 |
| Tamil Nadu | 20 | 7 |
| Pondicherry | — | — |
| West Bengal | 10 | — |
| Orissa | 2 | — |
| Bihar | 1 | — |
| Jharkhand | 2 | — |
| Punjab | 20 | 15 |
| Haryana | 6 | 14 |
| Delhi | — | — |
| Uttar Pradesh | 30 | 10 |
| Total | 274 | 230 |

*[English]*

**Setting up of Power Projects by Public Sector Oil Companies**

2370. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector oil companies are proposing to set up power projects in the country in collaboration with the private sector companies;

(b) if so, the oil companies which are proposing to set up power projects; and

(c) the details of the private sector companies which are participating with these public sector oil companies for setting up power projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) ONGC Ltd. entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with M/s. Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) on 16.7.2004 to develop a combined cycle gas-based power plant in Tripura in the public/private partnership mode of project implementation with a view to magnetizing the idle and locked up gas pools in Tripura.

GAIL have been invited by the State Governments of Delhi and Punjab to participate in the equity of Bawana Power Project and Doraha Power Project respectively, as

GAIL would be the fuel supplier to these projects. These projects are at initial stages.

**Allotment of Land on Lease Basis**

2371. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kanpur Cantonment had given land to Indian Defence Workers Federation (INDW) on lease basis in July, 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Kanpur Cantonment about additional/unuthorised constructions done by IDWF; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land comprising Survey No. 520, Kanpur Cantonment and measuring 10540 Sq.ft. has been given on lease to Indian National Defence Workers Federation with effect from 12.7.1984 for a period of 30 years and renewable upto 90 years at the option of the lessee.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Federation submitted a Building Plan for construction on the said land and it was sanctioned by the Cantonment Board under their powers, on 23.12.1997. Later, it came to the notice of the Board that the Federation has deviated from the sanctioned plan and raised additional/unauthorized constructions.

A notice under section 185 of the Cantonments Act. 1924 was issued on 10.8.2004 following which no further construction has been done. On 20th January, 2005 a notice under section 256 of the cantonments Act, 1924 has also been issued for removal of unauthorized constructions.

**Losses to I.A. on Aviation Fuel**

2372. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Indian Airlines are incurring losses worth crores of Rupees on aviation fuel due to connivance between officials of air traffic control and private airlines;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any such complaint in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Due to heavy traffic congestion in landing and take off, particularly on metro routes, the actual flight time as given on a particular sector becomes much more than the scheduled block time. This leads to higher fuel consumption thereby causing losses to Airline.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Irregularities in Purchasing of Aircraft**

2373. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passenger aircraft purchased during the last three years alongwith the names of the supplier companies and the price paid for each aircraft;

(b) the details including the time of payment and the name of agency through which payment was made;

(c) whether there was difference between the actual price of the aircraft and the payment made to the said agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for making such payments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) During the last three years *i.e.* from February, 2002 to February, 2005 total 59 aircraft have been inducted/leased by the scheduled operators. The time of payment, difference between actual price and payment made etc. are commercial decision of the concerned operators and the Government does not keep a record of such information.

**Priority to NCC**

2374. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Army Staff has expressed displeasure at the low priority being given by several States to the National Cadet Corps;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued instructions to those State Governments who are not doing enough to look at the huge human potential in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to promote NCC in each school in all States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No such displeasure has been expressed by the Chief of Army Staff.

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

(d) Government provides reservation for recruitment to the Armed Forces, and weightage of marks in the para-military organisations to NCC 'C' certificate holders. The State Governments also provide various incentives to the NCC cadets in employment to State Government Organisations and admission in medical and engineering colleges. To make NCC training more attractive, adventure activities like mountaineering, competition rifle shooting, horse riding, para-sailing, white water rafting, Microlite aircraft flying and scuba diving have been extended to a large number of NCC cadets.

**Freight and Passenger Traffic**

2375. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the freight and passengers traffic targets fixed by the Railways during 2004-05 and the extent to which these have been achieved;

(b) whether the Railways is suffering huge loss due to corruption prevailing in the loading/parcel load Centres; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The revenue freight loading target for the year 2004-05 has been fixed as under:—

(in million tonnes)

| Target 2004-05 | Proportionate Target upto January, 2005 | Actual upto January, 2005 | +/- over Target |
|---|---|---|---|
| 580 (now revised to 600) | 485 | 491.76 (Provisional) | 6.76 |

Also, during April, 2004 to January, 2005, on Indian Railways, 4597 millions of passengers were booked which is 6.32% higher than the corresponding period of previous year as compared to the target of 5.47% for the whole year 2004-05.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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**12.00 hrs.**

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):—

(1) Ministry of Defence for the year 2005-2006.

(2) Defence Services Estimates for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1752/2005]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English version) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1753/2005]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions):

(1) Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2005-2006 (Volume I)

(2) Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories without Legislature) for the year 2005-2006 (Volume II).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1754/2005]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1755/2005]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1756/2005]

(5) A copy of the Kalakshetra Foundation Recruitment Regulations, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 24 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th January, 2005 under section 33 of the Kalakshetra Foundation Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1757/2005]

(6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Culture for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1758/2005]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1759/2005]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with 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 1760/2005]

(3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1761/2005]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1762/2005]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev. Is he present? Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, a little more attention is needed. Because this is the first occasion, I am ignoring it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): This would be the last, Sir.

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with 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 1763/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Airlines Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with 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 1764/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JEGADEESAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1765/2005]

**12.02 hrs.**

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

### One Hundred Thirty-second to One Hundred Thirty-eighth Reports

*[English]*

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:

(1) One Hundred Thirty-second Report on action taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred-eighteenth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the Conservation and Environmental Management Plan for Dal-Nagin Lake, Srinagar;

(2) One Hundred Thirty-third Report on action taken by the Department of Science and Technology on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-fifth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Science & Technology;

(3) One Hundred Thirty-fourth Report on action taken by the Department of Space on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-ninth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Space;

(4) One Hundred Thirty-fifth Report on action taken by the Department of Biotechnology on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-seventh report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Biotechnology;

(5) One Hundred Thirty-sixth Report on action taken by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-sixth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research;

(6) One Hundred Thirty-seventh Report on action taken by the Government of Atomic Energy on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred-thirtieth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Atomic Energy; and

(7) One Hundred Thirty-eighth Report on action taken by the Department of Ocean Development on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred Twenty-eighth report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment & Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Ocean Development.

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**12.03 hrs.**

## STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO PART (A) AND PART (B) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 40 DATED 02.12.2004 REGARDING LOSSES TO DOORDARSHAN IN ATHENS OLYMPICS*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following statement.

In answer to part (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 40 answered on 02.12.2004 the following was stated:

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan spent a sum of Rs. 20,27,79,839/-for acquiring the rights of Athens Olympic Games-2004 and arranging its telecast over various DD channels. The total revenue generated by sale of commercial air time was Rs. 8,00,00,000/-.

The corrected part (a) and (b) of the reply now reads as:

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*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1766/2005.

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan spent a sum of approximately Rs. 20.86 crore for acquiring the rights of Athens Olympic Games-2004 and arranging its telecast over various DD channels. The total revenue generated by sale of commercial airtime was Rs. 8 crore approximately.

The reply was based on the information furnished by Prasar Bharati. The error was noticed later. It was, however, not possible to lay a correcting statement in the House during the Winter Session, 2004 as the Lok Sabha adjourned *sine-die*.

I hereby place on the Table of the House copies of the revised answer to Starred Question No. 40.

The inconvenience caused to the Lok Sabha is regretted.

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## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### LAUNCHING OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT SCHEME*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): Sir, I am very happy to announce to the House that in pursuance of the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government and under the guidance of UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, what is this procedure?

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): You are giving a statement, he is stating her name, how is she related to this? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How does her name figure in the Minister's statement? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Why do you object to this? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have objected to that and that has come on record.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned the Prime Minister also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: This is an official statement. ...*(Interruptions)* How can the Minister take the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed certain reservations and they are on record. Let the Minister continue to read his statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is with regard to Unemployment Benefit Scheme.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Leave this, why do you do like this?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more is recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: After my remarks, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Malhotra, you cannot go on deciding this in this manner. Can we decide this in this fashion?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, sitdown.

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1767/2005.

*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1767/2005.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made certain reservations about the ways certain things have been said. That is on record. It cannot be decided here.

*...(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, will it be there or not? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: What is the constitutional authority of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded except the hon. Minister's Statement.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please cooperate.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your views have been recorded. His view are also there.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important statement.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Why is Shri Athawale there?

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot speak.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: He can go back to his seat. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Not one word of his will be recorded. Shri Athawale is having his hopes. We cannot blame him. Everybody is optimistic.

Yes, Mr. Minister.

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*Not recorded.

SHRI K. CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO: The Ministry of Labour and Employment has taken a momentous decision to implement a highly labour friendly scheme called the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana. This scheme shall be implemented by the Employees State Insurance Corporation, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please keep quiet. Your Minister is speaking and you are disturbing.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI K. CHANDRASHEKHAR RAO: We often come across situations where industrial units and other establishments are closed down for a variety of reasons, beyond the control of workers. During such periods of unemployment, and till they are able to find alternative employment, the economic and social condition of workers and their families becomes highly vulnerable. The absence of a safety net to deal with such situations leads to frustration and impoverishment of the workers.

Insured persons covered by Employees State Insurance Corporation and losing employment after 1st April, 2005, on account of closure of factories or establishments, retrenchment, or permanent invalidity arising out of non-employment injury shall be covered under this scheme. The insured workers, who lose employment after having contributed to the ESI scheme for five or more years, shall be entitled to an Unemployment Allowance in cash, which would be equivalent to about 50 per cent of their wages, for a maximum of six months.

In addition, the Insured persons in receipt of Unemployment Allowance and their families shall also be eligible to receive medical care, as available in the ESI dispensaries and ESI Hospitals.

This Scheme which will come into force from 1st April, 2005 will provide the much needed social security cover or about eight million employees who are insured with the Employees State Insurance Corporation. The medical benefit will be extended to 30 million family members of the insured workers.

The Employees State Insurance Corporation proposes to meet the expenditure of the Scheme out of its existing resources without levying any additional burden either on the employees or the employers. Rupees 300 crores are

being provided for, in the Rules under the ESI Act for this purpose.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, this is for the first time that an unemployment related benefit scheme is being launched in the country for our brethren workers and I am sure that all categories of workers and their employers in the country would welcome this important welfare measure.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister told that this facility would be provided to the employees who had joined after year 2005. We want to know whether or not this facility would be provided to those employees who joined after 2005?

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is a very important statement. I want to seek clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER: No questions are permitted on a statement made in this House. There are other methods open. I cannot allow a question to be put.

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*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Please allow us to seek one or two clarifications.

MR. SPEAKER: No. No. We take up Item Number 13.

**12.10 hrs.**

## GOA BUDGET-2005-2006

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Goa for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1767A/2005]

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**12.11 hrs.**

## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GOA-2004-2005

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Goa for 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1767A/2005]

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*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have one submission to make. Shri Malhotraji, I will allow the issue to be raised. But, let us follow the rules. We have decided it.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of zero hour *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not speaking about the matter.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: One hon. Member is allowed to raise one matter.

**12.12 hrs.**

**(I) Re: Delay in laying the Nanavati commission Report on the Table of the House.**

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not a question of Zero Hour. Notice for this stands for the last 21 years. *...(Interruptions)* It is a case of the year 1984. At that time three thousand people were killed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar has conceded. That is why, I allow you not on the merits but on the number.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, three thousand Sikhs were killed in Delhi in 1984. The leaders of the Congress Party were allegedly involved in that. *...(Interruptions)* A commission was constituted after

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]
that. Not a single man involved therein has been punished till date. All the leaders of the Congress were fully involved in that. The Nanawati Commission has submitted its report. Hon. Home Minister is sitting here, he is sitting on the report of the Nanawati Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*. This report has been hushed up. 40 days have elapsed, but why this report has not been presented? Why hon. Home Minister is not presenting that report? ...*(Interruptions)* The report of the Banerjee Commission was presented and published outside. Hon. Home Minister is sitting on that because Congress Party has been accused in this report. We want hon. Home Minister to clarify this. We want to know when this report will be table and debated in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. I have given him the chance because I also feel that this is a matter which should be raised. Let us follow rules.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ignore them.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwar, Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Shri Suresh Waghmare, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Dr. Lakshmi Narayan Pandey and Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa have also given similar notices. As per well established practice, they will associate with this.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should reply as to when the report would be laid. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Government should explain as to why the Government is not laying the report.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is for them to do. I have given you the opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: They will be recorded to have associated with this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House is responding.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, the well established practice is that when a Commission of Inquiry is set up and its Reports are available to the Government, the Government considers it. And along with the Action Taken Report, the Commission Report is being laid on the Table of the House. Thereafter, the Members can get the opportunity to discuss it. The Nanawati Commission Report has been received by the Government. It is being examined. It will be submitted along with the Action Taken Report. Otherwise, the same Members will say that the Report is submitted but what action the Government has taken. Therefore, it will be submitted along with the Action Taken Report. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): The Interim Report of the Banerjee Commission was tabled in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is a legal requirement.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Banerjee Commission was also submitted its reports ...*(Interruptions)* until the report is submitted, has this House could run? ...*(Interruptions)*. They are sitting on such an important report ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Banerjee Commission had submitted its report during the election ...*(Interruptions)*. The Nanawati Commission report has also been received. When will the Government lay the same report in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

When the Interim Report of the Banerjee Commission is submitted, why not the Report of the Nanawati Commission? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Banerjee report was out keeping the elections in view. The Nanawati Report is also out. But when will the same be laid in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed it to be raised.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We should know as to when will that report be laid in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is obligatory on the Government to give Action Taken Report. He has said so.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): So far as Nanawati Commission is concerned, it is a Commission set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. Therefore, the procedure which I am talking of is the procedure in respect of a Commission set up under the Commissions of Inquiry Act. So far as departmental Committee is concerned, the same procedure is not being followed. It is under the Railways. ...*(Interruptions)*

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**12.16 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Srichand Kriplani and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you the opportunity. It has been raised and he has responded. What more can it be done?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 12.30 p.m.

**12.17 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

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**12.30 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha reassembled at thirty minutes Past Twelve of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Sir, during the last one year Coast Security Guard of Pakistan had apprehended about 900 fishermen in coastal areas of Maharashtra and Gujarat and lodged them in their jails. Now only two three days ago, the Government of Pakistan has announced to release about 523 fishermen out of them. I want to request the Government that these fishermen were apprehended with their 200 fishing boats. One fishing boat costs about 12 lakhs to 15 lakhs. In this way fishing boats and fishing nets etc. worth Rs. Thirty Crore approximately are lying with the government.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. You cannot make a speech here.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Sir, it needs four to five men to bring back one boat and if these fishermen are released without their boats then it will became difficult to bring back their boats. Therefore, I request the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Shri Natwar Singhji to kindly take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan to release the boats also in the same way as the fishermen have been released.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav. Please be brief, to the point.

**(II) Re: Increase in obscenity on Television channels.**

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Sir, I am raising this question with extreme sorrow. Today nudity,

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

vulgarity, obscenity, nuisance and violence is being shown through the electronic and print media throughout the country. It is a matter of concern. Sir, the way western civilization and culture is invading our civilization and culture is a matter of grave concern. In this context, I would like quote what Arnold Toynabee had said. He had said that if nudity and alcohol find places in any civilization, that civilization is bound to lose its existence. Sir, it appears to me that we are heading towards that direction. Two years back I have raised this point in the other House also and at that time on the direction from the Chair the Government gave an assurance that efforts will be made to check such things. But nudity and such things are increasing continuously.

Sir, today we can not even watch TV news sitting with our mother and sisters because during of the news break of such obscene advertisement are shown which we would not like to see. Our head bows down in shame to see the pictures that are depicted in the supplements of various newspapers. Sir, various distinguished Ministers of our country are sitting here in the House. Through you, I would like to request them to take appropriate steps in this regard.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Janjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I endorse what Shri Ram Gopal Yadav has said.

*[English]*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, the whole House is very much concerned about it. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister of Culture is present here. I think, on behalf of the whole House, we should condemn it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute, please. Just because there is an uproar, I would not allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: During the Question Hour, this issue was raised. The hon. Minister very categorically has said about that. Now also, it has been raised by a very senior and responsible Member. When the Minister is present here, I am sure, he has noticed the concern of the entire House. I am sure, he would take an appropriate action.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The hon. Minister should furnish information in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The hon. Minister is sitting here and this should be replied to ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MD. SALIM: He is the Minister of Culture also. He is present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand what is this going on. Many hon. Members were not present during the Question Hour. Many of you do not know as to what the hon. Minister had said there.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, if the hon. Speaker permits, I would like to respond to the concern raised by the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: You say that you will consider it very seriously.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, we have taken a very serious view of the matter. Some of the recent incidents are being addressed. Some action is being taken. That apart, as I mentioned earlier, we are contemplating constitution of a regulatory authority and a statutory authority to look into all such complaints.

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MR. SPEAKER: It is just a repetition of what he has said earlier. At that time, many of you were not present.

Now, Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else's statement would be recorded except the submission of Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sidkar.

...*(Interruptions)**

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*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIDKAR (Krish Nagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue before you. I want to refer to the problem of a village Hatkhula of Chhapra legislative constituency under my Parliamentary constituency. This village is situated along the border of India and Bangladesh. The geographical location of the village is such that despite its being located in India, the people living there are facing lot of difficulties. To separate this village from the international border wire fencing has been erected there. Till some time back, the people of this village used to move both sides of international border, but after this fencing, there movement across the border has stopped.

The local residents had made a demand before the BSF authorities to construct a gate there so that the people could go to the mosque, children to the school and the farmers could fetch their crops conveniently. But the BSF has constructed a gate some days back at a farther place. Due to this, the farmers are facing difficulties in bringing their crops, people in offering namaz and the children are facing difficulties in going to their schools. Besides, there are difficulties in bringing commodities of day to day use as there is a pond near the place where the said gate has been constructed. Especially, the women are misbehaved at the time of checking. I would like to request the Minister concerned that a gate should be constructed there immediately and it is utmost important to solve the problems of this border area. I want to request the hon. Minister that a team should be sent there to know the problems of the people and attempts should be made to solve them.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. Very well done.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Minister in the House that the Government declares minimum support prices for the major crops in every season. There are 14 crops viz. paddy, bajra, juwar, maize, ragi, mung, urad, arhar, sesame, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, ramtil and cotton are for the Kharif season and seven viz., wheat, barley, gram, massor, mustared, Kusam and toriafor ravi season for which minimum support prices are declared.

Wheat and paddy are procured through Food Corporation of India for which Rajfed and Rajasthan Warehousing Corporation work as agents while Nafed is the central nodal agency for procurement of oil and pulse crops. For this purpose, Nafed takes assistance of Rajfed and Tilam Sangh, the state agencies. The Government declares minimum support price for each crop on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. In rabi season 2004-2005 a total of 26 lac hectare mustard is estimated to be cultivated and its yield is estimated to be 35 lac MT. So the Government should provide necessary assistance to the State Government for making arrangements for procurement of mustared at minimum support price.

Through this august House, I would also like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should immediately make the announcement in the interest of the farmers after giving a serious thought to the system of procurement on minimum support price put in place by the Government.

*[English]*

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House and the Government, through you, some disturbing news about the Enron Company which has been closed. It is sad that the Union Government has written a letter to the EPF Commissioner to invest in the reorganisation of the Dabhol Power Project which has been closed. The Dabhol Power Project of the Enron Company has become a very controversial project and it is said that they have to pay more than Rs. 2,000 crore to foreign banks and about Rs. 3,600 crore to Indian banks. The EPF funds and the LIC funds are now being brought in to reorganise this Project. If this is true, then it will have a very bad effect. There are several public sector industries where this type of funds can be certainly invested. But unfortunately if the Government has taken such a stand, it will hamper the growth here. Moreover, it will be very unfortunate that the workers' money which has been saved in the EPF would be going to the most controversial and unethical Project. The top level, the highest level officers of the Enron Project had been arrested and jailed in the USA. I would like the Finance Minister to make a statement whether it is true or not; and if it is true, why such an investment is being planned. Thank you.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Burn Standard Company is a reputed wagon producing company

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

engaged in wagon production for a long time. Currently, this company is suffering from working capital crisis, for the unremunerative wagon orders placed by the Railway Board during the last financial year. The Howrah Works of BSCL is not in a position to maximise its production, so is Burnpur. The employees are trying hard.

In a similar situation, a special package assistance was granted to Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Limited in Bihar. BSCL may be provided with similar such special assistance of Rs. 10 crore immediately to resume production.

*[English]*

The hon. Minister, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev has written; I myself have also written to the Railway Minister; the Standing Committee of Railways also has made the recommendation, but still there is no outcome. Earlier, the PMO had intervened.

Bharat Wagon Engineering Company Limited in Bihar had been given some special assistance. Similar such assistance should be given to Burn Standard Company Limited. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, the Government is undertaking a 22.5 MW power generation project at Milangana river at Filenda village in Tihari district in Uttaranchal through Swastik Power Engineering Company. The objection in the case is that the mandatory sanction of the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not been taken. Besides, the process of environmental impact assessment has also not been followed. At the same time, it has also come to light that the owner of the company in question belongs to an influential family which is close to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and for that reason due to political pressure construction work is going on by overlooking all the rules and regulations and the requests of villagers regarding their rights on forests and waters etc. have gone unheard. I demand from the Government to intervene and take systematic action after conducting an enquiry into the matter.

*[English]*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious issue. Jute industry is an age-old traditional industry of our country. This industry is passing through a grim scenario. It is being faced with multifarious problems not only in West Bengal but also in other States like Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Some of the jute industries have been declared sick while others, including NGMC, are either on the verge of closure or have been closed. As a result of this, thousands and thousands of workers are out of job and are facing starvation Some of the jute workers have even committed suicide.

*[English]*

Sir, jute industry is a backward industry and it needs modernisation and upgradation. As far as our information goes, our neighbouring country Bangladesh has upgraded and modernised its jute industry. Our back dated industry also needs immediate upgradation and modernisation. Not only the workers but also the jute industry as a whole and the jute growers are facing serious problem. They are not getting remunerative price for their produce. They are deprived of fertilisers and other inputs necessary for it and make distress sale. So, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government as also of the House towards it and would request the Government to come forward with a package to save the jute industry which is suffering seriously.

Sir, the jute industry is an important industry for the Government also as it earns a lot of money by way of export. So, I urge upon the House to take it seriously and bring forward a package for the modernisation and upgradation of the jute industry.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to bring an important issue to the notice of the Government. There is a population of approximately 1 crore of 'machhuara' caste known as Kashypa, Nishad and Bind. Their traditional profession was fishing and boating but with these works coming under Government and after introducing contract system there, these castes have been rendered unemployed and thus, have to take recourse to work as bonded labourers. The people of this caste could not get opportunities of education and government service. For want of means of livelihood and due to unemployment, their living standard has become worse than even scheduled castes. If this caste is included in the scheduled castes, they may get opportunities of education. Thank you, very much.

*[English]*

SHRI A.V. BELLARAMIN (Nagercoil): Apart from traditional Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, more than eight States including three North Eastern States have taken up rubber cultivation with the support of Rubber Board. There is an absence of a viable demand and supply atmosphere for want of related industrial units in the rubber growing areas. The import of rubber, which is restricted to a mere two ports like Kolkata and Vizag, can now liberally come through all ports. This has led to a manipulated price fall affecting rubber growers. While world market price remains at Rs. 57, quality Indian rubber price has fallen from Rs. 65 to Rs. 50 per kg.

Livelihood of many thousand agricultural workers, dependent on our six lakh hectares of rubber cultivation, will be seriously hampered. In Kanyakumari alone one lakh families will be affected.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to restrict import of rubber and ensure remunerative price support to Indian rubber growers by guided marketing and setting up of industrial units.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, those of you who had one opportunity in this week, will be called later on after others.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): You say that this will be an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All issues are important.

...*(Interruptions)*

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the issue relating to Vidarbha. On March 9, a hailstorm known as Garpit ravaged Vidharbha especially the Western Vidharbha. Areas like Amaravati, Darrapur, Badnera, Chandra Bazar, Chandurailway, Dhamangawh, Vashim, Karanja etc. received heavy rainfall which destroyed various crops such as orange, wheat, tuhar of the farmers. It caused heavy loss to the farmers of Vidarbha. Remaining crops of the farmers such as Cotton, Soya, Moong have got damaged earlier also due to lack of rain in this year. The hailstorm has caused great damage to the fruits especially mangoes.

I, through you Sir, want to request the Government that the farmers of Vidharbha are in deep crisis. They are not getting the prices of cotton and they are also not getting money. I request the Government to provide all kinds of help to those farmers by asking the State Government.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rewati Raman Singh to speak. Since you are speaking on a similar matter, you associate yourself with that.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, I will take only two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Two minutes' time is too long. You make your submission in one minute.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the notice, which I have given through you, is very important. Uttar Pradesh has been a drought hit area. Majority of the crops have dried up there due to lack of rains. Now a hailstorm has ravaged the entire state which has destroyed the remaining crops. I want to request that the Government should get a survey done by sending a survey team immediately and it should also include the hon. Members of the Parliament. A heavy hailstorm has lashed four trans-jamuna Tehsils of Allahabad which has destroyed the entire crop. I request you to direct the Government to get a survey conducted by sending a survey team there immediately.

SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV (Chandauli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am associate with this issue.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kailash Nath Singh Yadav strongly associated himself with this matter. I agree that it is a very important issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): With your permission I would like to say that exploitation and

[Shri Harikewal Prasad]

oppression of Child Labourers is continuously increasing. Despite several efforts by the Government it is increasing, instead of decreasing and the incidents of their exploitation and oppression are also increasing. There are numerous such incidents in Delhi, the capital of the country, which have been brought to my notice in black and white. ...* ... They have not been given even a pie as wages till date. On several occasions children are not given food here. They are beaten and forced to work. No action has been taken so far despite submitting a written application to the Police Commissioner, South District. A demonstration has been organised before the Labour Commission of the Government of India against this injustice and exploitation. I, through you, demand from the Government to free the child labourers and provide justice to them by enterfering in this matter.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, your notice is unsigned. Therefore, it is invalid and hence rejected. I am sorry about that. Please be careful next time.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mistry, you have given an unsigned notice which is of no value.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Sir, the construction of border fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Tripura is very critical for containing extremist activities. ...*(Interruptions)* The State Government has been requesting for expediting the work. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYANATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir I have given notice several times but I never got a chance.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not my decision. It has been decided by all the hon. leaders in the BAC that no second matter would be allowed to be raised by the hon. Members.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised this point. I shall try to come back after the list of the Members is exhausted. Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava is also waiting for his chance.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice several times but I never got a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given time to you Please don't do so. I have given time to many BJP Members.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: *.....*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying?

*[English]*

Please do not impute motives. This is very unfortunate.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please expunge this from record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Khagen Das, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have become thick-skinned now.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Sir, so far the work has been very slow. Sometimes the implementing agencies are facing problems due to resistance being offered by Bangladesh Riffles. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt him. Not much time is left.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: In a recent incident in Kathalsori in South Tripura district, the *jawans* of the Bangladesh Riffles had opened fire on the workers engaged in fencing work. Work has been stopped due to this. This issue of interference by the Bangladesh Riffles should be taken up immediately with the Bangladesh authorities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: It is estimated that over seven thousand families would be affected by this. Adequate rehabilitation should be provided to the affected families

*.....* Expunged as ordered by the chair.
*Not recorded.

on humanitarian ground. A number of agencies are involved in undertaking this work. It has also been reported that quality of work has not been up to the mark. There should not be any compromise on quality. I would like to request that a team of qualified supervisors should be sent to the State to undertake inspection of the construction work.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per guidelines of the Union Government and the orders of the Supreme Court it is compulsory to provide 35 kilogram rice and wheat to the BPL Cardholders every month under the BPL and Antyodaya Yojana started in the country but foodgrain is not being distributed regularly to the BPL cardholders in Gondia district of Maharashtra for the last few months and employment is not available to the people in the said district of the state due to which people in the state have reached on the verge of starvation. I request the Union Government to conduct an inquiry as to why foodgrains are not being distributed there every month. Besides the Union Government should also take action to ensure proper distribution of foodgrain in the district in future.

*[English]*

**13.00 hrs.**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D.P. Saroj—not present.

Shri Harishchandra Chavan may speak now.

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYANATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you raising your hand now? I have told you that this is not my decision alone. After it is completed, I will try to call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an opportunity to speak should be given to him also. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has got a chance. I have got the record here. What are you saying? Now I have called Shri Harishchandra Chavan to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to attract the attention of the Union Government. In Maharashtra particularly in Malegaon constituency in Nasik district ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No disturbance please. Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, please sit down. He is also an hon. Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

YOGI ADITYANATH: He is threatening. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Mr. Chavan's statement will be recorded. Mr. Chavan, please proceed.

...*(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: In Nasik district of Maharashtra and particularly in my constituency ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Athawaleji, please listen to me also. Aashia block in my constituency is the largest onion growing area. Yesterday on being inquired, I came to know that the rate of onion is fifty rupees per quintal. Whereas it was from rupees eight hundred fifty to nine hundred during the corresponding period of previous year. There is a huge gap between the previous year's rate and the rate prevailing this year. A large number of the farmers in the state have served notice to the State Government in which they have threatened to commit suicide if they are not given minimum rate of five hundred for their produce. On this issue an agitation has started over there. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the

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*Not recorded.

[Shri Harishchandra Chavan]

attention of the Government towards this issue and request that rate of onion in Maharashtra including Nasik district be regulated and the farmers of the state be saved.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): Sir, is there a lunch hour today?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no lunch hour today. I am sure that hon. Members will agree to dispense with the lunch hour today. We are all concerned with the future of this country.

SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Sir, in my constituency, Cooch Behar, farmers are mainly depending on tobacco which is a cash crop. There is no infrastructure of the Government in Cooch Behar to purchase tobacco from the farmers. They are bound to sell their crop at a low price to the middlemen due to which they are not getting a proper rate. Thus, they are facing losses. Last year, the farmers had sold their crop at the rate of Rs. 3000 per quintal and this time, they are getting the rate as something between Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2000 per quintal which is very less.

I urge upon the Government to make some arrangement in Cooch Behar for purchasing the crop from the farmers at the support price so that they can get a profitable price for their crop and also can get back the money they have invested.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNOOR (Dharwad South): Sir, an agitation is going on for establishing a circuit bench in Hubli, Dharwad. It is very necessary. Lawyers, Shri B.D. Hiremath and Shrimati Prafulla Nayak have gone on hunger strike. They have decided to go on an indefinite hunger strike. The hon. High Court of Karnataka and the Government of Karnataka had decided to establish circuit benches six months back. Till today they have not set up the circuit benches.

It is very necessary to establish a High Court Bench in this region. Therefore, I humbly request, through you, the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Government of India to interfere and pressurise the Government of Karnataka to establish immediately a High Court Bench in Hubli, Dharwad. It is very necessary. Otherwise, there is a lot of public demand and the public is going to sit on a hunger strike in different ways, like *rasta roko*. Many strikes are going to take place. Therefore, I humbly request, through you, the Government of India, the Government of Karnataka and the hon. High Court of Karnataka to establish a High Court Bench there in the interest of the public. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry that those hon. members who have already raised matters earlier this week cannot be accommodated today. For that I express my sincere sorrow to them.

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**13.06 hrs.**

## (III) Re: Congratulations to Cricketers Sachin Tendulkar

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am marking one exception because of the subject matter. I am allowing Shri Mohan Rawale to speak on Sachin Tendulkar.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, Sachin Tendulkar is the pride of our nation.

MR. SPEAKER: Be brief. I made an exception because of the subject matter.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Yesterday he has completed his 10,000 runs in test cricket. We all congratulate him for this. He has also set one another world record of scoring 13334 runs in one day international matches. All the cricketers including Sir Don Bradman have appreciated him for this great achievement. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not allow the Speaker to admire this great feat? It is a great contribution. We are all proud of him. We wish him all the best for further success. The House as a whole congratulates him. Thank you very much for raising it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I request that Mr. Sachin Tendulkar be called here in the gallery

of the House and honoured highest wicket taker Kapil Dev was also honoured earlier.

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*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the Punjabis languishing in jails in Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please give in writing on Monday.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: I have given a written letter.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that you have already raised a topic this week. So you cannot raise another one this week. You can give notice for the next week. Please co-operate with me.

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**13.08 hrs.**

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 is treated as laid on the Table of the House. There will be no lunch hour today.

**(i) Need to advise the Government of Tamil Nadu to release water from Parambikulam Dam to Uppar Dam for the benefit of the farmers**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): In my Parliamentary Constituency, in Vellakoil Assembly segment, Parambikulam Aliyaru-Uppar Dam was constructed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. About 6,000 acres of land have been included in the Ayacut. The people of that region are mostly agriculturists and are dependent on the dam water only. Previously the 6000 acres were non-cultivable lands. After construction of the dam, the above lands were altered, developed as a very good agricultural cultivable land by the farmers with their hard work. Thousands of agricultural labourers are surviving with the help of the dam water only.

In the recent past, the Public Works Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, took the above dam from Parambikulam Aliyaru Dam to Amravathi basin. Actually the Uppar Dam was constructed to store the excess water from Parambikulam Aliyaru Dam. Thirumoorthy Dam water is also diverted to Uppar Dam. Due to that now water is not flowing to the above Upper Dam. For the past four years, the farmers are not getting adequate water for irrigation, drinking and for their cattle. Even though there is sufficient water in Parambikulam Aliyary dam and Thirumoorthy Dam, the Government of Tamil Nadu, is not taking any steps to release the water to Uppar Dam.

I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources to take up the issue on priority and direct the authorities to release the water from Parambikulam Aliyaru Dam to Uppar Dam every year for irrigation purposes.

**(ii) Need for inter-linking of major rivers in the country**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI (Bhiwani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, varying climatic conditions in various parts of the country and the delayed monsoon, caused severe drought in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and the money spent by the farmers on seeds, fertilizers etc. for sowing Kharif crop got wasted Besides, it triggered devastating floods in Assam and Bihar causing heavy damage to the farmers. Had the rivers been interlinked, then the flood waters swamping Assam and Bihar could have been diverted to drought hit states thereby saving the people not only from huge loss of life and property due to devastating floods but the crops of farmers could have also been saved in the drought hit states.

As stated by our His Excellency President in his address to the nation on the eve of Independence that special measures should be taken for water management in the country, the layered wells should be constructed for storage of flood water at various levels in the downstream of Brahmputra and Kaushi rivers so as to lessen the severity of flood and to uplift the ground water level. Though, the efforts were made to interlink the rivers sometimes back, but still no serious initiative has been taken in this regard.

Therefore, I, through this august House, I appeal to the Government that they should realise the need for

*Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi]

interlinking the rivers and should also take concrete measures in this regard. The Government should take measures for harvesting of rain water in the country so as to mitigate the fury of floods and uplift the level of ground water.

**(iii) Need to formulate an industrial development policy for Jammu region**

*[English]*

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu) Due to militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, industrial growth in Jammu region also is severely affected. Besides having comparatively safer security scenario than Kashmir and linked with railway line with rest of the country, attention is not being paid to improve the industrial growth in Jammu region, though raw material is available in the region in abundance. As the Government is aware, people of Jammu and Kashmir are facing turmoil for the last more than 15 years under unfortunate circumstances. Industrial growth in the region will help in creation of employment opportunities in the Private Sector for unemployed youth in the State and also in building the confidence measures for bringing back the misguided youth of the State in the main stream and will erase any further alienation of the people from the main stream.

I urge upon the Government to formulate a policy to encourage industrialise to set up their industries in Jammu region by giving subsidies/incentives and ensure industrial growth in the region.

**(iv) Need to lay the Aligarh-Palwal-Alwar rail line for the development of Mewat region**

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of my Parliamentary Constituency have long been pressing for their popular demand to lay the rail line on Aligarh, Palwal, Alwar route via Mewat, to make Palwal station a railway junction and construction of an underpass on old Faridabad crossing. About 25 years back, former Prime Minister late Shri Morarji Desai on the occasion of inauguration of Rahimpur Bridge and then in the year 1989, Shri Bansilal ji and thereafter in the year 1997, Shri H.D. Devegowda during his tour of Nooh had all promised to the people for laying this rail line. A survey was also conducted for this purpose some 13 years back. I myself had raised this issue in Parliament in the year 1991 but still this rail line has not been laid. Mewat area of Faridabad is quite backward despite being very close to Delhi. There are no proper roads. Laying of this rail line will facilitate fast economic development in this area.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Railways who himself is a great champion of development of backward areas, to kindly direct the ministry of railway to fulfil all these three demands of the people of Mewat.

**(v) Need to expedite construction of railway over-bridge at Rangpur road railway gate in Kota city of Rajasthan**

SHRI RAHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 1997, a railway overbridge was sanctioned for Rangpur road railway crossing located in the busy area of Kota Nagar in my parliamentary constituency where the overbridge having 44 spans and 3 main spans was to be constructed. Out of these, 30 spans were to be constructed by the state Government and 4 big and 3 small spans are to be constructed by the Railways. The cost of this bridge was estimated at about Rs. 17 crore 20 lacs and fifty thousand out of which an amount of Rs. 6 crore 8 lakh is to be spent by the railways and 11 crore 14 lakh and fifty thousand is to be spent by the state government. The work was commenced in March 1999 and was targeted to be completed by June 2001.

The state government has completed 95 percent work. More than 10 crore 10 lakh rupees have been spent. The work of 38 spans has been completed. The remaining work is to be completed by the railways.

I had asked a Parliamentary Question in this regard in Lok Sabha. in reply to my unstarred question No. 3688 the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways had assured me that Railways would make all possible efforts to complete the work of its share alongwith the construction work being done by state government.

Owing to non-completion of work by the Railways, a great difficulty is being felt in this busy town area. Very little amount has been provided in the budget for this purpose. It is earnestly requested through this August House to get this work completed through the Railways so that this problem of the people could be resolved.

**(vi) Need to ensure effective implementation of Sam Vikas Yojana, Rural Development Projects and Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana in Maharashtra**

PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, less than 50 percent amount was spent in Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiraoli districts of Maharashtra state under the Sam Vikas Yojana during the last two years. Similarly only nominal amount was spent in two years under the District Rural Development Projects. No items of works have been undertaken in Bhandara districts under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana during the last two years. They say that the contractors are not ready to take tenders, this reason sounds inplausible and illogical. All the funds are lying idle. The works which were undertaken are lying incomplete. There is no supervision over the progress of work. Funds have gone waste due to incompletion of works. Therefore, it is compulsory to conduct an inquiry into the matters relating to the Sam Vikas Yojana, District Rural Development projects and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The remaining funds need to be spent immediately this year itself on the works lying incomplete and clear-cut directions should be issued to the concerned officers regarding spending of the funds.

**(vii) Need to commence with 'Narrow Broadcasting Scheme' in Doordarshan Kendra, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the narrow broadcasting scheme was formulated three years back in the Doordarshan Kendra, Sagar under my parliamentary constituency at the directions of the Union Government. Under this scheme the entire system was put in place for the transmission of the regional programmes. A transmission trial was also conducted by providing a connection with transmitter VCR. The narrow broadcasting scheme could not take off on the stipulated date due to non-inauguration of the same. During those three years, the date of its inauguration was also fixed once. But the inauguration programme was cancelled all of a sudden. Recently the Union Government has decided to put it off and this has finished all the possibilities of its inauguration.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately launch the narrow broadcasting scheme in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh.

**(viii) Need to ensure effective implementation of BPL and Antyodaya Projects in Gondiya district, Maharashtra**

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the holders of the BPL cards are necessarily to be distributed 35 kg. rice and wheat every month as per the guidelines of the Union Government and the orders of the Supreme Court under the BPL and Antyodaya schemes launched in the country. But the BPL card holders in Gondiya district of Maharashtra have not been getting foodgrains regularly for the last some months following which the poor in this district are starving due to non-availability of any employment opportunities there.

I, request the Government to look into the causes as to why the foodgrain is not being distributed every month so that the poor get foodgrain regularly in the future. The Centre needs to act immediately in this regard.

**(ix) Need to review the decision to shift the Head Office of Hindustan Copper Limited from Kolkata to Delhi**

*[English]*

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Shifting of Head Office of Hindustan Limited from Kolkata to Delhi is a matter of grave concern. The decision of the Department of Mines is arbitrary and merits no justification. The Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal has already taken up the matter with the Union Government.

I would earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister not to proceed with the decision of shifting the Head Office of Hindustan Copper Limited from Kolkata to Delhi.

**(x) Need to check the Sale of adulterated petrol in the country**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Napatha and Solvent oil adulterated petrol is being sold at several petrol pumps in the country as a result of which the life of vehicles get reduced. The engine of car should have been overhauled after it has plied 1 lakh km. but it has to be overhauled after it plies only between 20 to 30 thousand kilometres. Similarly, the engine of a two-wheeler should be overhauled after it plies 1 lakh km. But it needs to be overhauled after it plies only between 5 to 10 thousand km. If the engine

[Shri Paras Nath Yadav]

of four wheeler is overhauled before the fixed period, an expenditure of Rs. 20 to 35 thousand has to be incurred on its overhauling. Similarly this cost works out to be Rs. 3 to 5 thousand in case of a two-wheeler. Things have come to such a pass that out of a number of complaints received about defects in vehicles, most of them is caused due to adulterated petrol Actually, petrol costs Rs. 40 per litre whereas the Napatha and Solvent oil cost only Rs. 17 to Rs. 19 per litre. Thus petrol pump operators are making a fast buck by selling the adulterated petrol.

This situation is more worse in the rural areas. The lubricant (mobile oil) which is used for the smooth running of any vehicle gets negated due to adulterated petrol and this is causing financial loss to the vehicle owners on the one hand, the originality of the vehicle gets distorted, on the other.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately take steps to check the sale of adulterated petrol in view of the reducing life-span of vehicles and financial loss caused to the vehicle owners.

**(xi) Need to take steps to complete the work on Integrated Drinking Water Project at Hogenekal in Tamil Nadu**

*[English]*

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, there is an acute drinking water shortage in my Krishnagiri constituency. There has been no rain in my constituency for the last many years. The ground water level has come down considerably. Moreover, drinking water in the area contains fluorides which are harmful for the bones and teeth. Due to this the health of the people has been greatly affected. In this connection, I wish to mention that in the year 1998, an Integrated Drinking Water Project was started in Hongenekal with Japanese assistance at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crore. The work went on full swing. However the successor Government did not proceed with the work and it was disbanded. About fifty lakh people from two districts namely, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri are affected by acute drinking water shortage and they would be benefited if the Hogenekal Project is materialized.

I urge upon the Government of India to direct the Tamil Nadu Government to take up this project, if necessary, with World Bank assistance and complete the same on a war footing so as to solve the long pending drinking water problem in Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri district.

**(xii) Need to construct a bridge on river Ghaghra in Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government regarding the long pending demand of the people for a bridge over Ghaghra River on Sitapur-Bhahraich Road in Sitapur District of Uttar Pradesh.

Sitapur, sugar belt of Uttar Pradesh is a backward area and its economy is based mainly on the sugar. However, the infrastructural facilities, available in this region, are poor. The commuters as well as the transporters have to depend on this road and face a lot of difficulties in the absence of a bridge at this location.

It is learnt that necessary sanctions have been accorded but the execution of work has not started as yet. I request the Government to take up the construction work of bridge on a war footing.

**(xiii) Need to release funds for early commencement of work on Maharajganj-Mashrak rail line**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharajganj is the main commercial centre of Siwan district whereas Mashrak is the main commercial centre of Saran district in Bihar. Before Independence, the railway line starting from Chhapra used to end at Mashrak. After Independence, keeping in view of the commercial importance of this railway line, it was extended upto Gorakhpur. On the other hand a railway line is in place from Chhapra to Gorakhpur via Akma, Duraunda. Maharajganj headquarter is situated at a distance of 6 Km. from Duraunda. A railway line from Duraunda to Maharajganj has been made operational by the previous government. Trains are plying on this railway section, but Maharajganj and Mashrak are not connected with railway. With the result the business there is getting adversely affected the previous Government had given green signal for a railway line from Maharajganj to Mashrak and after being cleared by the Planning Commission the foundation stone of this railway line was laid by the then Minister of Railway. The distance from Maharajganj to Mashrak is just 32 km. If Maharajganj and Mashrak are connected with rail line, the people and businessmen of two district, two states and two chief commercial centres of Bihar will be benefited.

Sir, through you I would like to draw attention of the Government towards starting the construction of rail line between Maharajganj and Mashrak in Bihar and demand that funds for the purpose be released at an early date.

**(xiv) Need to redefine the terms and conditions of the Bhatinda refinery and bear the cost of making the refinery viable by giving relief in Central Excise and Customs Duties**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Bhatinda): Hindustan Petroleum Corporation is setting up a Refinery in Punjab namely Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Limited at Bhatinda. The installed capacity of the Refinery is 9 million tonnes per annum. It is estimated to cost Rs. 9,806 crores. HPCL has already incurred an expenditure of Rs. 292 crore till October, 2003. The project is scheduled for completion by December, 2006.

The Refinery was granted incentives of Sales Tax Department, octroi exemption and electricity duty exemption by the State Government. The revenue loss to the State Government on Sales Tax Department alone would be about Rs. 600 crores per annum for a period of 15 years.

On the other hand, Government of India would be earning substantial revenue from the project by way of Central Excise and Customs Duties. It is estimated that the revenue on these two accounts would be Rs. 1200 crores per annum. Therefore, if the Refinery needs tax concession in order to be viable as is claimed by CPCL, it would be fair that the Centre should forego a part of its earning rather than expecting the State Government, whose financial condition is good, to bear the cost.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to redefine the terms and conditions of the Bhatinda Refinery and bear the cost of making this Refinery viable by giving relief in Central Excise and Customs Duties.

**(xv) Need to protect the interests of employees of 'Unit Run Canteens' of Armed Forces**

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, armed forces personnel get canteen facilities according to service conditions. For this there are nearly four thousand canteens in the country which are known as unit run canteens. About ten thousand employees are working in these canteens.



The Canteen Stores Department of the Government of India purchases goods in bulk from market and makes these goods available to the unit run canteens for selling them to such personnels in retail. This *U.R.* canteens are earning profit of worth Rs. 400 crore every year. The Central Government has no right over that.

The employees of canteen stores department are government employees and the employees of U.R. canteens are deprived of such facility.

Four years ago, in one of their decisions, hon. Supreme Court had accepted to accord them the status of government employee but the Government is finding itself helpless in this matter. So the Government should move to protect the interests of U.R.C. employees.

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**13.09 hrs.**

## GENERAL BUDGET, 2005-2006-GENERAL DISCUSSION
## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—(GENERAL) 2005-2006
## AND
## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—(GENERAL) 2004-2005

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you know, the discussion on the General Budget is still continuing. The reply will be given by the hon. Minister at 5 p.m. I would request the hon. Members to participate in the discussion within that time. Hon. Members who are not able to participate because of lack of time, may submit their written speeches, which will be taken on record.

Now, Shri P.S. Gadhavi to continue his speech.

**13.10 hrs.**

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): I thank the hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Yesterday I rose to oppose the Budget for the year 2005-06. I was telling yesterday as to how Shri C.P. Chandrasekhar described this Budget. In the *"Front Line"* dated 25th March, 2005, Shri C.P. Chandrasekhar described this Budget as "down-

[Shri P.S. Gadhavi]

size and go-off Budget". He has further stated that the hon. Finance Minister has been caught between the desire to see India as a globalising economy with a fiscally prudent Government and the compulsion to pay obeisance to goals rendered imperative by democracy, coalition politics and the National Common Minimum Programme. By this Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has emerged more as a manipulator of accounts than as a prudent Finance Minister.

Sir, can this Budget be said to be a Budget for an *Aam Admi* as it is claimed by the hon. Finance Minister? In hopes, it is 'yes' but in realism, it is 'no'. As this Budget is full of half truths and half-baked reforms, what hurts the *Aam Admi* in this Budget is that there is lack of transparency in respect of several statements of the hon. Finance Minister.

The first one is about bringing out customs duty to the level of ASEAN rates though the expression used is "East Asian Neighbours." Further, the Budget says: "Therefore, non-agricultural peak rate is being reduced from 20 per cent to 15 per cent." This is not really what the Asian rate structure is. The asian rate is an under-weighted average of industrial and agricultural rates put together. An under-weighted average of customs duties in India is still at the level of 25 per cent or so because, we have got rates like 150 per cent, 100 per cent, 90 per cent, 85 per cent, 80 per cent and so on. Unless all these rates are brought down and the average comes to 15 per cent, one cannot say that we have come near the Asian structure.

The second instance of lack of transparency is the claim that the excise duty for iron and steel has been raised from 10 per cent to 16 per cent but this should have little effect on the prices because the entire duty is MODVATable by most categories of consumers. This is not correct. I say this because it is not MODVATable when sold to building and road building industry. The percentage of such sale is very high, nearly 40 per cent. What is most important is that even where the duty is MODVATed, ultimately, the incidence of the higher duty is passed on finally to the consumer. He has to pay more and, therefore, the prices will rise.

The third example I may give is that a suggestion had been made that the scope of power of Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR) should not be limited only to the non-residents and joint ventures with NRIs but should be extended to cover the ordinary Indian manufacturers and importers. What has been done on the other hand is to extend the power only to the existing joint ventures in India. This is hardly an effective extension of the power. What the Budget has forgotten is an average Indian manufacturer or importer. He also needs certainty and he is being denied of this. This is extremely disappointing. So, this Budget has not even adhered to the CMP. I say this because in the CMP, it was promised to give the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. This Scheme has been whittled down to just a Rural Employment Scheme, excluding the urban poor. What about the urban poor? Why are they being denied of this? This has also excluded the majority of districts in the country. For these districts, where is the promise of the CMP? Even for this whittled down, diluted Scheme, the Budget provides a sum of only Rs. 11,000 crore.

Moreover, instead of promoting and protecting the Small Scale Industries (SSIs), as laid down in the CMP, the hon. Finance Minister has de-reserved as many as 108 industries from the SSI List. This has made the position of SSIs, of which thousands are sick, even more unviable.

In the NCMP, the outlay on education was to be increased to six per cent of the GDP. Even after the education caves was levied in last year's Budget, it has gone up to only Rs. 19,119 crore out of a Budget of Rs. 5,14,344 crore. Out of this, the outlay for secondary and higher education will be only Rs. 2,712 crore.

The hon. Finance Minister has dutifully cited Dr. Amartya Sen and the need to emulate, Cambridge, Oxford and Yale, but ended up giving only one institution of higher education, that is, the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, with a one time grant of Rs. 100 crore.

Similarly in the health sector, according to the NCMP, the outlay was to go up to two per cent of the GDP, but the outlay for health and family welfare is only Rs. 9,682 crore out of the total outlay of Rs. 5,14,344 crore.

Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister promised to make Mumbai a regional hub for finance. For this too, no money has been given and only a proposal has been given for a high powered expert committee to advise the Government.

Further, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill is promised in this Session.

It is also incorrect to dub this Budget as a 'Middle Class Budget'. This is, in fact, a pro rich Budget. It is a

favourable reaction of business lobbies and the share market. Take the case of direct taxes. The domestic corporate pays 30 per cent income tax, plus a surcharge of ten per cent, so does an individual with an annual income of over Rs. 2.5 lakh pays the same rate minus the surcharge. So, the upper middle class is paying the same rate as the corporate sector.

I appreciate hon. Finance Minister for making provision for water shortage in Chennai, in his last Budget and giving special status to Kochi Port. But I would have congratulated him, if he would have considered in this Budget, the demand and requirements of other parts of the country, which are facing acute shortage of drinking water. My constituency, that is, Kutch is Gujarat, is facing acute shortage of water for drinking, agriculture and for industrial purposes. The hon. Finance Minister should have given more impetus for further development of Kandla Port, which is on the western shore, as he has given to Kochi Port. The Government needs to pay more attention to Kandla Port.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the request of Gujarat Government so that the outstanding Central loan to Gujarat Government be restructured to a rate of interest of not more than seven per cent.

Secondly, the Sardar Sarovar Project of Gujarat is a multi-State project with benefits of irrigation and power to Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. It is a fact that this project has suffered heavy cost over-runs due to delay caused by anti-dam activism. The original cost of the dam was Rs. 6,406.04 crore at 1986-87 price level. It went up to Rs. 27,462.66 crore at 2000-01 price level. Therefore, the Central Government should reimburse the State Government, by way of a special grant, the cost of interest on the project.

I would also urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to consider the request of Gujarat Government to grant exemption to Gujarat Maritime Board from the payment of income tax considering it as a local authority. Now, it is not considered as local authority, therefore, the Gujarat Maritime Board, which is a Government body, is required to pay income tax. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to consider this request of the Gujarat Government.

I further request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the request of Gujarat Government to scrap the five per cent customs duty on recycling scrap of old vessels at Alang Ship Breaking Yard because Government of India has scraped the five per cent customs duty on imported melting scrap. They are liable to pay five per cent duty, but if it is imported, they are not required to pay any duty.

So, in Alang Ship Breaking Yard, if whatever ship comes and it is recycled, those scraps may not have any duty.

I also request the hon. Finance Minister to consider this. In the past, two per cent surcharge was levied on income tax for the earthquake-stricken people of Gujarat. That amount remains with the Central Government. The unpaid amount should be paid back to the Gujarat Government.

Lastly, I conclude by saying that rhetorical flourishes and generous promises are no substitute for resolute political will and a commitment to the economic well being of the people. Both are conspicuously missing in this Budget.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Sir, I would like to submit the following points before the House.

I am happy to say that the budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance for the year 2005-06 is a populist budget and all out efforts have been made to fulfil the aspirations of the people in this budget. It is a matter of happiness that the hon. Minister of Finance has given rise the expectations of tax realisation by lowering the tax slabs. It is known to all that when the rate of income tax was 80 to 90 percent in the country, the percentage of income tax payers was .08 but when the rates were fixed ranging from 10 to 35 percent, the number of above income tax payers went up to 5 crore. It was a long standing demand to increase the exemption limit of income tax above one lakh. But hon. Finance Minister has accepted the exemption limit of income tax upto Rs. 1 lakh only.

But the provision of tax on withdrawing cash from one's own account is quite harmful. Apart from causing loss to the people, the above provision will also encourage the use of black money among the people. Therefore the above provision should be scrapped so that the use of black money could be avoided. As regards the question of exempting the income upto rupees 1 lakh from taxes

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

in case of direct taxes, it is a commendable step but it is not satisfactory. Since prices have surged so much, as such this exemption is not enough. This exemption is needed to be increased from rupees one lakh to at least rupees one and half lakh.

It is also a matter of happiness that no customer duty has been imposed on cooking gas and kerosene and duty on crude oil has been reduced but additional surcharge of 50 paise per litre has been imposed on petrol and diesel as a result of which the price would go up.

In this era of globalisation domestic companies have to face competition in market and therefore it is a matter of happiness that the government has announced concession in taxes for small scale industries according to which small scale industries will now get concession in taxes on production upto rupees 4 crore in place of 3 crore. Therefore, it is a good step that the maximum exemption limit for small scale industries has been raised from Rs. 3 crore to Rs. 4 crore and announcement has been made for providing some more facilities to foreign institutional investors in the domestic market.

It is good that announcement has been made for providing grant of Rs. 7,975 crore to Bihar during the next five years. This amount is to be spent for the development of basic infrastructure and improvement in the education and health sector and assistance for development of backward districts in Bihar under backward area grant fund will continue like earlier. But I would like to state that besides Bihar, there are many states in the country which are most backward. I would also like to state that Unnao parliamentary constituency in U.P. is highly backward. But it is a matter of regret that a large amount for development related schemes is allocated to one state only while those areas in other states, which are more backward than that particular state, are ignored. All round development of the country is impossible by adopting such a discriminatory policy. Therefore, there is need for adoption of uniform procedure by the Government for balanced development of all the backward areas.

Sir, inspite of the fact that our country is an agriculture dominated county, injustice has been done to 60 crore farmers in the budget. It is no exaggeration to say that, one by one, all the successive Governments have ignored the farmers in their annual budgets as a result of which the agricultural crisis has depend further. The picture of rural India has vanished from the screen of economic radar. Drawing the sketch of agro-development, the hon. Finance Minister has discussed the crop diversification, i.e. moving towards production of cash crops, fruits, vegetables, flowers, dairy, poultry, fish, pulses and oil seeds from foodgrain production. The food processing industry has removed the agriculture agenda. At a time when thousands of farmers are committing suicides in the country, they are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. It is very sad.

I welcome the step taken by the hon. Finance Minister for proposing tax on the flowers imported from abroad in the budget in order to promote the floriculture. this will definitely promote floriculture in the country. But, the Government has announced decentralisation of Government procurement of foodgrains, particularly in the non-traditional sector. In other words, the farmers will lose their income, if it is implemented. No scheme has been announced in the budget which will indicate the Government's will to raise the farmers' income. It does not seem fair to levy 50 paise cess on diesel and to bring farmers paying electricity bill of more than Rs. 50,000 annually into income tax net. Actually, the farmers have not got their due share in the budget. Though the maximum customs duty on agro-products may have been reduced from 20% to 15% but there is no provision in the budget to keep a check on the prices of the things of daily needs of farmers like diesel, electricity, fertilizer and seeds. Whatever budgetary provisions have been made for rural development or farmers, they too have been handed over to NABARD or banks. No arrangements have been made for providing loans on easy terms from banks for agricultural activities. There is no clear policy for providing remunerative prices to farmers for their crops. They have to sell their produce at throwaway prices. The main problem of farmers is regarding not getting remunerative prices. But no institutional arrangement has been made for providing remunerative price to farmers in the budget proposals presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

It is good that it has been announced in the budget to prepare a road map for diversification in agriculture sector, introduce national horticulture mission, protection from floods, bring all drinking water schemes under the Rajiv Gandhi National Mission, connect 66822 villages with telephone this year, electrify 1.25 lakh villages and set up power sub-division at block-level, extend National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, provide Rs. 8000 crore for development of seven big cities in the country, build 60 lakh houses for the rural poor, extend Mid-Day Meal Scheme, rationalise the foodgrain subsidy, continue the

subsidy on foodgrains and petroleum products and increase the employment. But, adequate funds have not been allocated for the empowerement of the poor strata of the society in it. This is injustice to the dalits and poor in the country. The funds have not been allocated in accordance with the concern shown for the weaker sections and social security.

No special attention has been paid in respect of building basic infrastructure and labour reforms. Not only this, no indications have been given in the budget regarding disinvestment policy. It is true that all people can never be satisfied with budget. This time too, the situation looks similar. Although, the hon. Minister has tried hard to make balance, but he seems to be successful in it to an extent only.

It is a matter of happiness that surcharge has been abolished on tea, edible oils and vegetable oils and the computers, artificial jewellery, crude oil, refined edible oil, tea, match box, clothes, shoes, air conditioners, tyers, threads, electronic equipments, plastic goods, steel have become cheaper.

But, while imposition of 10% service tax on canteen and society apartment maintenance services and bringing large residential complexes of 12 houses into service tax net has raised the cost of houses on one hand, it has also increased the monthly maintenance expenditure of the people living in these apartments already, which is not fair.

There can not be two views that the hon. Finance Minister has tried to put Indian economy forward on the path of globalisation after getting completely satisfied by its progress and by giving a human face to the budget. He has provided relief to both the common and the rich sections in the budget. Rays of hope can be seen for each section and community in the society like the common man, farmers, entrepreneurs, businessmen, women, students, salaried class, backward class, investors, banks and financial institutions, foreign investors, share markets, education, health, tribals, minorities etc. The hon. Finance Minister has provided benefits in the budget for making the urban dwellers happy along with the rural people.

But millions of people in the country are feeling worried by looking at the budget estimates made by the hon. Finance Minister in the Union budget in which he has estimated the revenue deficit of Rs. 95312 crore and financial deficit of Rs. 151144 crore. Financial deficit of 4.5% and revenue deficit of 2.7% has been shown in the new budget. The hon. Finance Minister has said that the budget deficit would be met by increasing the revenue and financial discipline. He has talked of increasing the revenue by 20% which is unbelievable. How such an increase is possible when 3.5% decrease was registered in it last year?

No concrete steps for increasing the employment are visible in the new budget. It has been proposed to provide employment for atleast 100 days in a year to one crore people by spending Rs. 4020 crore under the National Employment guarantee Scheme. But, about Rs. 30,000 crore will be needed actually to provide employment to so many people. Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister is dreaming to provide employment to 2.5 lakh youth in food processing industries, 1.2 crore in textile industries and 70 lakh in information technology by 2009 but the budgetary provisions to fulfil this dream appear insufficient. Thus, availability of funds for actual implementation of budget announcements is posing the biggest challenge. The estimates about expenditure for priorities related to public interest, are much below the expectations In other words, it is no exaggeration, to say that there are many promises in the budget but sufficient resources have not been provided to fulfil them.

Besides, the hon. Finance Minister has missed out on presenting a new urban employment scheme for more than four crore unemployed people in the cities on the lines of rural employment guarantee scheme. Special provisions have not been made for unorganised workers.

But, it is a good omen that the Government has announced to implement the ambitious Bharat Nirman Yojana for bringing the wave of development to rural areas and more attention has been focused on upliftment of agriculture and rural regions. It was not only necessary but also compulsory since national economy can not be strengthened without development of rural economy. If the Government actually want that there should be improvement in rural economy and the dalit and poor should join the mainstream of the nation, then it will have to make such arrangements that the Central schemes can be implemented properly so that the dalits and poor people in the country get their due. Undoubtedly, this can happen only when the administration of states cooperate with the Union Government but this is not the situation at present and this is the reason that the dalits and poor sections are not getting the full benefits of centrally run schemes properly. It is good that noble ideas have been expressed in the general budget for the

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development of rural economy but there is also need for motivating the states by them. It is quite a difficult task but not impossible. This difficult task can be made easy through administrative reforms.

It is unfortunate that the administrative reforms are neither visible in the agenda of the Union Government nor in the agenda of the states. Therefore, it will be better that administrative reforms are accorded highest priority. In fact, this is the only way through which the budget provisions can met the expectations of the common man and the Government. It cannot be forgotten in this regard that most of the budgetary provisions remain only in the documents. Undoubtedly, the economy can be strengthened through slow paced reforms also but that is possible only when efforts for reforms are made in all the areas.

With these words, I welcome the budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister and also hope that necessary effective steps will be taken on the suggestions given by me.

*[English]*

*SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): I would like to compliment and congratulate our Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for having dedicated to this nation a far-sighted, growth-oriented, rural-based dream Budget. This is the second Budget of the U.P.A. Government guided by Madam Soniaji and led by Dr. Manmohan Singh.

It is literally a dream Budget because it is poised to make the common man's dream come true. The farmer will have more money in his kitty. Industry is happy and business is brimming with confidence. More importantingly, the housewife is glad. So, in a way, the Union Budget has satisfied everyone except, of course, the Opposition. The Opposition is disappointed not because the Budget was not good but because they could not find any fault. So, we can understand their problem. Former Finance Minister Jaswant Singh said, it is a lawyer's Budget and not a leader's. If that is so, the lawyers like Mahatmaji who led the Nation have undoubtedly taken the lead in propelling the country into economic prosperity. The BJP leader's first reaction was that it is inflationary. But, on the contrary, inflation came down below five per cent immediately a week after the presentation of the Budget. The main Opposition said, the Budget would reverse the economic growth. But, the stock market is booming and there is business confidence all over. So, one can understand their dilemma. Last year, the nation faced deficient monsoon and the unprecedented tsunami disaster. But the country posted with the growth rate of 69.9 per cent GDP. Industrial production was up by 8.4 per cent and exports over 23 per cent. The investment momentum was kept up. Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed 1.2 billion dollars. These are achievements of no means. The country is certainly in the safe hands of intrepid leaders—Congress President and UPA Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Finance Minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram. The high point of this Budget is the massive investment for social sector. The allocation to health sector has been hiked by over 30 per cent. The farmers will get 30 per cent credit more than last year's disbursement. It will work out to 1,40,000 crore rupees. Fifty lakh more farmers will be added to the profolio of banks to take them out of the money lenders' Clutches. Rural development will get over Rs. 22,682 crore. The Elementary Education 10,166 crore rupees. Non-rural Roads and Urban Infrastructure 14,896 crore rupees. Urban employed 1,772 crore rupees. Area development, agricultural market, power all put together, the National Commission Minimum Programme will get over 74,849 crore rupees. This works out to 25,000 crore rupees additional allocation for CMP related programmes. Textiles are in a very buoyant mood. Additional 30,000 crore rupees will be invested next year besides 20,000 invested this year. There will be more money in the hands of the people of increase their purchasing power. Another major attempt would be 'Bharat Nirman', a project of tall order. It would require 75,000 crore rupees a year for the next 3 years to revamp the entire rural sector—roads, drinking water and all other facilities. No doubt, it is a dream Budget of the rural as well as urban India.

One of the major initiatives is the reform of the Direct Taxes. The Finance Minister has promised to bring forward a brand new Income Tax law by the end of this year. This could be another landmark in the reform process. The peak custom duty has also come down to fifteen per cent. The objective has been 'lower the tax, higher the compliance'.

Removal of the excise duty levied by the erstwhile BJP Government on refined edible oil and vanaspathy, which are essential products of daily use by the common man and reverted them back to the exempted list, which would activate price reduction and motivate their production growth in the country. The removal of exemptions under 80-L will hit senior citizens badly. With increasing medical bills every year and decreasing return

*Speech was laid on the Table.

for their deposits, it would be reasonable to increase the Income Tax exemption limits to two lakhs for a years with savings upto one.

Sir, is it necessary change at the rate of Rs. 10 for Rs. 10,000 withdrawal on one's taxed and accounted money? I suggest that this should be abolished and some other alternative measure may be found to check and track large cash withdrawals for black money transactions. If the Finance Minister is very particular about imposing the tax, the threshold limit may be raised to Rs. 1 lakh and cash withdrawals for reasonable expenses like taxes salaries, transport freights may be exempted.

As we all know, Tsunami was a terrific tragedy of mankind which have swallowed everything from poor fishing community. The nation appreciates with gratitude for the sympathetic response of Madam Soniaji and our Prime Minister. Sir, the loss of life is 10273, house loss is 2,39,024, agriculture land loss is 22750. Hence the boat loss is 83788.

Though the Central Government has extended all helps and released enough funds. I am sorry the Government of Tamil Nadu is still delaying in extending financial assistance to the affected people stating that they have not yet received guidelines and instructions from the Government of India. The poor fishing community who have lost everything in their life deserve to be helped in all ways without anymore delay. I urge upon the Central Government to appoint a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament, to monitor the relief works.

Regarding, Fringe Benefit Tax, I would like to say that:

a. This is a welcoming proposal.

b. A threshold limit may be fixed for the taxable fringe benefit at Rs. 1,00,000/-at par with the income tax limit.

c. The fringe benefit tax paid is not deducted as expense, which should be allowed to be deducted as expense by the employer.

d. Some reasonable expenses like deepawali gifts to employees scholarships to the children of the employees and employee welfare expenses shall be exempted. This inclusion will weaken the employer and employee relationship.

Sir, with these views, I conclude my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, you have 10 minutes' time.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, I had talked to the hon. Speaker.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. I know.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGPUTA: He was kind enough to tell me that I can have my full time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can speak.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, we are discussing the Union Budget of 2005-2006. I appreciate the difficulties of the hon. Finance Minister. Since the Congress could not come to power alone, a combination of political forces is there at place. Contradictory political views and conflicting ideas might have baffled the hon. Finance Minister. Therefore, the present Budget is what it is. In my opinion, the contradictions and conflicts are reflected in the Budget. The Budget is, in my opinion, an unusual product mix. The heart of the Minister is there in the right place, but his hands have been moving in a different direction. There should have been more synchronization between what he feels and what he does.

Sir, I have no hesitation in appreciating the hon. Finance Minister's move to introduce Food-For-Work Scheme in 150 districts. Also, I have no hesitation in appreciating the Employment Guarantee Scheme. This is for the first time in India after Independence that the Government is speaking of 100 days employment for one person per family. Never before, however pious might have been the intention, it was never made to be a part of the Budget. I welcome his move for separate allocation for the backward areas, his separate fund for rural development. I should say that I am really touched by his decision to set up 1,88,000 Child Care Centres, ICDS Centres throughout the country.

The slogan of Bharat Nirman is also unique. Please do not speak of poverty because under the rule of the earlier Government, poverty had accentuated. Better late than never. While sitting on the other side, they did not realise the problem of the people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, please address the Chair.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am addressing you. I am only looking at a different direction. Should I look at you?

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Now being voted out of power and coming back to Opposition, they might have realised the problem of the poor. While complimenting the hon. Finance Minister for making handsome investments for the social security sector, I have to say, with all humility, that the Budget has not evoked enthusiasm among the common masses from whom the Parliament and the Government derive its power.

Expectations of the people have not been roused. Of course, the stock market is booming. It is on the point of crossing 7,000 point. Never before in the history of free India, the Sensex has been so up-pitched. It is also true that the foreign exchange reserve of the country is excellent. I must say excellent. In one month—in the month of February—there have been inflow of 8 billion American dollars. Thanks to the generous concessions being dolled out by the Government! Undoubtedly, the credit rating has also improved. Why is it that we do not see people with upbeat mood? What is the reason for that? The reason for that is, despite the assurance in the Common Minimum Programme, the Hundred Days Job Guarantee Scheme remained in the pile of schemes. There is no guarantee of a time-frame, by which this Scheme will be extended throughout the country. The allocation for social security has been low. We had expected an allocation of not less than Rs. 50,000 crore. The country does not feel enthused because the question of land reforms has been ignored. Land reform is not a programme of the Left. Land reform has been ignored. There is a problem and a question of agricultural labour, the largest segment of the working force of the country, which is under paid and under privileged. The question of having comprehensive welfare legislation does not find its place. The people of the country do not feel enthused because the Government does not say what will be the job increase at its initiative; not looking to the market economy. Market economy has its own forces. There is no assurance to what extent new job opportunities will be created.

Sir, I may humbly and frankly submit that, as a party in support of the Government, we have a basic difference with the Budget. The question is, we had looked for, asked for and suggested for the tax-GDP ratio should increase in a country like India. The tax base should broaden. The Standing Committee on Finance, constituting Members of different political parties, had unanimously suggested that the direct tax base should broaden. There should be more domestic resources. We need more domestic resources to generate employment, to create houses, to eradicate poverty, to find shelter and to give a better life to the common people of the country.

Sir, I must say that we feel disheartened. The main slogan that we had raised is, those who have capacity to pay, must pay. This has been cynically ignored. In fact, the country needs more money. On every occasion, when we approached the Government for anything for the people—it may be for opening of factory or construction of road—the general excuse that is given, is the Government has no money.

In order to raise more money and funds, it was necessary to raise the tax revenue, broaden the tax base and increase the tax to GDP ratio but it has not been done. Rather, the hon. Minister of Finance has moved in a different direction, which is just the opposite direction. Tax relief has been most generously given to the corporates and the rate of tax has been brought down from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. A regressive tax system has been introduced. Senior citizens have been hurt. The middle-class has been burdened with additional taxation, about which I shall talk later on.

The important point is that the reforms have benefited the rich undoubtedly. Since the reforms began under the stewardship of the present Prime Minister in 1991, till date, reforms have undoubtedly benefited the rich. This is not a communist who is making a statement in the House of the People; I am speaking of the survey conducted by eminent economists of the country. The picture is absolutely horrible.

Prof. Abhijit Banerjee, known for his fame in economics, conducted a survey. It says that the incomes of 0.01 per cent of the top most rich of the country have increased by 285 times during the reforms period under Dr. Manmohan Singh, during the reforms period under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Shri L.K. Advani and during the reforms which are being carried out now. During this period 0.01 per cent of the richest people of the country had their incomes increased by 285 times and a little less rich, one per cent of the richest, had their incomes increase by 70 times.

Today, India finds a place ahead of the UK in the billionaires' club of the world. What a glory! Apart from that, according to the estimates made by the foreign agencies, India's position is eighth in the billionaires' club of the world. How is the wealth measured? It is revealed that the average billionaire's wealth is nine million times more than the per capita GDP of the country. It is a shameful situation! It is a miserable situation! Was it not the task of the hon. Minister of Finance to correct this grave anomaly in the social and economic system of the

country? I am not speaking about politics; I am speaking about economic equity, social equity and economic balance in the country. Was it not the task of the new Minister of Finance, having the opportunity of preparing a full-fledged Budget, to seek to correct this anomaly? This is one side of the picture.

India's glorious entry into the billionaires' club and a billionaire having nine million times more wealth than the GDP is one side of the picture but the other side is more shameful. The per capita availability of food in India is at the standard that was there during World War II. During 1980 the per capita availability of food increased. It became 178 kilograms in 1980. Today, it has again gone down to 155 kilograms. There is a massive accumulation of food grains, for which the Government takes credit. The Government believes that if there is a catastrophe in agriculture, India would not be in a grim difficulty because we have enough food.

Why is this massive accumulation of food grains in the country? It is a bane due to lack of purchasing power of a few sections of the people. On the one side, we have a Billionaires' Club and, on the other side, there is a lack of purchasing power of the downtrodden, leading to accumulation of food grains in the FCI godowns. This is the social anomaly, this is the contradiction, this is the conflict, this is the anachronism and this is the problem of the plenty for the few and poverty for the multitude. Was it not expected that this anomaly would be sought to be corrected?

I do not believe that one Minister of Finance can correct it. Was it not proper to expect that the corrective step in that direction will be initiated by the Budget in 2005-06? That is not all. Now, let us take the Human Development Index. There is a more telling figure. India occupies 127th place among the comity of nations. It is one of the greatest countries in the world and it is one of the ancient civilisations. This country has been relegated to 127th position in the Human Development Index of the world.

In the gender equality, we had a most powerful woman Prime Minister of the country. We are proud of her. Today, we have also, if not equally powerful, a powerful lady in the combination of political forces of the country. India produced great eminent women leaders. What about the gender development index? In the gender development index, India's number is 104. We have a vulgar display of wealth in the country. One person in Pune makes a gift to his daughter on her 21st Birthday a foreign car. The cost of that car is Rs. 5.70 crore. It is called India. In the marriage ceremony of a leading industrialist of the country, 150,Mercedes Benz were hired. This is called India. In a situation like this, is it unreasonable to expect that the tax-GDP ratio should be corrected and should be improved and more revenue should be collected? But what we see, over the years, the tax GDP ratio remains almost the same.

In 1990-91, the tax-GDP ratio was 10.1 per cent. In nearly 15 years, the country has progressed and we have produced more wealth. After more than ten years, after more we have produced, after more booming the stock market, after more foreign exchange reserve, after more concession to the corporates, after more plenty for the few, the tax-GDP ratio in 2004-05 remains almost the same. It is 10.2 per cent. Government after Government—one after another Government—has no political will to touch the rich, to mobilise the funds for development from the people who can afford to pay. It is a continuous process. There is a lack of political will on the part of the Government to mobilise funds. The tax-GDP ratio remains the same, whoever may be in the power today.

Sir, I say that the tax system has been regressive. What do the figures say? What is the figure of tax-GDP ratio that is published? On whom is the benefit of it showered?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, please give me a little more time. I beg you to give me ten more minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am also helpless. I will give you five minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I have many more facts to give you. Five minutes are not sufficient.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think five minutes are more than sufficient.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Then, I will sit down. I cannot complete in five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please try.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Thank you.

What is the income-tax benefit to a person earning a yearly income of Rs. 1,50,000 under the new tax regime that the hon. Minister has given? It is Rs. 14,250 for

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those who are earning an income of Rs. 1,50,000. What is the benefit for those who are earning Rs. 10 lakh? For them the benefit is Rs. 52,000. The more you earn, the less you pay; the less you earn the more you pay. The more you earn, the more benefits you derive and the less you earn, the more tax you have to pay. If this is not a regressive tax system, then what is a regressive tax system in the country?

Since the tax-GDP ratio has not increased, he has less money and since he has less money, he is putting in less money for the priority sector also.

I still remember the memorable speech delivered by the hon. Minister of Finance on the day while he was introducing the Budget when he still remembered China. It is good that he remembers China. He was referring to us, looking at some of those who may be having their political affinity with the social system there, and he was saying that China can afford to get 500 billion American dollars. It is excellent. But what the hon. Minister has not said is what is the tax-GDP ratio there and what is the rate of investment there. If the domestic investment rate does not improve, if the domestic savings do not improve, if the capital formation does not improve, by borrowing money from the American corporations that no country can advance. That is where the basic difference is.

The rate of investment must increase. What is the rate of investment in India? It is 26 per cent. With 26 per cent rate of investment in India, can you promote India's growth and development? Can you increase the GDP to 7 per cent, 8 per cent, 9 per cent or 10 per cent? It is only more than 5 per cent or less than 6 per cent or around 6 per cent.

Therefore, the crucial question is to improve the rate of investment and in order to improve the rate of investment, the Government must invest and in order for the Government to invest there has to be higher tax-GDP ratio, there has to be more mobilisation of domestic resources. The foreign money can play a subsidiary role, a supplementary role, a secondary role. But the basic role has to be played by the Indian funds.

It is because of this that the hon. Minister has given less money for irrigation. What is the contribution of India's agriculture? We have only 1.1 per cent increase in the agricultural production. We have 13 per cent decrease in the production of food grains. The *Economic Survey* says that India's agriculture is miserably dependent on vagaries of nature. If it is so, we have to improve our irrigation.

In order to improve the irrigation, there has to be more investment. What is the investment in irrigation? Allocation under one head is increased to Rs. 97 crore; allocation under the head water resources is Rs. 186 crore; allocation under the head micro irrigation is Rs. 400 crore. It is against the requirement of Rs. 10,000 crore. No fresh irrigation scheme has been launched after the Seventh Five Year Plan. Four hundred irrigation schemes are in the pipeline because there is no fund.

Allocation to agriculture is Rs. 1,500 crore; allocation to food processing is Rs. 95 crore and allocation to rural industry is Rs. 159 crore. I am speaking of the agricultural economy. With this, can we revamp Indian agriculture? Is it possible? There was a need for more investment and he cannot make more investment because he has no money. He has no money because he is not ready to increase tax-GDP ratio; he has no money because he has reduced the corporate tax; he has no money because he has given relief to people of high-income group.

Sir, I have forgotten to tell you that even the pensioners are hurt. Taking into account the tax rebate of Rs. 20,000 under section 88B, standard deduction of Rs. 30,000 and benefit of interest income of Rs. 12,000 under section 80L, income up to Rs. 1,95,000 was exempted from tax for the senior citizens. today, the tax exemption is Rs. 1,50,000 only. Even for the women, tax benefit has been reduced, if we look into the things more carefully.

Sir, look at the fundamentals of the Budget. How can the country develop? Capital expenditure under Plan head has been reduced by Rs. 20,000 crore. Small-scale industry is badly hit by de-reservation. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you are coming from Punjab. How many industries in Punjab are open today? Today, 50,000 small-scale units are closed in Punjab today—I have been there only a few days back—and many more industries are limping, not limping back to life but limping into hibernation.

Should a country like India spend for defence 14 paise per rupee when we are spending 18 paise per rupee for development? If the priority is to be fixed between automobile and food, food is my top priority. Where from are we expecting aggression? We have entered into a peace dialogue with Pakistan. Our friendship with China has improved. Bangladesh is not a country to attack India. If America takes on India, our spending 14 paise per rupee on defence cannot protect India. Therefore, why are we spending 14 paise per rupee

for defence armaments when the people of the country are hungry and there are cases of suicides and starvation deaths?

Regarding employment, hon. Finance Minister says that he is expecting an increase of 1.2 crore in employment in the textile sector over the next five years. What is his allocation to the textile sector? Textile sector is in severe crisis. His allocation is Rs. 400 crore.

Last year, hon. Finance Minister talked about collection of tax defaults of Rs. 15,000 crore. There is no mention how much unpaid tax has been collected. He has reduced the corporate tax, but he believes that Rs. 27,000 crore more will be collected. We have no idea how this target will be achieved.

Kindly allow me to quote an eminent economist of India, and not a leftist, namely, Professor Arjun Sengupta, Chairman of National Commission on Enterprises. He said that:

"The Minister was expected to flag-off a bolder programme to recover tax arrears, and curb black money."

My respected friend finds a trace of black money in the bank accounts. Only a fool in the world will believe that black money, and tax evaded money is kept in the bank accounts. We know Shri Sukh Ram kept Rs. 2.5 crore in the temple. Therefore, it is very ridiculous. If he is after the black money, then he has to take other stringent measures. Why is there Rs. 1,000 notes? What is the need for having Rs. 1,000 notes? What is the need for having Rs. 500 notes?

Today, the tax arrears is Rs. 1,00,000 crore, black money is 40 per cent of the economy, and loss on account of NPA in the banks is Rs. 3,00,000 crore.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Dasgupta, please conclude your speech.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am concluding my speech. But at the same time he has reduced the allocation for the public sectors by 5 per cent, but the public sectors have been found to be generating additional revenue, and resources to the extent of Rs. 50,000 crore.

I will conclude my speech with two quotations. There will be a flare-up in the stock market. Speculation will thrive with more funds, and foreign corporates will merrily make money, but the common people will suffer. The game plan of the Government is to develop the security market, and promote gold units. These measures will funnel more money into the capital market.

As boom in the secondary market is also a fertile ground for mischief and manipulation. It remains to be seen whether the bull-run will degenerate into another scam.

The Finance Minister has gone all out to use stock-therapy to boost the money. Our alternative is people's money for people's welfare. Profit made by the corporates is because of the toil of the people. Those who have the capacity to pay must pay for more jobs, and those who have the capacity to pay must pay for better home and better quality of human life.

My hon. Minister must make a new ground. The mandate in the elections was not only for secularism, but the mandate in the elections was also for alternative economic policy. There is hardly any trace of alternative economic policies in the Budget, which have been prepared. We feel sorry and disturbed. We feel that the anomaly in the social and economic lives has to be corrected. Of course, we support this Budget because of the political compulsions, but in the heart of our hearts we feel bad. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Why are you supporting them?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We cannot make room for you because you are far worse than what is taking place now. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): You are confused.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We support the Budget for political compulsions, but in the heart of our hearts we feel let-down. The Government should feel that the people of India expect the Government to make new grounds.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot): Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Shiromani Akali Dal to express our views regarding this Budget.

The world is becoming very competitive. In order to compete in this world we have to be competitive, and to

[Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal]

be competitive we have to create world-class infrastructure, encourage agriculture—which is the backbone of our economy—as well as encourage those sectors that generate maximum employment.

The first impression which you get after going through the Budget is very different from the impression which you get after going through the Budget in detail. I had a lot of issues which I wanted to discuss and raise here today, but because of shortage of time, I just want to concentrate on three or four years which I feel are very important.

The most important issue before this country is agriculture. Every year, when the Budget is presented, every Finance Minister talks about agriculture; every Finance Minister talks of rural upliftment; and every Finance Minister talks of generating more rural employment, but what really happens is something different. I am a farmer's son; I live in a village. Over the years, I have seen that whatever happens here or whatever Budget is presented, actually, it does not get translated where it should be translated.

Punjab, the State from where I come, is considered to be a very prosperous State, is considered to be one of the most advanced States in agriculture, and the Punjab farmers are considered to be the most progressive farmers. However, what is the ground reality today? Over the years, farming has become economically unviable. That is the reason why, today, thousands of farmers are sitting outside the Parliament House protesting against the policies of the Government of India.

The Government of India talks about agriculture, but it never talks about making agriculture economically viable. To make agriculture economically viable, either the costs of inputs have to be controlled or the prices of agricultural products have to be set at such reasonable prices which give some profit to the farmers. However, over the years, what has been happening is that the prices of inputs have drastically been increasing, whereas the prices of agricultural produce are not increasing at the rate at which they should be increasing. The basic input that a farmer needs is diesel; the basic input that a farmer needs is agricultural labour, implements and credit.

I will just give you an example. Please look at this one item, diesel. As of 1st January, 2002, the rate of diesel was Rs. 16.28, but today, the rate of diesel is Rs. 25.25. There is a 50 per cent increase in the rate, but the prices of agricultural products have not been increased at that rate.

Another big issue is to make the whole thing economically viable. I have some suggestions to make. The first suggestion I make is that diesel prices should be controlled. We have to subsidise the diesel prices, which is a major input. Otherwise, farming will become economically unviable.

The second major issue which the farmers of Punjab and the farmers around the country are concerned about is the need for funds. What options do they have? One option is to go a moneylender, and the second option is to go to a bank. A moneylender charges more than two per cent per month; sometimes, two-and-a half per cent per month; and banks' are charging around 11 per cent. Let us now compare this rate with the rate that it charges for providing funds to other sectors. If you want to buy a tractor, the bank gives you a loan, but it charges 11 per cent or 12 per cent interest and it depends on the loan amount. If a person wants to buy a luxury car, he has just to pay seven per cent or even less than seven per cent. If somebody wants to take a loan under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme—even I have got a Kisan Credit Card—he has to pay 12 per cent interest per annum. If the industrialists want to take a loan from a bank, he gets the money at eight per cent, nine per cent or 10 per cent interest. This is a major discrimination against the farming community.

**14.00 hrs.**

My third suggestion is, to make farming economically viable, we have to link the price of agricultural produce with the price index. If you do not link the price of agricultural produce to the price index, the cost of all inputs will keep on going up as they are going up now. The prices of agricultural produce are not increasing.

As you have seen, Punjab is considered as the most progressive State. However, every second day you read in papers that in a place like Punjab, farmers are committing suicide. They are committing suicide because they are getting bankrupt and banks are taking possession of their property. Our economy is agriculture-driven economy. You are aware of the fact that our agricultural production has just grown by only one per cent. If you do not take strong measures to make farming economically viable, farming sector will go down and the Indian economy will collapse.

There has been a lot of talk about diversification that people should change from the normal cropping pattern, from wheat and rice pattern, to other crops. I will give a small example of what happened in Punjab. I

personally feel that if you want to be really serious about crop diversification, you will have to encourage farmers to diversify. You can only encourage farmers to diversify if you have a minimum guarantee support price which is very attractive and not the minimum support price which Government normally sets.

I will give a small example. In the State of Punjab, farmers started diversifying from the normal pattern of wheat and rice to cotton. What happened? At the beginning of the season, cotton prices were Rs. 2500 a quintal. As season progressed, the prices crashed to Rs. 1700 a quintal. Farmers are now demoralised. They do not want to cultivate cotton again. They are planning to switch back to their traditional cropping pattern of wheat and rice next year.

The second very important issue which I would like to raise is, there has been a continuous discrimination by Government of India against the industries in Punjab. Punjab is a land-locked State. On one side is Pakistan, on top is Jammu and Kashmir, and on the other sides we have Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Haryana. Any industrialist in the country today, or any multinational company that wants to set up a project in this region, does not come to Punjab. Why? It is because in Himachal Pradesh they get incentives. They do not have to pay any income tax there. They do not have to pay any sales tax. It is a complete tax holiday for them.

Same is the case in Jammu and Kashmir. You do not have to pay any income tax there. There is no sales tax. Same is the case in Uttaranchal. You do not have to pay any income tax or sales tax. Why will anybody invest in Punjab? What is happening there now? The worst is happening there. Besides anybody not investing in Punjab, the bigger problem is happening. Industrialists of Punjab are dismantling their units, moving their equipment and setting up projects in Himachal, in Uttaranchal. I have paper clippings with me. Everyday it comes in the newspapers. Thousands of crores of rupees of industrial investment is moving out of Punjab into Himachal Pradesh, into Jammu and Kashmir and into Uttaranchal.

Punjab, as you are aware, is a border State. We have just come out of a very bad patch. You are aware of the fact that for a couple of years there was militancy problem and peace was disturbed. The main cause of it was unemployment. Pakistan took advantage of this unemployment and encouraged disturbance in Punjab. The brave people of Punjab managed to restore peace and get back Punjab. They want Punjab to progress. Punjab is surrounded by all these States which have been given all these incentives. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister that in the national interest all incentives given to the adjacent States be given to Punjab. If Jammu and Kashmir can get these incentives because of militancy and because of disturbed conditions, why not Punjab?

Punjab also went through the same phase. Punjab also suffered. If that does not happen, industries will start moving out. If industries move out at the rate they are already moving out, what will happen? Unemployment will increase and the problem that had happened will happen again in a couple of years. So, I personally request to save Punjab. I hope the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister will take this initiative in this Budget and give the same package which is given to other States.

Another very important issue is tourism. I was very happy to listen to the hon. Finance Minister's Budget speech where he clearly mentioned that his main agenda is to encourage those sectors and those industries which promote the maximum employment. Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned food processing, IT, manufacturing and textile. But I personally feel, the most important sector which requires and generates the maximum amount of employment is tourism. I am sorry to say that there is no mention of this sector in this Budget. You are aware of the fact that 17 million people get direct employment and 41 million get indirect employment because of tourism. They were just saying that one tourist generates more than 10 jobs. I was looking through the earnings in tourism—Rs. 21,828 crore is earned in foreign exchange from the tourism sector. I was looking at the allocation of budget to the Ministry of Tourism, which in the year 2004-05, was Rs. 500 crore, and in this year's Budget, that is, 2005-06, is Rs. 786 crore, which is very little, If you want to promote tourism, you have to allocate more funds. There are a lot of countries which only depend on tourism.

I was going through the statistics in the World Tourism Map. India's rank is 140th. Neighbouring countries are surviving and their economies are booming and they are earning maximum income and generating maximum employment because of tourism. Countries like Thailand, in the last year, they had 12.35 million tourists; Singapore, a small county, got 7.15 million tourists; China, a Communist country, got 41.78 million tourists; and in India, a large country with vast natural resources, the flow of tourists was just 3.3 million. The hon. Finance Minister was saying that we need a seven or eight or nine per

[Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal]

cent growth rate. We want foreign investment; we want people to come to India. The biggest problem that the people are facing today is that there are no rooms available in the hotels in the country. There are only 90,000 rooms in this country. If we want to increase the tourists inflow from three million to six million, we need to create more rooms. We need another minimum one lakh rooms to be added to this industry. If we want to add one lakh rooms, we need Rs. 80,000 crore. I am aware of the fact that the Government of India cannot give Rs. 80,000 crore. We have to encourage private sector. I personally feel that tourism is actually an infrastructure. I personally request the hon. Finance Minister that hotel industry should get full infrastructure benefits of sales tax and income-tax holiday for a minimum of five to seven years so that they get more inflow of funds, which could be generated to set up new projects to increase their capacity. We would like to request that the Budget allocation to the Ministry of Tourism should at least be doubled so that the Ministry has sufficient funds to promote India worldwide.

Another thing which I personally want to suggest to the hon. Finance Minister is that we should identify sectors and given special packages to sectors like Buddhist sector which is in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As you are aware of the fact, South-East Asia has the maximum Buddhist population.

We should concentrate on this sector by giving special incentives so that people can set up hotels and other infrastructure.

There is another very important sector, the Amritsar Golden Temple. I was watching the other day the BBC Programme on TV. They had conducted a survey on world tourism spots. I was very happy to know that the Golden Temple of Amritsar came as the seventh most favoured destinations of world tourism. I feel that there is very little or no infrastructure available there. The Government of India should come out with a policy for giving special package to Amritsar, the holy city, so that industrialists, hoteliers and other companies can set up projects there.

Another suggestion about the tourism sector is this. The rate of interest charged from the industry should be lowered as it is charged from the infrastructure sector.

The last area I would like to concentrate on is sports. Fifty per cent of our population consists of youngsters. Whenever Olympic games take place, whenever Asian Games take place or whenever the Commonwealth Games take place, we get depressed by seeing the results. We start blaming our poor athletes. We start blaming our coaches. The blame should go to the Government of India. It is the Government of India which is responsible for the situation that we are in. I was going through the Budget allocation for sports. In the year 2003, it was Rs. 385 crore and this year the allocation is Rs. 500 crore. Do you think we can compete worldwide with just Rs. 500 crore allocation? If we really want to make a name and if the Government feels that they do not have much funds, then I personally request the hon. Finance Minister to encourage the private sector to come and do it. We should encourage private sector to invest in sports infrastructure. In the case of R&D, companies are given income-tax breaks. They are encouraged by giving 150 per cent income-tax breaks. Similarly, if any company invests in sports infrastructure, it should also be given 150 per cent infrastructure break. Secondly, the Government of India should double the allocation for sports by increasing it up to Rs. 1,000 crore.

In the end, on behalf of my party, we do not support this Budget because we personally feel that this Budget is anti-farmers, it is anti-Punjab industry and against the interest of the youth and the common man. I am sure, the suggestions given by us and by my colleagues in the NDA will be considered by the hon. Finance Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have got a Supplementary List of Business now. I call Shri P. Chidambaram to present the statement.

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**14.13 hrs.**

## BIHAR BUDGET, 2005-2006

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to present a statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the State of Bihar for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1767B/2005]

**14.13 1/2 hrs.**

## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—BIHAR, 2004-2005

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to present a statement(Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the State of Bihar for 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1767B/2005]

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**14.14 hrs.**

## GENERAL BUDGET—2005-2006 GENERAL DISCUSSION
## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—(GENERAL), 2005-2006
## AND
## DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—(GENERAL), 2004-2005-*Contd.*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on my legs to oppose the budget for the year 2005-2006. Ten months back during the elections for Lok Sabha, the congress party had given a slogan i.e. "Congress Ka Haath, Garibon Ka Saath, Congress Ka Haath, Kisano Ka Saath; Congress Ka Haath, Majdooron Ka Saath". But the budget presented after ten months has shown that the hon. Minister of Finance is not aware of the circumstances under which the poor people and the labourers of this country are living. This budget has proved that nothing has been done to improve the living standard of the poor farmers and the labourers in the budget.

The budget has been presented to safeguard the interests of the handful capitalists of the country. In this budget interests of a handful of people have been safeguarded by ignoring 90 percent population comprising the farmers, labourers and the poors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the shortcomings of this budget. The budget presented for the current financial year amounts to 5,14,343 thousand crore rupees and whatever expenditure is incurred or capital investment is made, that is done keeping it in view that the future of the country should be bright in the time to come and every capital investment should have some contribution in development of the country. But the nature and spirit of the budget presented is contrary to it. In this budget plan expenditure of Rs. 1,43,497 crore has been shown and to utilize this plan outlay, the expenditure likely to be incurred on Government infrastructure as well as government machinery has been shown to be to the tune of Rs. 3,70,847 crore. The ratio between the plan expenditure and expenditure on infrastructure is 1:3, whereas the figure shown under both these head should have been *vice-versa*. It is only then that you can lead the country on the path of development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as non-plan head is concerned whenever the question of reduction under the non-plan expenditure arises, then first of all the attention of the Government is focused on the subsidy. The Government talks of stopping or reducing the subsidy whereas actually the subsidy is meant to provide assistance to the needy people of the country. There are our sectors under non-plan expenditure on which expenditure is incurred mainly. Subsidy sector involves an expenditure of Rs. 47,432 crore rupees, Defence expenditure involves Rs. 88 thousand crore rupees; payment of interest involves 1,33,945 crores rupees and salary etc. of administrative officers involves an expenditure of 38,658 crore rupees. If the total non-plan expenditure is divided into four parts, then it will come to three lakh thousand crore rupees whereas provision of three lakh seventy thousand crore rupees has been made under the non-plan head. There is a gap of seventy thousand crore rupees. Where this gap has been adjusted this has not been accounted for in this budget. If the Government want to effect cut in the non-plan expenditure, it should be effected in such a way that this gap of Rs. 70 thousand crore should be minimized, subsidy should not be cut. The Government should not curtail subsidy meant for providing relief to the poors, farmers and the labourers. The gap of rupees seventy thousand crore is not visible in the budget. You should effect cut in such a way that the said gap of rupees seventy thousand crore under the non-plan head should be minimised. Today this has also been made clear that the plan expenditure has come down every year as compared to

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

previous years and percentage of non-plan expenditure has increased. If you go through the figures for the last two-three years, you will feel that there is a need to check it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides this I would like to tell as to how this budget is anti-farmers, anti-labourer and anti-poor. Everybody knew it that the budget of the country is going to be presented on 28th February.

This government hiked the import duty on edible oils in the month of January. I want to know as to what was the need to increase the import duty in January when the budget was to be presented in February? The Government should have waited. But the intention of the Government behind this was something different. This time the production of edible oils in our country has been very good. The Government has increased the import duty on edible oils so that their prices do not fall in the market as a result of good production of edible oils during this season.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the nineties, free market was envisaged under the policy of liberalisation. The concept of free market gives birth to capitalist system. Open market or free market can never put the country on the path of development, rather it can lead to the development of only a handful of people. So there is need to control liberalisation and the policy of free market.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is significant contribution of agriculture and small scale industry in the economic development and economic progress of the country. Both these sectors have been totally neglected in this budget. No significant attention has been paid anywhere for them. An amount of more than Rs. 5,14,000 crore has been provided in this budget but only Rs. 6425 has been provided for agriculture. India is mainly an agricultural country and 70% of population of this country, be it agricultural labourers or farmers, is dependent on agriculture. The provisions made in the budget for agriculture make intentions of the Government towards agriculture very clear. Our colleague Sukhbir Singh Ji was just talking about farmers committing suicides. The news of farmers committing suicides is daily hitting the Newspapers. If farmers are forced to commit suicide in an agricultural country somewhere policies of the Government are at fault. The Government is not paying required attention towards them, rather neglecting them, due to which farmers and agricultural labourers are forced to commit suicide. Sukhbir Singh Ji was talking about kisan credit cards. Today the situation is that the farmers are not getting proper price of their produce in the market and as a result farmers are unable to repay their loans. Consequently economic burden is increasing so much on them that farmers are forced to commit suicide.

**14.23 hrs.**

[Shri Arjun Sethi *in the Chair*]

Today the need of the hour is to take the fittest and most stringent steps to increase agricultural produce, to increase the agricultural yields, provide remunerative prices to the farmers, making agriculture profitable profession and for this it is essential that more and more research and investigation work is done is agricultural sector.

Today small scale industries are gradually getting closed and dying down. If this pathetic condition of the small scale industries continue like this, small scale industries in the country are likely to be extinct without a trace country. The reason for this is the list of items of small scale industries is being continuously amended so as to transfer more and more items under the SSI sector to large scale industries sector. The list has been reduced to just 605 items by now. I shall not take much time, but I want your permission to say a few things.

Today unemployment is an important question. The provision of employment guarantee scheme has been made in this budget to deal with the unemployment problem in this country. 150 district have been selected under this scheme. It is unimaginable how unemployment can be tackled in such a large country by operating employment guarantee scheme only in 150 districts.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill 2004 has also been introduced. Jean Drij is a member of National Advisory Council of the Government and he says that Rural Employment Guarantee Bill 2004 will not be helpful for any scheme of employment generation. Employment generation is not mentioned anywhere in the budget of 2005-2006. The government had promised at the time of elections that it would go ahead in the direction of removing unemployment. The government has gone back on its words and it has nothing to do with this. The prices of steel have gone up by 12 to 16%. Apart from this hon'ble Finance Minister has told during his budget speech that withdrawal of more than Rs. 10 thousand is going to be taxed. I am surprised at this, in this country poor farmers and labourers deposit Rs. fifty or one hundred every month and when festivals come, whether

it is Holi, Dushera, id, Muharram or any festival, they withdraw their money. They withdraw Rs. 15 thousand or 18 thousand and purchase new clothes etc. for their families and you will impose tax on the withdrawal of the money earned by them because in your view this is black money.

Sir, I cannot make out the basis on which government has prepared this budget. How the promises made to the country by the congress 10 months ago will be fulfilled through this budget. They are not aware of the ground realities of the country. So I oppose this budget in toto and request the government to remove its short-comings and to go ahead in the direction of keeping the promises made to the country at the time of elections.

'SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, the budget of UPA government is full of jugglery of budgetary statistics. The entire budget reflects an exercise of giving something by one hand while taking away much more than that by the other. This budget will contribute to price rise. Cement is very important in the development of infrastructure but the tax on clinker has been increased from Rs. 250 to 350 and it will cause increase in the prices of cement. The prices of petrol and diesel will go up. India is a country of villages. There is massive inequality among villages from the point of view of development. The situation is akin to "Koi taras raha ujiyare Ko, Koi Suraj bandhe phirta hai."

There are many serious problems like unemployment, crisis of drinking water, education and health facing the country. But no time-bound programme for the solution of above problems has been given in the budget presented which is quite unfortunate. Under the burden of debt farmers are committing suicides. There is scarcity of means of irrigation. Many countries of the world give subsidy to their farmers but in our country they are not getting proper price of their produce whereas the basis of our economy is agriculture and the government has totally neglected the farmers. Farmers are turning labourers. He is born in debt and dies under debt and at the time of his death even the shroud has to be purchased from borrowed money.

The number of educated unemployed persons has been increasing day by day but the provision of employment which is being talked about is mere wages. As a result the youth of the country are frustrated.

All the states of the country are facing difficulties due to power crisis. But unfortunately no provision has been made in this budget to increase power generation.

The budget is not prepared keeping in view the major problems of the country. In this budget Bharat Nirman is mentioned with the target fixed upto year 2009, but it appears a mere imagination. I want to say that the budget seeks to provide irrigation facility for 1 crore hectare area, 60 lakh dwelling units to the poor, electricity to 1.2 lakh villages, electricity connections to 2-3 crore people, telephone connectivity to 66822 villages but no provision has been made anywhere for the total amount likely to expended on all these works. Such Bharat Nirman can materialize only in speeches but real India is not going towards construction, it is rather going backward. The total capital investment likely to be made for these works too has not been mentioned anywhere. All these announcements have been made just to embellish the budget.

The budget says nothing about increasing power generation but talks of providing new electricity connections even as power generation in the country has been decreasing instead of increasing. In my state from 1996 to till date connection of irrigation pumps could not be provided to the farmers belonging to general category despite depositing securities by them. 167980 small scale industries have been closed in the country and the main reason for this was non-availability of power to them. About 70 percent tap water schemes, drift irrigation scheme of the country are lying closed due to non-availability of power.

It has been stated to budgetise employment. It has also been stated to provide 100 days works in a year in which fifty percent wage is to be provided in cash and fifty percent in kind (food grains). I want to ask the honourable minister of finance whether a single educated unemployed youth would like to go to work under such scheme. Hon'ble Minister of Finance if you can not provide employment to educated youths at least do not insult them.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance has included all unemployed under the Rural employment Guarantee Programme and has shown the way to all educated youths to work under food for work programme in rural areas.

Two separate patterns of education have evolved in the country—one for the poor and another for the rich. As a result of it the society is on the verge of being

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'Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

divided. No effective steps have been taken to remove this inequality. In the rural areas higher and secondary education is coming to an end and a large number of children after getting primary education, are being deprived of further education which is a matter of serious concern. What the country needs today is uniform education tinged with our national traits and technical education, but unfortunately the hon'ble minister did not chose to include this in the Serva Siksha Abhiyan.

It has been stated to provide drinking water to 2.16 lakh people under Rajeev Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. But probably hon'ble minister of finance has forgotten that water table of the country is continuously going down, water in the rivers is decreasing. Handpumps, tubewells are getting dried. Hence the target to provide drinking water to all can not be achieved without augmenting the water resources. For example I want to state that out of the total schemes so far prepared in the country with the help of central government, more than 60 percent are inoperational due to lack of maintenance. In my constituency Satna, the foundation of a scheme to provide drinking water to 42 villages was laid in village pitra in 1977. This scheme was completed in 1990 and after remaining operational only for a while it was closed. the scheme is lying closed as its revival and repair requires big expenditure, I demand that such schemes may be included in the Rajeev Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. Similarly irrigation schemes, which are lying incomplete should be completed and closed schemes should be repaired and made operational.

The irrigation schemes which are incomplete, be completed and the closed schemes may be revived. The Vargi Bandh Project in my constituency in which water was to be released in 1990, but it has not been released till date and this may be completed immediately.

National highways and railways both come under the jurisdiction of the government of India but even today responsibility of constructing overbridge on the railway crossings has not been fixed so far which is unfortunate. Sir, in my constituency National Highway Number 7 crosses rail line beside a railway station in a town called Maihar. The gate remains closed for 18 hours at a stretch, putting the entire town to difficulty and serious incidents occur. Till date over bridge was not constructed on that crossing. I demand that an over bridge may be constructed immediately

Several big projects are prepared with the cooperation of Central Government in rural areas and various villages get affected by this. In my constituency Tamas Hydro electric project has been built on river Tamas and Samravat the rivers remain full of water throughout the year as a result of which connection between the villages situated on both sides of the river has got broken. Farmers are unable to reach their fields. I demand that a bridge on river Tamas at village Gorieya and another on river Sevaval at village Rehuta be constructed.

As last, I want to request the hon'ble minister of Finance that the tax imposed on withdrawal of one's own money from bank, which has been opposed by the entire nation, must be rolled back.

The college education in the country is getting costlier. the poor people are being deprived of such education. There is a need to make such education cheap within the country.

Some-non-government organisations are doing good work for rural development and improve the standard of living of the people, there is need to encourage them. Work done under the Din Dayal Research Institute, named after the famous social activist Shri Nanaji Deshmukh located on the border of Madhya Pradesh in my constituency Satna, in 80 villages of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, is worth emulating by the country. They Made people self reliant there by working in areas like education, health, employment, agriculture. They brought about extensive improvement in the economic condition of the people. People have come out of poverty, their squabblings came to an end, unopposed Panchayats were constituted I demand that such social activists should be honoured and by conducting a study of their works done by them, the formula evolved by them should be applied in rural development.

*[Translation]*

Sir, I believe, the whole budget is dismal and would request Hon'ble Prime Minister and Finance Minister to show mercy to the people of the country.

*[English]*

*DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, the second Budget of the UPA Government is clearly a sunshine Budget. Sunshine after a long winter brings forth hope and expectations. It is creditable on the part of the Finance Minister that he seems to have met them in a

*Speech was laid on the Table.

fair measure without deviating from the accepted path of the national common minimum programme. The Government is showing willingness to launch a direct action to redress mass poverty and deprivation but unless the problems of illiteracy, ill health and unemployment are addressed properly, it would end as a quixotic exercise. The Finance Minister's attempt to meet more of the expectations in the social sector through substantial increase in the outlays for employment, education, and health is to be welcomed in this context. The national rural employment guarantee scheme was the most far-reaching of the programmes offered by the UPA in its national common minimum programme. In a Budget that is hailed as a new deal for rural India, Shri Chidambaram has not forgotten this. It is to the credit of the Finance Minister that he could allot higher funding for critical areas of human development including basic education, health, sanitation, housing and rural water supply. Let us wish that Shri Chidambaram's unexpected departure from expected targets would not frustrate his attempt to reach deficit reduction targets. Binding deficit reduction goals is a restraint and within it the Finance Minister has done a commendable job. I support him in that noble endeavour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement.

More than 70 hon. Members are yet to participate in this discussion. So, I request all the hon. Members who want to participate in this debate, not to take more than five minutes each. Those who want to lay their speeches also may lay their speeches on the Table of the House; the hon. Speaker has already agreed to that.

This is for information of all the hon. Members; I should not compel the hon. Members to complete within the time limit of five minutes; on their own, they should confine their speeches within the time limit.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): How is it possible? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEE RAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, the time is too short. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Whatever time was allotted to this debate, has already been consumed. The hon. Minister will reply to the debate at 5 o'clock. So, before 5 o'clock, we have to complete the debate. I request the hon. Members again to confine themselves to the time limit.

Now, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that 5 minute time is too short a period to put forth the achievements of this government. At the way outset, I congratulate the UPA chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji, Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh ji and the Finance Minister for tackling the tsunami crisis as per the people's expectations.

*[English]*

Each and every family will be rehabilitated.

*[Translation]*

This is a great achievement. For the first time a sum of rupees 50 crore has been provided in the budget for strategic research in agriculture and the government also deserves kudos on education campaign that they have generated into non lapsable fund. But I would like to know from the government that it is must to spend the funds despite it being non lapsable. A sum of rupees 11 thousand crores is lying as it is, without being spent. Obviously non lapsable funds are not meant to lie unspent.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would also like to congratulate the government for making special provisions for education of minorities. Development through education has been emphasized in this budget. Opening Anganwadis and providing all the facilities has been ensured in order to achieve this. This government deserves to be congratulated for many such achievements. This budget ushers in a new dawn, a new initiative and a new thinking in the country.

Sir, I would like to state that employment guarantee has been provided in the infrastructure development. This is a new idea. Our government has made a commitment to the people that we shall provide employment guarantee to all the youth. The government has lent a new direction to the youth in the country. Every youth will be given employment and with a view to translate it into reality, the government has made a provision for it in the budget.

*[English]*

India can become the skill capital of the would.

*[Translation]*

The initiative being taken in this direction is admirable. India has got the largest youth population. No country

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has 50 percent or more youths of 25 years or less than this but in India, population of youth is more than 50 percent. China has 39 percent youth population. It is 49 percent in some countries or less than that in other countries. India has the largest youth population. This is simply great.

Sir, the provision made in the budget for upgradation of I.T.I. is much less than required. Upgradation of ITIs can not be carried out with such paltry amount within one or two years. This needs to be increased. Upgradation of ITI is not possible with one or one and half crore of rupees. It takes 5 to 10 years for upgradation of ITIs. Substantial funds have been provided in the budget for sanitation, drinking water and other such purposes.

Sir, it has been targeted to irrigate one crore hectares of land in five years period. I feel, it is less. We should set a target to irrigate at least 50 lakh hectares of land each year. When we set such a target, than we shall be able to provide irrigation facilities to 30 or 40 lakh hectares of land. With provision of irrigation facilities in one hectare of land, three persons get employment in our country. That means a simple average of one to three. Therefore, I would request that we should set a target of at least 50 lakh hectares of land for irrigation per year.

*[English]*

Irrigation is a must.

*[Translation]*

Sir, when we intend as keep our annual growth at 8-9 percent in our country, then we must keep agriculture growth at 4 percent at least. As of now, the agriculture growth is just 1.3 per cent.

*[English]*

Everybody knows that it is declining very badly.

*[Translation]*

Investment is declining. G.D.P. is also declining. Owing to WTO, agriculture products are being imported, as a result of which the farmers are not getting remunerative prices of their produce and they all are compelled to sell their produce at prices lesser than their input cost. If things continue to move that way, then the farmer would not be able to sustain himself. As told by some one in the morning that the prices of onion have gone down sharply, I would like to ask as to which crop is fetching remunerative price to the farmers. Therefore, I am to request that we should constitute a Tariff Regulatory Authority.

*[English]*

Today's expert body on WTO is of no use. The expert body should monitor it.

*[Translation]*

That authority should ensure that the small manufacturers, farmers and artisans should get the remunerative prices of the goods manufacture by them. If it does not happen, the people will be ruined.

Sir, cooperative revitalization is a must in our country but the budget does not have any provision therefor. A Committee headed by Shri Viadyanathan was constituted but how will we do anything without budgetary allocation. Some budget Provision should be there for it. We have been observing in last 50 years that whenever some calamity, be it draught, famine or flood, strikes the farmer, then short term loan of farmers is converted into medium term loan. That is why farmers are committing suicides. It always increases their due and they tend to commit suicides. Short term loans should not be converted into medium term loans but it should be cleared. Once for all, his entire account should be cleared long term loans are generally not required by the farmers because land development takes 20-30 years. They talk of diversification and promoting horticulture, this is good thing. We should bring changes in the system of giving medium term loans to the farmers. When the short term loans, given to the farmers, are converted into medium term loans, liabilities of the farmers get increased. It should be avoided. Similarly technology transfer and diversification is not a matter of one or two years. It takes upto five, seven and eight years. I want this to be set right. This loan may be treated as a medium term loan and not as one year or crop loan.

Sir, if the farmers will not get credit from the co-operative banks they will go to the money lenders. That is why institutional credit is declining. Money lending credit is jumping like anything.

*[Translation]*

we have to keep this in mind. Revitalization credit should be given through co-operative societies. Along with this I demand that cooperative banking system and commercial banking system should be totally separated. The names

at least should be totally different. One name is not going to work. I want to request about banking sector that the ownership right of the government in insurance sector will go because first we nationalised private banks and again we are giving this work to the private banks taking it from nationalised banks.

*[English]*

Nationalisation has some social goal, social responsibility and social accountability. if we shall privatise it then we can do nothing about the private banks in insurance sector.

Sir, regarding the condition of sugar mills, I want to say that it is very bad. I shall demand from the government that as it has done for the textile sector and given a package for them, likewise a package should also be given to the sugar mills. All sugar mills, whether they are in co-operative sector or private sector, are in loss. As you have prepared a plan to private loan subsidy in textile sector, similarly sugar mills of cooperative sector and private sector should be granted permission to take N.C.D.C. or ECB loan from state cooperative banks or should be given concession to take loan from abroad. Sugar mills in cooperative and private sectors can come out of their loss only when such things will happen. Can direct employment made available without giving a package of Rs. 6000 crore. For textile one has to come from rural to urban area. The people of the villages work in cooperative sugar mills.

*[English]*

There is no migration. Rather the migration is reverse. It is from urban to rural.

*[Translation]*

This should be encouraged and budget provision should be made, only then we can do something. When I went through the data I was quite surprised. The capital receipts were at Rs. 204887 crore and capital expenditure was Rs. 109228 crore in year 2003-04. While capital receipts were Rs. 204887 crore and capital expenditure was Rs. 119722 crore in 2004-05. We shall see when you will convert it into zero budgeting. Once it was decided that zero budgeting would be started in this country and a new direction will be given.

Sir, if you will keep on ringing the bell how can I conclude in five minutes.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please confine to the allotted time.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, let hon'ble finance minister may speak at 6 o'clock please you extend the time by one hour. We are here to speak. You can extend the time. Please take opinion of the House, we have no objection.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should be some limit to the speech. You have already taken ten minutes. Please conclude now.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is ready, I have no objection in extending the time.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: If you have no objection, I thank you. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly agree to this suggestion and give room to the Members. *...(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): I would have to speak to the Minister if we can extend the time. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir our agricultural export is decreasing day-by-day and import is increasing. In such circumstances how can you do justice to the farmers of India, how can they get help and how they can rise? It is also in this budget.

*[English]*

The urban amenities should be given to the people of rural areas also. The face of rural India should be changed.

*[Translation]*

How could this be done, you have provided in the budget, but you have also employed whole institution.

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*[English]*

Everybody talks of villages. Everybody says that every village will have knowledge centres. But when are we going to have it.

*[Translation]*

Sir, when you will talk of it? You talked about agro business in the previous budget. Last year you talked of Rs. 1000 crore for research, but what research has been done? Where has the money gone?

*[Translation]*

Only expenditure is done for capital employment building and vehicles.

*[English]*

does the money go in real research?

*[Translation]*

Sir, there are many such things. We should port with caution. I shall not say this as many people do that nothing such happened in India. Everything is negative. For example if we see in glass which one is half full, less full or which glass is more full. ...*(Interruptions)* People think that there is no water in the glass, it is quite empty, we are not ready to accept this. I do support the budget, but I want to say to the government of India that attention should be paid again to the revitalization of farmers cooperatives, revitalisation of sugar industry on the likes of textile otherwise, it is an industry of rural employment, they have given health infrastructure, road to the rural areas, infrastructure for education and when these industry are doing government job, would you not provide them protection? Hence separate package should be given for co-operative sugar mills.

*[English]*

By experience, cooperatives have strengthened the rural economy than the any other private sector including sugar mills.

*[Translation]*

When you really give social security to the labourers then be it farmer agriculture labour or labourer of sugar industry, it is necessary to provide social security to them all so I demand that our agriculture labourers should also be given pension by the government of India when they attain the age of 60 years. If they are illiterate what is their social security?

*[English]*

The maximum social security should be given to the poorest man and to the people living below poverty line.

*[Translation]*

We are thinking how poverty will be reduced and employment will be increased? If we have to increase the opportunities of employment and production capacity, we have to pay attention towards farmers and agriculture. I lay on the table the remaining part of my speech. I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak.

*I want to congratulate the present Government for taking a balanced approach towards the development of Developed States and backward States. Developed States are not penalised at the cost of Backward States. Social security should be provided to the economically weaker sections also by way of providing pension, educational loans etc. Non-plan expenditure is increasing. This should be curbed and suitable steps should be taken towards this.

Pension reforms should be carried out with rational approach within the next four years, else the pension bill will soar and will be uncontrollable.

WATER RESOURCES: There are problems between the states on the issue of sharing of water of the rivers flowing through them. We can initiate a scheme in which the water within the State is circulated from surplus area to deficient area to reduce the water shortage (Intra-linking of Rivers). Moreover, the water from surplus area to deficient area may transported, like in Maharashtra the Godavari and Tapi basins are deficient and the surplus water from Konkan rivers can be transported to these basins. After the water requirement of the State is satisfied after intra-linking, the remaining surplus water should be transported to the deficient states, because in the coming years shortage of water will be huge as the population in exploding and this will give rise to social tensions. We should give a serious thought to this scheme. The Maharashtra Pani Parishad took the initiative and formulated such scheme and submitted it to the Government of Maharashtra which has already such

*Speech was laid on the Table.

proposal of intra-linking of rivers when the Central Government initiated such policy in 2002. More than 50 per cent of Maharashtra is under drought as per the Government of India norms and the Government has already classified Maharashtra as water scarce region.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WASTELANDS: The big builders and construction lobby has been converting fertile and irrigated land around the cities for the purpose of developing residential and commercial complexes. The Government has invested huge amounts of public money, almost Rs. 1000 crore in the last five years to develop the wastelands and make them cultivable and creation of infrastructure like roads, drinking water, irrigation. Moreover, there also has been huge private investment on these lands. These funds are nothing but waste if the builder lobby exploits such lands. This is totally un-understandable proposition. Due to this the agricultural land is becoming scarce thereby putting more stress on the already stressed available cultivable land. The builder lobby industrialists should be allowed to develop on the wastelands and the funds for this purpose can be utilised for other social sectors. Industrial land must be saved, as it is a major employment provider in rural areas.

I would like to suggest here that looking at the seriousness of this problem, the urban areas may be allowed to grow vertically, by providing more FSI and the funds thus saved can be used for providing better urban amenities and infrastructure.

Drinking water is another problem area. So far, 95 per cent of the habitats are being completely provided with drinking water. 4.6 per cent of the localities are partially covered and 0.4 per cent are still yet to be covered. It is the most unfortunate thing that after 57 years of independence the Government is unable to provide basic amenities. This programme should be vigorously pursued by providing more funds. The localities covered are also in a bad shape as the components are ill maintained, not functioning.

RAIN WATER CONSERVATION AND SAND BED: I would also like to draw the attention to the problem of exploiting sand from the riverbeds for the use of construction activities. Sand is the natural water reservoir. I have taken up this matter with the Government of Maharashtra, which has realized the gravity of this problem and issued a ban on such exploitation. Alternative to sand should be identified and introduced. Appropriate amount should be provided in the Budget for purpose of research and incentive should be given for the use of such product in the construction and road projects. No mention and provision for Rain-water Harvesting scheme in this Budget. In order to encourage the rainwater conservation the sand beds are the natural medium. Unreasonable exploitation has lead to depletion of the water bodies and ground water levels. An integrated approach should be followed and use of locally conserved water should be encouraged so that the cost of water transportation can be minimised.

EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE: The Human resource base of India is its greatest asset with over 50 per cent of the population under the age of 25 and with ageing in the other countries, such as 38 in Europe and 41 in Japan and 30 in China. In 2025, India will have a dependency ratio of 12.1 for every 100 working adults. There will be slightly more than 12 persons who would be above the age of 65. For China the ratio will be 19.4, for Japan it is 49 and for Europe it is 33.2. Clearly India enjoys the advantage, which can be converted into an opportunity for national well being, by making India the Skill Capital of the World. To achieve this objective, we should ramp up private sector initiative and skill our human resource to globally benchmarked standards, thus enhancing our per capita productivity across all sectors of our economy and put India on the glide path for all round sustainable development.

The scheme is already operational as a pilot project at Pravaranagar, District Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, Shillong (North-East) and Baramulla (J&K). It is being executed at a minimal cost of Rs. 5000 per child spread over 100-200 hours training periods depending upon the type of skill being imparted.

SARVA SHIKSHAN ABHIYAN: It is a novel scheme but lacks the local component. The scheme should be revised taking into consideration the local needs and conditions, which will lead to far better target achievement. More funds should be provided for this scheme. The Education Cess, which was introduced in the last year's Budget, has collected Rs. 5010 crore. But only Rs. 2000 crore have been spent. The creation of the "Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh" as a non-lapsable fund, in this Budget is a welcome step, but it should not have the same fate as the non-lapsable fund created for the development of North Eastern Region, which is unspent. I feel that there should be enough accountability to spend these funds.

RATIONALIZATION OF TAX STRUCTURE: In the developed economy, the proportion of the direct tax should be more than the indirect tax. This is being done, but at

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a very slow pace. The tax reforms may be vigorously pursued. The proportion of direct and indirect taxes can be seen as under:

| Year | Direct tax | Indirect tax |
|---|---|---|
| 1990-1991 | 19 per cent | 78 per cent |
| 1999-2000 | 34 per cent | 65 per cent |
| 2003-2004 | 41 per cent | 59 per cent |
| 2004-2005 | 44 per cent | 56 per cent. |

I would like to make a mention here to the Finance Minister about the introduction of the tax on cash withdrawal from banks. We have attracted enough criticism with this provision. I appeal to him to withdraw it. Also the applicability of service tax has been specified at the turnover limit of more than Rs. 4 lakhs. I make an appeal to the Minister to increase this limit to Rs. 15 lakhs.

BAD BUDGETING: It is seen that the Capital Receipts have been much more than the Capital Expenditure. The gap, it seems to be widening with each year. In 2003-04, the gap was Rs. 98262 crore. In 2004-05, it was Rs. 105165 crore and the estimate in this Budget is Rs. 95312 crore. The capital receipts are for the generation and creation of assets and should be utilised for this purpose so that over a period, these assets provide returns. These receipts are generally borrowings and another liabilities carrying interest. If not purposefully used, they lead to increasing fiscal deficit. The Finance Minister may kindly explain the rationale behind such budgeting.

| Year | Capital Receipts | Capital Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| 2003-04 | 207490 crore | 109228 crore |
| 2004-05 | 204887 crore | 119722 crore |
| 2005-06 | 163144 crore | 67832 crore |

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, my name is also there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every one's name is there, I will call you on your turn.

Please sit down now.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman Sir, the Finance Minister or any other cabinet Minister is not present in the House, where have they gone? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright, they are coming.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your names are here. When your turn comes, I will call you.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not say that I oppose this Budget. It is because I presume that this is the Budget of its time. It has rightly been said by most of the commentators of economy, the media and the intelligentsia and just some time before by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta that it is an unusual product mix and it has never enthused anybody in this country. This has been said by Members from the Ruling Alliance.

Sir, this Budget is a combination of conviction and compromise. It is because, I believe that the hon. Finance Minister is a votary of liberalisation and free market economy. But his compulsion is that he and his Government are heavily weighed down at cross-purposes by counter push and pull from disperate coalition partners dragging on reverse directions.

The hon. Finance Minister is a pragmatic person who knows that in order to satisfy the demands of the Left—who are the self-proclaimed *messiah* of the poor—he would have to arrange money from the market. So, he has the political limitation of satisfying both the market and the Marxists. That is why, he had a world-class rope trick balancing act and he has done that. He could be given a very good sobriquet for being a 'capitalist comrade'.

Sir, you would know that the day he permitted 76 per cent FDI in the telecom sector, the very same day he declared that the interest rate for EPF would be increased to 9.5 per cent just to satisfy the Left. But I mean to say that by merely trying to satisfy all sections of the society, he would lead the country to nowhere. Anybody who wants to satisfy everybody ends up satisfying nobody.

Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has said that his immediate predecessor was a very lucky man. I would say the same thing about the present Finance Minister as well. He is also a lucky man. He has been left with a dream economy with a 8.5 per cent growth by his predecessor. He can now cite a lot many reasons and say that he does not want to dilute the economy that was handed over to him by legacy and could even say that the 8.5 growth was

in the backdrop of a poor percentage growth of earlier years. He can say that. He may also say that he had to counter the global petroleum price hike. He might as well say that there was a 13 per cent deficiency in the South-West monsoon. He could say that there was an apparent decline in business confidence which led to the sharp downturn in new investments. He could say so many things.

But Sir, let me tell you that his predecessors also had to encounter very formidable odds like sanctions by the USA and Japan after the Pokhran nuclear tests, the super cyclone in Orissa, the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, the worst drought of the century and the East Asian economic crisis. All these odds had to be encountered by his predecessor. So, 8.5 per cent is not a fiction but a fact. Why did this thing happen? It happened because NDA had a leader, a visionary, a statesman like Atal Bihari Vajpayee who is the marshal of Indian renaissance and the torchbearer of reinvigorated India. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is the harbinger of the 21st century which belongs to India. Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee was such a leader. ...*(Interruptions)* Atalji was a visible Prime Minister. He was not invisible. He never said that decisions were taken at his back. He never said that somebody else pulled the strings from behind. He never said so. He was a very hard taskmaster and took very hard decisions. This Government is not capable of taking hard decisions. It is because they are having partners with obsolete Jurassic age mindsets. They are full of envy towards everybody, that is, the Leftists. They are the harbingers of doom of this country. They are known by such phrases. These Leftists want to turn India into West Bengal. They want to take India in the way they have taken West Bengal. Do not listen to them, the harbingers of the dooms. This is my request. It is only hard decisions be it in the case of the public sector disinvestment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, you have very limited time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, let me tell you that the Member who was to speak before me did not speak. So, naturally, I will get more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You just state your points.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, my reply is at 5. p.m. Did you say that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have already reminded them.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: So, be it the case of public sector disinvestment, rationalisation of subsidy, bringing in more Foreign Direct Investment or gradual removal of Inspector Raj, Atalji had the courage to take all these decisions on economic reforms. Whenever you take any hard decision, some section of the society will be hurt. If you remove liquor shops, then somebody will be affected. If you abolish prostitution, then somebody will be affected. The medicine may be very bitter. But, Sir, ultimately hard decisions are good for the health of the country.

I was listening with rapt attention to the hon. Member, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia. He quoted figures after figures to show that allocations have been increased for drinking water, Sarvasiksha Abhiyan, rural roads, health service, etc. as if the NDA Government did not do anything about all these things. Can this Government show a single new project which they have initiated? they are only changing the nomenclature of the old ones, putting some more money and say that they are for the poor. I will give you the example of revenue receipts. It is circulated by the hon. Finance Minister. The Actual revenue receipt in 2003-04 was Rs. 2,63,878 crore.

The Budgetary estimate for 2005-2006 is Rs. 3,51,200 crore. So, there is an increase of around Rs. 87,000 crore from 2003-04 to 2005-06. What are they going to do with this money? Naturally, they will utilize that money in some schemes. Then, they say that they are the messiahs of the poor. Take, for example, this Book, *The Implementation of Budget Announcement*. It is written here that poor people will have the first charge, poor people want basic education, poor people want drinking water, poor people want jobs for their children, etc. Here, read between the lines. What is the hon. Finance Minister saying? He is saying that these people, people like me, who have come from Orissa, a very rich State, are the agents of Tatas and Birlas and only they are the representatives of the poor.

One of the hon. Members was saying that there was seven per cent growth during the last year of Rajiv Gandhi's regime, as if after Vikramaditya era, only Rajiv Gandhi's regime was the other golden era in the annals of Indian history. If Rajiv Gandhi's era was the golden era, why did Shri Chandra Shekhar, who became the Prime Minister after him, pledge gold to bring in some foreign currency? It was only because of the financial mismanagement by the Congress Government for ten years, from 1980 to 1990, when Congress was having the high-noon time. It was the epitome of the Congress

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rule. That happened because of their financial mismanagement. That is why the subsequent Government had to pledge gold to get foreign currency. There is too much of glorification of poverty. All the time they say poor, poor and poor. They are narrating things like this. They say that they have got the mandate. A 145-Member Party is proclaiming that it has got the mandate to rule! It is not mandate, but pure mathematics. They have brought together some combinations here and there and formed a Government. Then, they say that you have got the mandate. People of this country have gradually started understanding this. They will understand more about this in the future.

The country requires investment. There are so many bottlenecks. The hon. Finance Minister has got a conviction towards this. I know he is a great supporter of liberalisation. He himself has said in his book, *"Mid-Year Review"*, that unless there is inflow of infusion of FDI, a sustained growth of eight per cent is not possible. Kindly go for that. Kindly see as to how savings in India, which is supposed to be 28.1 per cent—which are actually not true because this year the Central Statistical Organisation says that they are going to revise the data—can be increased.

They are talking of agriculture. I urge them to see how we can open the agriculture market and how we can facilitate movement of agro products from one State to another. You kindly see how it can be smoothened and how it can be made possible. We have to also see how to incentivise the States towards allowing movement of food grains fro one State to another. He should see to it.

With regard to VAT, I support it. Our Party also supports it. But we want that the misgivings with regard to VAT among the traders should be removed before implementing that.

The hon. Finance Minister is under the impression that if rural credit is doubled within three years, then probably the farmers will not commit suicide. As a member of the Fact Finding Mission of my Party, I went to Andhra Pradesh. I talked to almost 25 widows, whose husbands had committed suicide. They said that they got the credit from outside. What was the reason for committing suicide? It was because their bore wells failed. They took money and dug bore wells, but the bore wells failed. It has got nothing to do with the credit. Weavers also committed suicide because their traditional designs were copied by the big industries. Then they printed saris and other textile materials at a lesser price. They are the things we have not shown. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The third one. ...*(Interruptions)* I will complete in one minute. As regards the Cotton Corporation of India, they rejected 50 per cent of the cotton brought by the farmers to the Cotton Corporation of India go down for sale. He should see to it that the Cotton Corporation of India purchases cotton from the actual farmers. He should see that the patterns and the old designs of the farmers should be patented by the State of Andhra Pradesh. I found that out of 25, not a single widow has got any compensation even after the visit of the Prime Minister to that area. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that he should see that they all get compensation. Lastly, I must say that this sub-approach to economy will bring in the gradual diminishing return. The people of this country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The people of this country used to have heavy dose of populism have already started realising and will realise in future what they have lost and till that time, we will wait in the wings.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): thank you, Sir. *Vanakkam.*

*"Yeatralum Eattalum Kathalum Katha*
*Vakuthalum Valla Tharasu"*

These lines of our great poet, Thiruvalluvar in his poem 'Thirukkural' indicates what is a good Government and how the good Government should react. Following our great point Thiruvalluvar, our UPA Government is doing a better job. In this connection, I heartily congratulate our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Finance Minister for having presented a thoughtful and a purposive Budget, fulfilling the promises made to the people by the UPA Government, on the basis of the mandate given through the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).

With his characteristic shrewdness, experience and expertise in Budget making, the Finance Minister has

endeavoured to bring the greatest good to the greatest number. The Budget is pro-poor with its focus on common man. The Budget has mounted a direct assault on poverty and unemployment. We are happy that the concept of jobless growth has been rejected and in its place, the Finance Minister has striven to tap employment potential to maximum extent possible, through select sectors such as agriculture, textiles, food processing and information & technology. We should also appreciate the Finance Minister for ushering in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with an increased allocation of Rs. 11,000 crore. This should provide livelihood security to crores of families in this context.

I would like to present my fervent plea to extend Employment Guarantee Scheme to cover my parliamentary constituency, namely, Ramanathapuram, including Rameshwaram, which is economically very backward. On account of failure of monsoon and consequent unremunerative agriculture and paucity of employment opportunities, exodus of people to distant urban centres in other parts of the country and abroad is continuing year and after. Hence, there is every justification to cover my parliamentary constituency with Employment Guarantee Schemes.

Fisheries have great significance not only as a provider of regular employment in coastal areas but also as a foreign exchange earner to our country. But, the plight of the fisher folk is far from comfortable. Their life is beset with problems relating to economic security and stability. The bread-winners of fishermen families are facing grave risk in daily operations.

All of you are quite aware about the Tsunami disaster that shocked our country recently and the grave dimensions of the miseries it brought about. The fishing industry is still marked by poor technology and paucity of modern equipment and infrastructure. Cold-storage transportation facilities are still at an infant stage.

**15.00 hrs.**

Apart from their problems of long-term nature, their day to day operational problems are plenty and insurmountable. Group rivalries add complexity to their problems and make their lives miserable. At this juncture, I would like to make a strong plea to the Government of India to think in terms of appointing a High Powered Commission for Fisheries with experts and administrators to carry out an indepth study of the varied problems facing the industry relating to infrastructure, marketing and management.

This Budget is not only a Budget for men but also it is a Budget for women. The hon. Finance Minister has incorporated sensitive component in the Central Budget for the first time in the country's history of budgeting. He has also expressed his resolve to make all the Departments to present gender Budgets as well as incident benefit analysis. As a woman Member of Parliament, I hail this approach of the Finance Minister as a memorable step towards Empowerment of Women of India.

Sir, I welcome the constitution of the Backward Regions Grant Fund. As 170 districts have been identified under this Scheme, I hope that my Parliamentary Constituency—Ramanathapuram—has been included in the list. If not, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly include Ramanathapuram constituency under this programme because of this extreme backwardness.

I also welcome the increased coverage and allocation for toning up drinking water supply under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. I am also happy that the total sanitation campaign is getting extended to all the districts. These two programmes, namely, the Drinking Water and Sanitation have great relevance for women, and they would greatly impact on the quality of their life.

We are also happy to note that the Budget outlines various measures to strengthen the textiles and the handlooms sector by proposing Cluster Development Approach to enliven handlooms. I would request that clusters should be established one at Paramakudi and another at Aruppukkottai which are known for their handloom tradition to facilitate integrated development of handlooms in my constituency.

I would also request for a special financial allocation for promoting Heritage Tourism in Rameswaram including places of historical and religious importance such as Thiruppullani, Thiruuthirakosa Mangai, Erwadi Dharga and Kalayar Kovil in the adjoining Sivaganga district which is our hon. Finance Minister's area.

Rameswaram is symbolic of national integration of our country. It has a very significant place in the spiritual map of our nation. Further, it has a large area of excellent and quiet backwaters of the Bay of Bengal which is very ideal for promoting water sports.

This Budget is agriculture-oriented. Agriculture is still the prime industry of our country. The hon. Minister has expressed his resolve to bring one crore hectare under irrigation. This is laudable but this will require rejuvenation of all water bodies such as tanks, incoming and outgoing channels.

[Shri M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

Ramanathapuram district and the Sivaganga district substantially depend upon tank irrigation for their agriculture. Hence, I would request the Government of India to allot sufficient and special quantum of assistance to these districts to realise the objectives of massive water harvesting.

The condition of roads in my constituency is not in a good condition. There is a crying need for improving rural connectivity by taking up road improvement programme on a massive scale in my vast constituency. My constituency is economically backward and has very poor infrastructure for agriculture marketing. Therefore, I press for a special package of funds for establishing a well-built road network. ...*(Interruptions)*

Every Budget sells a dream, especially Shri P. Chidambaram's Budget sells it—says the *Week* magazine. I very much hope that the UPA Government will surely fulfil the dream of the common man, especially the poor man of India. In this way, our hon. Finance Minister has done a wonderful job in this field? We feel very proud that he hails from our great Tamil Nadu. This is the achievement of the UPA Government. For this achievement, I feel it is my fervent duty to thank the architects of the UPA Government, our hon. Sonia ji, our hon. Prime Minister, the leaders of all the constituent parties of the UPA Government and especially the most respectful and noble leader of our DMK Party Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir the budget 2005-06 of India is a document that is two complex to comprehend. It is full of contradiction and it has put the common man in a dilemma. there is hardly any person or institution who has not criticised it. The finance minister who had been a learned student of the Harvard University and is indeed a mature economist at times finds his self on horns of a dilemma and occasionally takes to talking in terms of withdrawing some of the budgetary provision after having a re-look at them.

I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble members towards some of the salient provisions:

1. In the direct tax regime, thus first take the corporate tax. The finance minister has slashed the tax rate from 35 per cent to 30 per cent under the new provisions of this tax but surcharge on it has gone up substantially from 2.5 per cent to 10 per cent. Moreover 2 per cent education cess is also there. Thus, corporate taxes have been reduced by 3 per cent. Trade and commerce sectors were expecting substantial decrease in the corporate taxes, an impetus to production and satisfactory and meaningful growth in the gross domestic product. I do not think that the hon'ble finance minister would actually achieve the estimates of gross domestic product envisaged for the next years.

Similarly, the proposal of reducing the depreciation rate for the corporate sector from 25 to 20 per cent in the first year and then to 15 per cent is inimical to industries. Its direct import will be that first the accumulated depreciation would be less than the value of new plant as a result as industry will have to incur a huge expenditure on setting up new plant. This more will aggravate their financial condition. Secondly, its direct adverse impact on the industries will be that the undistributed profits would decline, investments would be less and growth would also be less. This would force the companies to take refuge in the capital market at heavy rates of interests.

If the hon'ble finance minister wants to stick to his proposals relating to depreciation, he should retain the rate of surcharge at 2.5 per cent.

2. The second main source of direct taxes is the income tax.

The proposals of the hon'ble Finance Minister in this regard should be viewed in the context that only 3 per cent people in India come under the income tax net. That is why any change therein would lead to increase in administrative work not the government revenues. The finance minister has increased the exemption limit of income tax upto Rs. one lakh, it is now one and half lakh for the senior citizens and one lakh and twenty five thousand for women but chose to dispense with the provision of the standard deduction which had been continuing for all these years and which has stood the test of time. The basic principle behind the standard deduction is that a person has to spend something in order to earn income and that should be exempt, saying that the government has increased the exemption limit of income tax which is not satisfactory. The principle behind exemption from tax is that every person needs certain minimum amount to survive and this very amount should be exempt from the tax.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The proposal of the finance minister for changing the income tax slabs for providing relief to the tax payees is commendable but in the present mileu of rising prices and inflation this relief proves only nominal.

Doing away with the provision of exemption given under the section 88 on the provident fund and infrastructure bonds, now it has been provided that the government supported investment upto Rs. one lakh would be reduced from taxable income. But the finance minister has not clarified whether or not the same amount would be taxed at the time of its withdrawal. As per the earlier provisions a rebate of 20 per cent which was further reduced to 15 per cent was permissible on such investments and that amount used to be deducted from the income tax payable.

The finance minister has proposed to impose two new direct taxes first one is on cash withdrawal of more than Rs. 10 thousand and the second one is on the fringe benefits. The reason he has cited for levying these taxes is that in some countries these taxes are levied and it would change black money. These taxes have been usually opposed by all prudent people. Following their opposition the finance minister has given assurance to reconsider these two tax proposals. It is ludicrous to think that people deposit black money in banks and that this tax would check it. It is well known black money is part of the parallel economy which runs indirectly. It would not be possible for the government from administrative point of view to keep a day to day record of withdrawal of Rs. more than 10 thousand. Besides, withdrawals of more than Rs. 10 thousand can be made easily from various account without bringing it into the knowledge of the government. This has become all the more easy due to the A.T.M. and thus there is a large scope for tax evasion. The expenditure incurred on its supervision would far exceed the income accruing to the government therefrom. More over, in the present millien rising prices and inflation, an amount of Rs. 10 thousand is a meager one. This tax is a sort of expenditure tax—an expenditure tax which was not visualized even by the Professor of Public finance, Nicholas Caildor of England, the originator and the concern of expenditure tax.

I am unable to understand the nature of fringe benefit tax. There cannot be any clear cut demarcation between the salary and fringe benefit paid by any company. According to the hon'ble Finance Minister sale incentives and advertisements come under this. How they can be termed as fringe benefits. There is no justification and logic for these taxes.

Service tax is one more direct tax ambit of which has been increased by the hon'ble Finance Minister. Earlier it was levied on 58 services. This year ten more services have been included in it. There is ample scope of tax evasion in this tax to be levied at the rate of ten percent. There is no effective check on the service provider even it he does not deposit the tax charged from the consumers in the exchequer.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, it appears that bringing down the costume duty below five percent and rationalisation of excise duty in the budget has been done under the dictates of the World Trade Organisation and not under any well thought policy.

So far as tax proposals are concerned there are numerous shortcomings in the present budget of the hon'ble Finance Minister.

Having a glance over the expenditure aspect of the budget it appears that the hon'ble Finance Minister has used his wisdom. There is a proposal to spent Rs. 83000 crore on Defence effecting an increase of Rs. 16000 crore. This comes to 2.35 percent of our Gross Domestic Product which is less as compared to other countries. Keeping in view our borders this hike in the defence budget cannot be termed too much. Similarly an amount of Rs. 18353.87 crore has been earmarked for development of services in rural areas against an amount of Rs. 13,555.40 crore in the previous year's budget i.e. an increase of 33 percent is laudable. Provision of more amount for land reforms in this budget is compatible to our economy. Besides, the provision of spending more on social works is a welcome step.

I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to kindly keep direct foreign investment in the country within a certain limit. His efforts should be to mobilise more and more funds from the resources within the country and if he has to increase interest rate to some extent to achieve this objective, it will be better for our economy. There is no harm in trying out his experiment for once.

Giving so much free hand to the multinational companies in the banking and insurance sectors could be fatal for economy as well as social set up of our country. Instead of discouraging the Co-operative Banks the result of a policy to have an effective control over them could be better. How it can be termed as protecting the interests of Indian people to hand over easily the savings from the hard earnings of the people of our country to the foreign banks and insurance companies.

[Shri Revati Raman Singh]

Similarly, there is a need to ponder over seriously as to how far the merger of Indian Banks and insurance companies in the name of strengthening them can be termed as proper from the administrative point of view.

In the present budget nothing has been said about disinvestment policy due to which this atmosphere of uncertainty is prevailing in some business sectors. The finance minister should clear it. The budget is the one of the important documents of the policy of the Government. In it important financial policies are mentioned and people are taken into confidence through the Parliament. Such important cases are not dealt with through the administrative orders. Privatisation of airports is a similar case. The Government should have discussed it here in the Parliament. This is a sensitive issue from the security view point of the country.

It appears that certain such provisions has been made in the budget which would be rolled back or changed later on the public demand so that people may get a psychological satisfaction that the Finance Minister has taken care of their interests and shown generosity.

The Government has made an announcement recently to provide employment to five crore persons. It is amazing that the government is also playing with the sentiments of youth of the country. There is no provision of these employment opportunities in the budget. On the one hand the government talks about providing of employment and on the other imposes ban on new recruitment. Our youths are suffering on account of these contradictions. Similar announcements were made during the N.D.A. regime also.

*[English]*

*SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): I support the General Budget presented by Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram for the year 2005-06.

At the very outset, I compliment the Hon'ble Finance Minister for this pro-people Budget. It was beyond anybody's imagination that the Tax brackets could be raised to Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 1.25 lakh for women and Rs. 1.5 lakh for senior citizens. This will not only benefit a large number of middle income group of people but also more people will come forward to file their annual income returns.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has promised that Education Loan would be given liberally to the students. 1,40,000 loans amounting to Rs. 2,249 crores have been given up to 31st December, 2004.

Under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, 2 crore families will be benefited. The UPA Government now proposes to increase the number of family to 2.5 crores in the year 2005-06.

The children of Lower Middle Class and Middle Class Income Group go to schools where Mid Day Meal is being provided under the Mid Day Meal Scheme. Eleven crores children are benefited under this scheme today. The UPA Government is now providing the cost of foodgrain as well as the conversion cost. The allocation for the next year is proposed to be increased to Rs. 3,010 crores.

Here I would like to draw attention of the Government that the money provided under this scheme in many cases is not used properly. Rampant corruption is there between authorities and contractors who are entrusted with the job to provide food to the children. I suggest that the Government should be vigilant so that this scheme is properly implemented and the children are fully benefited.

Under the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, the UPA Government has allocated Rs. 3057 crores last year and Government has enhanced the allocation to Rs. 4754 crores during this year. This scheme helps to decrease the number of drop outs in the School. The Government is also considering punishment for parents who prevent their children from going to primary schools.

"Prarambhik Siksha Kosh" has been created for funding this programme and the Hon. Finance Minister has proposed to increase the allocation to Rs. 7156 crores in 2005-06.

The UPA Government has taken a special care of SC/ST students by providing them scholarship that will meet the requirements for their tuition fees, living expenses, books and a computer.

These scholarships will be given to those SC/ST students who get admission in one of the institutes of excellence, notified by the Government.

During the current year, 31355 rural habitations have been provided drinking water facilities under Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking water Mission. During the year 2005-06, more habitations will be covered and impasses will be given to improve the drinking water quality in about 2.16 lacs in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Rajasthan, West Bengal and other States. The Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes to increase the outlay for the mission to the tune of Rs. 4750 crores in the next year. In the matter of Drinking water, the constituency that I hail is having a great crisis of drinking water through Darjeeling has monsoon for about 6 months in a year the people of this district have been suffering from actuate shortage of drinking water since last 50 years. The UPA Government has now taken up the initiative to solve this problem of my constituency. The Hon. Minister of Water Resources has already sent a proposal approved by the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council to Government of West Bengal for its approval and once it is approved I request the Hon. Finance Minister to allocate the money during this financial year for the implementation of the said scheme and help to solve the long standing problem of the people of my constituency.

UPA Government has also given attention for providing sanitation facilities in the rural household, a total sanitation campaign now operates in 452 districts and the Government now intends to extend the total sanitation campaign to all district and processes to allocate these 630 crores for the next year. While welcoming this decision, I would urge upon the Government to ensure proper and timely implementation of the programme in rural and backward districts of the country like Darjeeling.

The UPA Government has also realized the difficulties faced by the plantation sector. The Government has set up an expert committee to suggest improvement in this sector. The tea industry has been facing difficulties because of the declining of productivity of tea. The Government is now examining way and means of introducing a programme for massive implementation and rejuvenation. My constituency is surrounded by tea gardens. A good amount of export quality tea which fetches good amount of foreign exchange by exporting Darjeeling tea but surcharge of Re. 1 per k.g. was a big burden. I compliment to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his proposal to abolish the surcharge which helps to minimize the cost of production and it will bring a big relief to improve the present position of tea industry and also provide relief to the poor working class people who earn their livelihood by plucking green leaf.

I also congratulate to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his proposal to abolish the excise duty of Re. 1/-per k.g. on refined edible oil and Rs. 1.25 per k.g. on vanaspati. The Hon'ble Finance Minister also proposed to remove the custom duty on LPG for domestic consumption and substitute kerosene where excise duty will also be nil. This will bring a great relief to the people of lower income group.

The UPA Government has given a great relief to the people of the middle and lower income group of country and, therefore, it is a pro-people Budget and therefore, I support this pro-people Budget for the year 2005-06 and once again congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Chairperson of UPA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Shri K. Yerrannaidu—absent.

Shri Rajesh Verma.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party, I rise to support the budget presented by the U.P.A. Government. The budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister here in the Lok Sabha has certainly been appreciated by the people across the country. But I will say that the provisions made in the budget reflect clearly that this budget has been prepared and presented under pressure from the various political parties. It is natural also. The U.P.A. Government is running with support of several political parties and there is need of some improvements in this budget which has been prepared under the pressure of several political parties.

I appreciate the hon'ble Finance Minister for enhancing exemption limit of income tax up to rupees one lakh and it will certainly provide relief to the people in lower income group. But I have to make one request that I do not support the proposal of the Government to levy tax on withdrawal of Rs. 10,000 from banks. I would like to say to the hon'ble Finance Minister that a farmer withdrawing Rs. 10,000 from his bank account to buy fertilizers and seeds will have to pay Rs. 10 as withdrawal tax. This proposal doesn't appear practical. I demand that this proposal should be dropped.

The exemption limit in respect of small scale industries has been increased to four crores rupees from three crore rupees. I welcome this move. In his budget speech the hon'ble Finance Minister has also proposed to impose ban on import of several agricultural produce which is a welcome step. He has proposed to ban import of flowers which will certainly be a moral boost to flower growers of our country. It will encourage the production of various varieties of flowers in our country. After

[Shri Rajesh Verma]

harvesting the farmers have to sell their produce at low prices. The hon'ble Finance Minister has made provision in the budget in this regard also so that the farmers could get remunerative price for their produces. I welcome this also.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Finance Minister to the mention he had made about small scale industries in para no. 67 during his budget speech last year. I would like to read it out—

"Small scale industry is a medium of progress and it should be taken as such. With this, the small scale units should be provided opportunities to progress to medium scale industries. Policies have been framed all over the world to fulfil the requirements of the small and medium sized industries. Keeping these two objectives in mind, the ministry of small scale industries has identified 85 items which can be safely taken out of the reserved list. Moreover, it has been felt that there is an urgent need for technological upgradation of small scale units and do business in a competitive atmosphere. I have reviewed the capital subsidy scheme and I propose to raise the upper limit from Rs. 40 lakh to Rs. 1 crore under the scheme. The rate of subsidy will also be revised from 12% to 15%. The scope of the scheme will be enlarged by adding more sub-areas and suitable technologies for assistance. The small units will be motivated to achieve credit rating. I hope that several small units will benefit from the revised scheme through these measures. A provision of Rs. 135.24 crore has been made for promotion of small scale industry scheme and funds shall be available for capital subsidy scheme from this amount."

I would like to urge the hon'ble Minister regarding what he had mentioned about this in the para no. 67. I have come to know that a provision of Rs. 135.24 crore has been made by you to promote the small scale industry scheme under which funds had to be allocated for the capital subsidy scheme. But, with great pain I have to tell that no guidelines have been given to Banks so far by the Ministry of Finance due to which small scale industries could not benefit. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to improve upon the declaration made by him in the last budget speech. I welcome the declaration to continue the scheme for rural level roads as it is. This ambitious scheme was implemented by the previous NDA Government under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana. Continuing it as it is, the UPA Government had declared last year that this scheme will continue. The Member of Parliament get assistance in construction of roads under it and they can say in their constituency that the road is being built on his proposal. But provision of a mere Rs. 500 crore by you under Grameen Sadak Yojana this year will prove too little. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister that he must consider to revise upwards the provision of Rs. 500 crore as the income to people will increase when the transportation of people will increase at the rural level and the farmers will get the facilities.

He has made the provisions under Drinking Water Scheme to benefit a lot of villages through the scheme. I have seen it practically that out of all the hand-pumps installed in the areas of all the members, more than 50% are not working. The Government should introduce some scheme and direct the state Governments that the funds being given to the states by the Ministry of Rural Development or our hon. Finance Minister, should be used to repair those hand-pumps by making law to that effect so that the people get the facility.

He has made provision under Food for work scheme to provide 100 day's employment to the unemployed people. If you have introduced this ambition scheme, then you should also provide for its monitoring. Through, the scheme is being introduced but the work is being done through machines. If you are dreaming that you are providing employment through food for work, then getting the work done through machines is affecting our employment position. Hon. Finance Minister will pay attention to this also. Time is short, therefore, I will present it before him in writing and I hope that will also be included in action the day's proceedings of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right,

*[English]*

you can lay.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI RAJESH VERMA: SIR, hon. Finance Minister has tried to give many facilities in the budget and implement the national common minimum programme. Nonetheless, it is a pity that there is nothing special in the budget for the welfare of the dalits and backward sections in the country. The allocation of funds needed for the welfare of the dalits and backward communities has not been made as per the requirement which amounts to injustice to the dalits and backward communities. Kerosene, rice, vegetables, milk, petrol, diesel, house, eatables, medicines and education are getting costlier but

*Speech was laid on the Table.

computers and cars, which have no connection with the poor and downtrodden in the country, are getting cheaper.

"VAT" will be implemented in the whole country from the next month. But, no provision has been made as to under which head the compensation will be provided for the losses likely to be incurred by the states due to implementation of VAT to substitute trade sales tax.

Machines are being used at a large scale in the Food for Work scheme which is unfair. The arrangement for providing of ration for BPL people needs comprehensive reforms. Rackets are going on in many states on a large scale selling the foodgrain allocations under BPL schemes directly to the flour and rice mills.

*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, the present budget for the financial year 2005-06 is full of confusion and contradictions. It contains many imaginations but the action plan envisaged or the targets fixed towards their actual realisation indicate that hon. Minister of Finance is in some kind of illusion. The regional imbalance in the country has increased and instead of taking effective measures for reducing it, backward states have been discouraged by giving special package to certain states amongst which Madhya Pradesh is also such a state which requires a big economic package. Whereas on the one hand making no special provision in the present budget for various industries whose condition is too deplorable will lead to unrest among workers and sufferings for their families on the other hand the economy of the country will also continue to be adversely affected.

What is the position of the cement industry today? The property worth crores of rupees invested in the cement units is being wasted. Units equipped with good machinery, are mainly located in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. There have been negligible efforts to streamline the sugar industry and there has been decline in sugar production as compared to its consumption. Crores of rupees invested in sugar industries are on the verge of going waste. If we take the textile industry, its condition is not good even after avenues of international competition and entry into open markets are available. National property is on the verge of suffering loss. In the same way, if we take Jute, Tea, Leather or Steel industries, they are also passing through the similar situation. I would like to draw attention of the hon. Minister of Finance towards renewal and revival of these industries and would like to submit that there is need for paying more attention towards these industries which are making tremendous contribution in strengthening the economic condition of the country and that making certain general announcements will not suffice.

Hon. Minister of Finance has talked about Bharat Nirman in his speech. But, it is necessary to consider the rural areas which are making maximum contribution in strengthening the economy of the country and establish more and more rural industries, allocate sufficient funds for them and accordingly prepare a comprehensive rural industries programme or scheme related to the rural employment. Mere making a mention about them in the Budget is not sufficient. Like industry, agriculture also holds its own importance in the strengthening of the economy of the country. But, from the viewpoint of wider interests of the farmers, provisions should have been made in the budget to enable the farmers to get the electricity, means of irrigation or irrigation facilities, better fertilizers, seeds etc. on time as with remunerative prices for their produce. Their crops should be insured so that the farmers could get relief from the vagaries of natural calamities. The farmer should not be forced to commit suicide. Generally, there is electricity crisis in all the states faring two-three states. From the viewpoint of its solution, urgent and long term schemes should have been formulated and funds were to be proposed in the budget accordingly. A scheme was proposed by the previous NDA Government in this regard, what happened to that? Whereas industries will benefit from electricity on the one hand, farmers will also get much facility from it on the other hand. Thousands of villages in several parts of the country do not have electricity even today. There is need for an ambitious scheme for providing electricity to the villages. The previous NDA Government had initiated action after preparing scheme to build lakhs of houses every year so that houses are provided not only to those who do not have a house but also the people living in slum areas could lead a decent life by getting a house. Otherwise nobody knows as to how long the people having no house will have to spend their nights on the footpaths, railway bridges or over bridges or in the big pipes. The steps proposed for the women, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are also inadequate.

If we look at the condition of agriculture; world Trade Organisation, globalisation and multinational companies are posing challenges to the economy of the country due to prevailing competitive atmosphere. The increasing presence of the MNC's is posing a challenge to our economy and strong and clear targets have not been fixed in the budget proposals with a view to face this

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

challenge with competence. On considering the present budget, it appears that the idea of an increase in the national income or the per capita average income will remain a mere imagination. It will be good if inflation does not rise but the indications are not so. Checking inflation is not under the powers of hon. Minister of Finance, he is helpless. He shows strength in facing the international challenges but that capacity is not reflected in this budget. There is need for Swadeshi Jagran. Our rural industries will develop through it. Educated unemployed people are on the roads due to unemployment. Skilled semi-skilled and unskilled workers are helpless today. The factories are getting closed. The question for livelihood is staring in the face like the Yaksha's question. The slogan of Garibi Hatao has been reduced to a mere slogan. It should be taken as a resolution. If poverty and unemployment will rise, then crimes and insecurity too will increase. There will be disharmony in the society and the common man will feel insecure, frightened and worried. Are we thinking of building such an India. Or we want to build such an India, which at one point of time, was famous for the world unity and was pioneer of peace and prosperity in the world and which was the teacher of the world and as Swami Vivekanand had imagined of Great India. We want to build our country of the kind Maharishi Aurobindo, Mahatma Gandhi or Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya had imagined about. What is the position of our education today? It has been commercialised. So, it is necessary that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan be accelerated. The previous Government had levied education cess so that education an be provided to all but the Government has not been able to spend the education cess so collected. The poor people are deprived of good education. Special facilities for all the children are necessary in schools. Mid-day meal scheme should be improved. The condition of the health sector is even far worse. Medical facilities are not available in rural areas upto long distances. The previous Government had announced and also accorded approval for setting up of AIIMS in other states on the lines of the one in Delhi. What is their status? Why there has been no progress in this regard?

There is a need to formulate a comprehensive action plan so that everyone in rural areas could get medical facilities. The high prices of medicines have made the common man uncomfortable. We have not done any special work with regard to promoting Ayurveda. Today, America, Germany and Japan are getting our Musli, Karanj, Neem, Shatavari, Tulsi and other plants patented for medicines. We are silent spectators, just think of it. No action is being taken on the schemes introduced regarding providing drinking water by the previous Government. Though, some progress has been made in the field of telecommunications but thousands of villages are deprived of this facility even today. They should also get these facilities.

Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana was started by the previous Government with a view to providing transport facilities and link all the villages in the country. The work was going on nicely and the cess levied on diesel, petrol was also collected but your Government has not been able to utilise it completely. What happened to the Golden Quadrilateral scheme? Why there has been no progress in the work?

There is a question mark on the efficiency of Banks in the financial sector. Discussion is going on about merging efficient regional rural banks and cooperative banks. Discussion is also going on about closing down certain banks which is not proper. Rather, there is need for improving there functioning.

We want to regulate imports and exports but what is happening is just the opposite. Exports are very low in comparison to imports, but there is great scope for increasing them. Our artificial jewellery industry, gemstones industry, leather industry, spice industry are export oriented industries and they need protection. We all want that the economy of the country should be strengthened so that thoughts relating to regional imbalance, casteism, regionalism undergo change and people could rise above them. Today, there is lack of social harmony and the reason for all this is poverty, illiteracy and the increasing population of the country. From that point of view there is need for making the budget more oriented towards upliftment of the society, which is not there in the budget. I would urge the Hon. Minister of Finance that, still, there is time and he should lead the country towards new development otherwise the question of peace, harmony and stability would arise in the country.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the budget. This budget has a direction, a vision and light and under that light it has proved to be a budget of the workers, farmers, youth, women, SC/ST's and minorities and people of all the sections have appreciated it. The way this budget speaks of the nation building, it reminded me of the day when the first prime minister of the country Jawahar Lal Nehru addressed the country. He also spoke in his speech about building a new India. He had talked about working together uniting the poors and the workers

under that Nav Nirman. The country has progressed since then. There was nothing in the country at the time of independence but every poor, worker and women of the country worked together under the call of the then prime minister due to which the country has been able to scale the heights.

I know how the Tsunami waves have wreaked havoc. Despite that, the people of the country have appreciated the budget while extending every help for the Tsunami calamity. One hundred I.T.I's have been identified for imparting skill training to the youth in the country so that there should be upgradation of their skill and they could do something for the country and become a better citizen. One hundred crore rupees have been provided additionally to the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for higher education. Everyone has appreciated not only one but things. Mention has been made about Food for work scheme. When people will have work they will get foodgrain and thus unemployment will be eradicated. Six more AIIMS like institutions will be opened next year under the National Rural Health Mission. 2.5 crore more families will be covered under the Antyodya Anna Yojana. There are many such things. I know how children should be given complete diet under ICDS programme so that they may remain healthy and become a good citizen of India. 1,88,168 more Anganwadis will be covered under the ICDS scheme. ICDS programme was the brain child of the Congress. The mother of the nation, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had started the ICDS programme in 1975 under which women and children were provided food so that the poor women could get full diet and keep themselves fit. This budget is an all round budget from every angle which takes care of every person. Hon. Minister of Finance has presented such a budget which could help everyone to achieve good health, good education and employment. It has spread light in all directions in India. Every person has seen a ray of hope. Every farmer and worker in seeing his security that, perhaps, whatever did not happen in the last five years, will happen today. Not only one but many things have been included in it. Earlier, income upto Rs. 50,000 was exempted from income tax which has now been raised to Rs. 1,00,000. For women and senior citizens, income upto Rs. 1.25 lakh and Rs. 1.50 lakh respectively has been exempted from income tax.

Rs. 7156 crore have been earmarked for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is a very good step. This amount will be increased further, if needed. As regards drinking water and sanitation mission which has been named as Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, I believe that everyone will get water and the whole country will become neat and clean under this mission. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship has been introduced for the SC/ST's under this, they will be provided assistance in tuition fee, living expenditure, expenses and learning through computer. Such provisions have been made in the budget. People from all sections, irrespective of their caste, religion, language, region have welcomed it. Hon. Minister of Finance has talked of increasing Anganwadis by lakhs. This will help the women. These Anganwadi workers are pressed into service when any natural calamity strikes the country or when we talk of polio eradication. These women go door-to-door campaigning for a cause and take care of the chidden there. These Anganwadis would pave the way for empowerment of women. In this way, the women have been empowered. Old age homes have been opened. Perhaps, people feel many difficulties in keeping aged people in their houses in the prevailing culture at present.

A provision for opening Old Age Home has been made in the budget and rupees 24.05 crore have been provided for it during the year 2005-06. Arrangements have been made for constructing new roads and making power and lighting arrangements along them. Arrangement has been made for increasing 2,03,300 wagons, 2,300 coaches, 369 AMU's, 130 diesel loco and 105 electric loco in the Railways. Provisions for renovation of 4,000 kms. of track have been made. Rupees 1400 crore have been earmarked for construction of various roads in the country of which 4000 kms. stretch of roads will be converted into four lane roads. This is worth praising in the budget. My suggestion is that some improvement should be made in the evaluation of standard deduction, as many of my friends have also said just now because.

*[English]*

The abolition of standard deduction is the result of a misconceived notion that employees do not incur any legitimate expenses to earn salary.

The second point is that of levy of tax @ 0.1 percent on cash withdrawals. I want to say that it should not be made applicable in respect of withdrawals from saving bank accounts so that common people may not suffer. The condition of withdrawal of rupees ten thousand should not be made applicable in respect of saving bank accounts.

The third issue is that of the exemption limit. The exemption limit in respect of income of women is 1.25

[Smt. Krishna Tirath]

lakh and that of senior citizens, 1.50 lakh. If you will raise the exemption limit in respect of income of women to 1.50 lakh rupees, then think the women will support this budget all the more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Chandel, you may speak.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, when my name will be called?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, when my name will be called?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name will certainly be called, you please sit down.

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I rise to oppose the general budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister. I think the budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister will neither be helpful in welfare of poor nor it will help in rumouring unemployment from the country. Besides there is no ray of hope for the farmers in this budget. It will not be an exaggeration to call this budget jugglery of figures.

Ours is agriculture dominating country. Our economy is based on agriculture and agriculture has been grossly neglected in this budget. We are aware that the farmers in the country are committing suicide because they are not getting remunerative price for their produces. The farmers are in the debt trap and they are compelled for committing suicide because they are unable to repay their debt. In this budget a provision of Rs. 1,00,850 crore has been made to provide loans to the farmers. This aspect has not been considered over as to why the farmers are unable to repay the loans already outstanding against them? If we go on like this entrapping the farmers into the debt trap without caring for providing remunerative prices for his produce, it would be subversive to the interests of the country. There are three major problems of the farmers *i.e.* their income should increase, their crops should be insured and infrastructure should be created for agriculture. These three things are much needed which have not been heeded to. Similarly, small scale industries provide maximum employment but provision of only Rs. 173 crore has been made for this sector which we can say is like a drop in the ocean.

The condition of food processing industries is not different. The small scale industries provide maximum employment opportunities and they have been neglected. Today the condition of educated youth is most miserable. After doing M.B.A. they are running from pillar to post to get a job carrying a salary of rupees six or seven thousand. Keeping in view the pitiable condition of our youth, it appears to me that this budget has been prepared on the dictates of the World Bank. The budget has not been prepared keeping in view the hopes and requirements of the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in our country small shopkeepers earn their livelihood by making small capital investment, but today the entry of big companies in retail marketing has posed a threat for their future. If the big companies will start operating in the retail field the future of small shopkeepers who are in crores in number will become dark. Employees are also not satisfied with it. It is true that budget has provided relief in income tax but they are concerned due to constitution of a committee to recommend tax on their savings. Efforts are being made to take back the relief provided in income tax, I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister that this issue should be taken into consideration.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there are cores of ex-servicemen in the country. They have been demanding for 'one rank one pension' for many years. They have sacrificed the prime time of their life for the country. They retire at the age of 35-36 years and they have the burden of fulfilling responsibilities of their families. Therefore, it was essential to make provision of funds for them in the budget so that their demand of 'one rank one pension' might have fulfilled. The Supreme Court has said in this regard that this demand of ex-servicemen should be fulfilled. I request the honourable Finance Minister to consider this demand.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the arrangement should have been made in this budget for hilly regions in the country but the natural beauty of Himachal Pradesh has been ignored. It has been decided to grant funds for laying rail line in Jammu and Kashmir. In the same way, the facility of rail line should be provided in Himachal Pradesh also so that more tourists may visit the region. But expansion of railways in the region has been ignored since the last 57 years. I demand that the financial assistance should be granted to the State on the lines of Jammu and Kashmir so that expansion of railways can be undertaken there and it is very important. The people of Himachal Pradesh feel that Himachal Pradesh has equally made sacrifices on the borders of the country and the State has been a peace-loving State. Therefore, they expect that fund should be granted for development of railways in the State. In the same way, an International Airport is needed to be

set up in the State to so that tourists may go there directly. Honourable Finance Minister is requested to make provision of funds in the Budget for the above purpose.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to draw attention of this House towards one more important thing. Forest Conservation Act was enforced in the country in 1980 to check deforestation. But we have to fell trees in compulsion to make way for construction of roads. So, keeping in view the environment of the country, the Government of India should approve and provide assistance for construction of tunnels in at least those States where felling of trees is prohibited, especially in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Jammu and Kashmir and other States where it is needed. It will help in avoiding felling of trees and the environment would also be protected because by constructing tunnel hill route would become short. I request the Finance Minister to discuss this matter seriously with States other than Himachal Pradesh also because it is their requirements also. The Honourable Minister has announced to set up a few more hospitals on the lines of 'AIIMS'. We want that a similar hospital may be set up in Himachal Pradesh also and provision of fund for the purpose should be made in the Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some States have been given economic package. Himachal Pradesh is also a hilly State, economic resources and industries are very less there, therefore, the manner in which economic packages have been given to Bihar and some other States, similarly Himachal Pradesh is also in dire need of such a package. I therefore, request you to immediately provide an economic package to Himachal Pradesh. Himachal Pradesh has made a lot of hard work in the fields of literacy, family planning and development and has marched forward, if the hon'ble Finance Minister provides economic package to Himachal Pradesh, it can tide over its economic difficulties, this is my special request to him.

Finally, I would like to say that the budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister is going to lead our country now here, it is an anti people budget and would lead to increase the black-money in the country. With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

*SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Baramulla): In October 1996, the Prime Minister made an anncuncement of "New initiatives for North Eastern Region" and announced that at least 10 per cent of the Budget of the Central Ministries/Departments will be spent in North Eastern States for their development.

Then the exercise of Planning Commission in consultation with Ministries and Central Departments revealed that the initiative fell short of the stipulated target of 10 per cent spending. The exercise was made during 1997-98 and, therefore, the Central Government created a Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) for the North East out of the unspent amount of stipulated 10 per cent GBS for upgrading and supporting the infrastructure development projects in North East. This has been the position right from 1996.

We are happy and wish North East well. We understand the shortage of resources and poor infrastructure keep breeding unemployment and hence the resentment and discontent among the people of such area, ultimately culminates into violence and sometimes into bloody feuds as in some of the North East States and Kashmir. But, we have had urged upon the Government, time and again, that J&K should have been included in the arrangements like this. At least 5 per cent of the budgetary allocations, if not more, could have been addressed to the most of the problems of the State. Infrastructure development could have set the stage for a bigger leap in the economic activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

The above mentioned arrangement, that is, connecting to NLCPR, could have given an assured roadmap towards development and eradication of unemployment in the J&K, particularly to Kashmir which has been emaciated by the militancy and continued economic disaster for more than a decade.

When we raise this issue, we re being given assurance of packages. When PM's package is announced, the whole country comes to believe that Kashmir is a big drain on the economy of India.

Hon. Finance Minister has announced that the current plan shall be fixed at Rs. 4200 crore instead of Rs. 3008 crore and Baglihar shall be provided adequate funds next year.

Hon. Finance Minister has also been kind to mention that Udhampur-Baramulla Rail project shall be treated as a 'Project of National Importance'.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen]

We are highly thankful for making a mention of Jammu & Kashmir in the Budget speech. But, I would like to know, Sir, that what is the 'reconstruction plan' and what exactly shall be expenditure allocated for such reconstruction plan.

And also we are expecting to know that why Kashmir can't be included in the Scheme of NLCPR. Hon. Finance Minister has pleaded the cause of the poor and I quote from his speech "Government holds that its sacred duty is to empower the poor and eliminate the scourge of poverty."

We appreciate the intention and indepth feeling of the Government about eliminating poverty. That is why we expect from the Government that our demand for linking us (Kashmir) to NLCR shall be considered and announcement to this effect shall be made by the hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, the minority communities constitute 18.42 per cent of the total population of the country. We are aggrieved that in the Budget 2005-06, substantial allocations have not been made for the education and economic development of the minorities. Therefore, in this backdrop, we suggest that Maulana Azad Education Foundation, which was established in the year 1989, was given only one crore in the current financial year. The Foundation activities are sustained on the income generated from the corpus funds of Rs. 70 crore. The Foundation has made considerable contribution since its inception by sanctioning more than Rs. 75 crore to 580 NGO's by providing grants-in-aid for their establishment and expansion of schools, colleges, residential schools and upgrading existing professional and technical institutes.

As we are aware, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech dated 7th July, 2004, mentioned that additional education cess of two per cent will be laid and estimated income of Rs. 4,000 to 5,000 crore will be generated from the education cess. The income received from the education cess will be spent on educational development programmes. In our country, the nodal Ministry of Education is HRD. However, the Ministry of SJ&E is the nodal Ministry for SC, OBC, handicapped and minorities. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (SJ&E) has introduced various schemes for these deprived sections of the society. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation, under the Ministry of SJ&E, is looking after the educational development of the minorities.

So, it shall be highly desired that the hon. Finance Minister announces an allocation of Rs. 200 crore to the Foundation from the amount collected as education cess and Rs. 50 crore be provided for yearly scholarship programme. This positive step can generate the education programme in the minority community and that will be a gesture of justice towards the depressed sections of the minorities.

Sir, in the Budget of 2005-06, the Government proposes to increase the equity support to NMDFC. We request that the equity for the NMDFC be enhanced to at least Rs. 300 crore. It is also surprising to note that, despite the Government's promise to increase the equity, the Budgetary documents (Expenditure Budget 2005-06 Volume I) page 41 shows that for 2005-06, the Budget allocation is only Rs. 19.60 crore. Whereas, for this financial year, it was Rs. 71.29 crore. The same is also shown in expenditure Budget (2005-06) Vol. II at page 190.

The other important point, which deserves the attention of the UPA Government is that the Government proposes to give a certain percentage of new schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan as well as the Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya Scheme. We propose that 18.42 per cent should be given to the minorities under the above mentioned schemes as per their population. The Government's decision to provide central assistance for recruiting and positing of Urdu-language teachers is commendable and welcome step.

To conclude, I will again remind the hon. Finance Minister that unemployed youths are waiting with a big hope that the promise of the Government that the "opportunity to learn a skill and be gainfully employed" shall be fulfilled in their case on priority".

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. I will try to be very precise and try to give my opinions point-wise. Therefore, my humble request is—do not ring your bell to test my nerve. I am a bit nervous fellow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you confine your observations within time, I have no objection.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I will do it.

My friend, Shri Kharabela Swain was telling that Shri Chidambaram is the luckiest Finance Minister of this country. While agreeing with Shri Swain, I also compliment

the hon. Minister of Finance for being the luckiest Finance Minister of this country because he has presented a Budget on a very comfortable economic backdrop, a very comfortable growth including growth of manufacturing sector. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Finance should be grateful to the NDA which through prudence and wisdom brought stability and growth to the economy of this country.

I was going through many of the announcements in the Budget by the hon. Minister of Finance and I was surprised to mark the similarity in many of the projects. Many of the schemes which were initiated during the NDA regime have just been renamed. The nomenclatures were changed. He would give different names to the NDA programmes to take credit for innovation. Connecting *Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana* to Backward Region Development Fund and Food for Work Programme to National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or calling sprinkle irrigation as micro irrigation is no new innovation. Concepts like viability gap funding of infrastructure, a fund for medium and small enterprises, emphasis on diversion of agriculture and value addition agro processing and agro-export, provision of urban facilities in rural areas etc. were initiated by NDA Government. Therefore, the hon. Minister of Finance ought to be grateful to the NDA Government.

In the print media as well as in the electronic media, the hon. Minister of Finance has been projected and this Budget is being projected as a dream Budget.

Indeed, I want that it should be a dram Budget.... *(Interruptions)* No, it is not a real Budget. Immediately after the presentation of the Budget, the off-hand reaction was very favourable. It was appreciated by everybody-by the media, by the common man. After one or two days when people got time to go through the fine print, the reality was exposed. Many segments of the society including the industry, the trade, the taxation experts, the academicians, civil society, and I should say, even the partners of UPA including the Left have severely criticised this Budget.

In this Budget, the Finance Minister has tried to appease all sections of the society. The Finance Minister has also attempted to please all including the multinationals and the corporate sector. He has tried to please the salaried class; he has also tried to please the farmers by enhancing the credit flow by 30 per cent in the next year; he also tried to, of course, appease the working women including the housewives; he has tried to appease the poor; and not the least, he has tried his utmost to please the champions of the poor sitting here. Sir, this is his compulsion.

Let me come to the point of fiscal deficit. The Finance Minister promises to keep the deficit under check by off-loading budgetary expenditure. Rs. 29,000 crore of Central loans for State Plans have been off-loaded on the States and they are supposed to borrow money from the markets. If it were retained in the Central Budget, the fiscal deficit would be 5.1 per cent instead of 4.3 per cent, as indicated. In effect, the Central deficit has been converted into a State deficit. The combined fiscal deficit of Centre and States taken together has reached an alarming level of ten per cent.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You believe everything you read in the newspaper. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: No, Sir. Does the hon. Finance Minister want to say that all the comments or reports of the newspapers are wrong? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not saying that all of them are wrong. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not get diverted. You continue to speak.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, it is no consolation for the Central Government to decrease its own deficit at the States' expenses. The Finance Minister says that he has done this juggling on the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. As I have understood—I may be wrong because I am not an expert in economics—the Twelfth Finance Commission had given the option to States to finance Plan expenditure through market borrowings instead of borrowing from the Central Government. Many poorer States like Orissa, which are already in a debt trap, may not be able to access market loans. As such, to deny them access to Central loans may amount to cutting State Plan outlays, which is indeed very unfortunate.

Sir, for the national Food for Work Programme or National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 50 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains have been provided. There is no mention about its funding in the Budget. Obviously, it means that the Food Corporation of India will lend it to the Central Government. This is a strange budgetary exercise.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

Again Rs. 10,000 crore for infrastructure development are also off-Budget. It will be raised by Special Purpose Vehicle, PSV, through local or foreign currency sources. This kind of budgetary juggling is not a healthy trend and these off-Budget expenditures may escape, I fear, the scrutiny of this Parliament also.

Much emphasis has been given in the Budget to rural development. Sir, I compliment hon. Finance Minister for this. Budget contribution to Central Plan under rural development is Rs. 11,494 crore while BE for 2003-04 was Rs. 11,939 crore. The Budget Estimate (BE) for 2003-2004 was Rs. 11,369 crore. The same level has been maintained, and it is mentioned that they are giving much emphasis on rural development.

The Finance Minister has spun a web of dreams like a dream merchant, but without adequate budgetary provisions to turn his dreams into reality. So, I think, this Budget is not a dream budget, but he is a daydreamer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be precise.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: The Common Minimum Programme (CMP) talks about 2 per cent to 3 per cent of GDP to be spent on health. The requirement for the same is Rs. 70,000 crore. The Finance Minister has increased the allocation for it from Rs. 8,420 crore Rs. 10,280 crore. How many years will this Government take to reach their CMP goal with this meagre allocation?

Similarly, for education, the CMP envisaged to get 6 per cent of the GDP, but the present increase falls short of this ambitious goal.

As regards irrigation and flood control, the increase is meagre, that is, Rs. 443 crore over last year. Last year also an increase of only Rs. 15 crore have been provided. How does the Government think of improving the irrigation facilities for the farmers with this meagre allocation?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, please give me a couple of minutes more to speak. The Finance Minister has very conveniently forgotten about the issue of disinvestment. What is the stand of the present Government on the issue of disinvestment? I would like to know categorically about it from the hon. Finance Minister.

The backbone of this Government, and the Finance Minister is bent heavily because their backbone is here, and without their support they cannot continue in the Government.

The Finance Minister has envisaged increasing the credit flow for the farmers by 30 per cent in the next year. It is no doubt a welcome proposition, but I am afraid that the Finance Minister has very conveniently forgotten about the high rate of interest charged to the farmers. We have to be very considerate about the policy for the farmers to repay the loan. At this high rate of interest being charged from the farmers we cannot prevent them from committing suicide. We have to be very careful about the capability of the farmers in repaying the loan.

**15.43 hrs.**

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

Only extending a higher percentage of the loan to the farmers is not enough. We must take necessary steps to see that the capability of the farmers is enhanced, and they are in a position to repay the loan.

As regards the Crop Insurance Policy also there has been a request, and a demand from all sections that there should be changes in the Crop Insurance Policy. The *Gram Panchayat* should be treated as the unit to assess the crop loss, instead of *tehsils*. This would provide better facilities to the farmers. But the Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about the change of policy in the Crop Insurance Scheme.

I would urge upon the Finance Minister that during his reply he should very categorically point out the stand of the Government on this issue. I am saying this because thousands of farmers are waiting for this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, just give me two more minutes to speak. I would come to another very important point. I was surprised when Mr. Gurudas Dasgupta was very eloquently and sharply attacking this Government. Their party is a part and parcel of this Government.

The hon. Finance Minister has forgot about the defaulters in this country. I have read a report from a newspaper on this issue. I am not sure whether it is correct or not. The report says that, today, the NPA had totalled to Rs. 15,00,000 crore in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up your speech.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): This is nothing but loot of the national exchequer. The Government should come out with the list of defaulters, and criminal proceedings should be initiated against them. If a poor farmer takes some loan and is unable to repay the loan in time, then he is subject to all kinds of legal harassment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Dr. K.S. Manoj.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Ultimately, he commits suicide, but the big corporate houses and big people in this country are very conveniently escaping from it.

Sir, I would now to my last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair. I have already called the name of the next speaker.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I come from a very poor State. I do not object to the Government giving special aid to States like Bihar, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharya, you have already taken about 14 minutes. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: My only question to the hon. Finance Minister is, "What is the parameter or the basis on which you decide to give special grants or special packages to States?" Orissa is the poorest of the poor States in the country. Forty-seven per cent of the people are living below the poverty line; the largest percentage of people are living below the poverty line.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Otherwise, I will not allow it to go on record.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Orissa, in spite of our requests, has not been granted any special package. I would urge upon the Prime Minister to keep this above politics and consider granting a special package to Orissa.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Sir, our party along with the other left parties has been saying since the formation of United Progressive Alliance's Government that this Government should be pro-poor, profarmer and labour friendly at any cost and the policies and laws would have to be formulated/enacted keeping these aspects in view, I, therefore, support this budget politically despite some short comings therein.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country on which two-thirds of our population depends. But I am very sorry to say that the farmers of our country are compelled to commit suicide. You talk of providing them loans but no one is taking initiative to provide them gainful support price for their produce. Proper arrangements for irrigation are not available for them. Increase in diesel prices is adversely affecting the cultivation. Pump sets and tractors etc. in use are not available at cheaper rates. For all these reasons, farmers are facing difficulties that is why people are emigrating to cities from villages. The facilities like drinking water, electricity, health centres, roads, approaches etc. are in a very poor condition in villages. There are not sufficient number of schools and colleges in village for the children of farmer. Although you have talked about providing Rs. 1100 crore for rural electrification, it is a good thing. You have announced to provide Rs. 10,280 crore in 2005-06 as compared to Rs. 8,420 crore in 2004-05 to bring about improvement in the health care delivery system through the National Rural Health Mission.

The role of our brothers particularly of our sisters working under the I.C.D.S. is laudable. These people are capable of raising the standard of life of the villagers by way of providing them education about health care and good living. The level of awareness among villagers has increased through the efforts of these people. Therefore, there are in dire need of support from the Government of India. The number of the Anganbari Kendras in the country is 64,900 as on date. Therefore, there is urgent need to increase the number of these Kendras.

There has been much advancement in the infrastructure sector, particularly in the telecom sector but even today there is a need to focus attention on the villages in remote areas particularly the habitats located in forests and hilly areas. Efforts have been made to bring about improvement in the economic and social sectors of the country by constructing national highways and by four laning them, but the progress is slow in this regard. So far the work on 5172 k.m. has been completed. The work on the Siliguri to Mall *via* Binmaguri to Kokrajhar of Assam highway No. 31 and 31C has not concerned so far. On completion of four laning of this highway, the backward areas of Duvars and Assam would be rapid development and this would also give a fillip to tourism. Tourism has now become an important part of the progress of our country. The tourism industry has not be allocated as much funds as were required to be allocated to this industry and I think that your attention has not been fully drawn towards it.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

He has mentioned in the budget about giving an economic package to the sugar industry to improve its financial condition after having consultation with the R.B.I. and NABARD. But he has ignored one important industry namely the Jute industry which has a vast potential of generating employment. I want to draw your attention towards jute industry so that Hon. Finance Minister can have a re-look at it.

Sir, you might be aware that the tea industry is in a very bad shape. Hon'ble Minister of Commerce is also aware of it. A large number of tea gardens has been closed. Re-plantation is required on 172000 hectares of land. The arrears of the provident fund and gratuity of workers are to be paid. People are on the verge of starvation. There is no mention in the budget about the package for the purpose which the government was talking about. It is very unfortunate. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Finance to consider this issue and make appropriate provisions for the same.

I do also have objection to the FDI. Allowing 74 per cent FDI in insurance, telecom and banking sectors will weaken our control over them.

Finally, I would like to say that since we are committed to carry on with the Common Minimum Programme apart from giving political support, I support this budget.

*[English]*

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion on the General Budget.

I rise to support the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister. At the outset, I must congratulate the hon. Minister for keeping the promises that has made to the common man while presenting the Budget for the year 2004-05. Adequate attention was given to farmers, students, self-employed women and labourers in search of work and food. However, a large number of people working in the field of traditional industries, cottage and small-scale industries have been forgotten by the Government.

I am happy to note that in the Budget for 2005-06, as suggested by the Left parties, though not fully, the allocation for education, health and family welfare, and rural development has been enhanced. In contrast to globalisation policies, the hon. Finance Minister has maintained the subsidy on fertilisers. In his Budget Speech also, he reiterated that the subsidies would continue.

I agree with the hon. Finance Minister that India is not a poor country. We have rich resources, heritage, tradition and culture. Yet, a significant portion of our people is poor. We have enough resources and wealth to meet the needs of every citizen, but not enough to meet the greed of even a single person. Some of the reasons why we are failing in meeting the needs of many are improper distribution of resources and wealth, and also due to centralisation of wealth. There is no social equity, economic equity and equity in power. The economic policies that we are following will harm our efforts to bring growth, equity and stability. This economic policy will widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and National Rural Mission are welcome measures. The Finance Minister has pointed out that the focus of National Rural Health Mission is on strengthening of primary health care through interventions based on community ownership. I fear the term 'community ownership'. I suspect a hidden agenda in this. I fear that it is a move to transfer the responsibility of the State from providing primary healthcare to the shoulders of the citizens, just like what we have done in the field of education. In the field of education, formally, it was the duty of the State to provide free and universal education for all. However, now, it has become the responsibility of the parents to give education to their children. Thus, more and more children are missing their opportunity to study. Due to the implementation of this community ownership programme, I fear the responsibility to maintain their health will also fall on their shoulders.

The Finance Minister proposes to double the supplementary nutrition norms. That is a welcome measure. However, the Centre will meet only half the expenditure incurred for this purpose. I would request the hon. Minister to ensure that whatever additional expenditure is incurred for doubling the supplementary nutrition programme be given to the States. Otherwise, the intention will not be fulfilled.

I now come to drinking water and sanitation. Availability of pure and safe drinking water has become a serious problem in various parts of the country. Availability of safe drinking water is a problem in Kerala also. However, the State of Kerala is not included under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. I, therefore, request the Finance Minister to include Kerala also in the Mission.

In the field of investments, opening up of more and more areas in the services sector for private investment—both domestic and foreign investment—is not a welcome move. Services sector accounts for about 52 per cent of our GDP. Opening up services sector to private players will only provide scope for looting of our wealth and growth.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. I have given a lot of time.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am concluding, Sir.

Increasing the cess on petrol and diesel by 50 paise per litre, has resulted in the total amount of cess increasing to Rs. 1.5 a litre. My humble request to the hon. Finance Minister is that this cess should not be imposed on diesel and kerosene used for fishing vessels and trawlers. if this is imposed on diesel used by fishing sector, the benefit of subsidy that is presently given—of Rs. 1.5 a litre—will be nullified. This will be a blow to the fishing industry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Elimination of standard deduction, Section 88B and 80L is actually a blow to the senior citizens. Earlier a pension drawing senior citizen with a gross income of Rs. 1,95,880, and other senior citizens with income of Rs, 1,53,330 were not required to pay income tax.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not conclude now, your speech will not go on record.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I am concluding, Sir.

But now they have to pay Rs. 9066 and Rs. 666 respectively. To lift this curse on the senior citizens, the hon. Minister of Finance should revisit the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chinta Mohan. Dr. Manoj, I have called the name of the next speaker.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, due to paucity of time, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to say something more, you can lay your speech.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, we are ready to sit even up to 8 o'clock. Today is the last day and the Finance Minister will reply to the debate. You have to allow all the Members to speak.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to lay my speech on the Table of the House. In addition to that, I would like to make a few points.

Overall Budget is very good. The Finance Minister has put in a lot of hard work to give a very blanced Budget to this country. With all humility, I would request him about the Mid-Day Meal Programme. Under this Programme, he is giving meal to 11 crore children every day in the primary schools. They are giving 100 grams of rice per day per child, which is very little. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that if he can increase it from 100 grams to 150 grams per day per child, 11 crore children will get benefit our of it.

The conversion charges for this Mid-Day Meal Programme is Re. 1 per month per child. Instead of Re. 1, I would request him to make it Rs. 2 so that it would give better meal to the children.

Under the ICDS Programme, which is a very good and laudable programme, he is helping one crore pregnant women. In addition to one crore pregnant women, if he can add one more crore and increase it to two crores, it will go a long way in helping the poor.

When the other side was ruling, they brought the Antyodaya Scheme on the Christmas Day, 2000. It is a very good programme. Under this Scheme, they are giving 35 kgs. of wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg per month. They are also giving Rs. 3 per kilogram rice. If the Scheme is extended little more-Four crore, another one and half crore poor people would derive advantage out of it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have already increased it from 2 to 2.5.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: If you can make it to four crores by extending it, they all will have good.

Today, Government is planning to building AIIMS-like hospitals, the temples of health, in different parts of the country. This project should be started quickly so that these would remain temples of health all over the country.

Coming to the recruitment, he has said that he is going to create employment opportunities. But in 2001, Shri Yashwant Sinha, the then Finance Minister, has brought recruitment optimisation Every year, 1.20 lakh employees are retiring from the Central Government. Out of that, on compassionate grounds, they are recruiting 40,000 people, and they are not giving jobs to the balance

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

80,000. The rule of optimisation should be scrapped. They should go in for full employment because today the educated youth is in frustration; they are taking drugs; they are addicted to drugs; and they are going towards Maoists activists. We have to create hope in these educated unemployed people, who are about four crore. They are all weeping. In the national interest, this rule should be scrapped, which was brought in by the Opposition in 2001. With all humility, I request him to take a view of it and see that this is employment optimization removed.

Finally I will come to Scheduled Castes. In the last year's Budget—I have gone through his Budget, where has said that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are nearer to his heart. This year he has forgotten to implement it. He said that he would bring in "invisible growth." I hope, in next year's Budget speech, that is, 2006-07, probably, he would implement it. I have gone through the speeches of the first Finance Minister of India. Shri Chettiar, who is from Tamil Nadu. From the first Budget speech onwards I have gone through all the speeches of the Finance Ministers of India till last year. The Finance Minister has earmarked Rs. 6,000 crore for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**16.00 hrs.**

Last year, they spent Rs. 600 crore. It costs Rs. 600 crore for laying a road from Delhi to Jaipur. They spent Rs. 600 crore last year for Scheduled Castes. He had said that he would be spending Rs. 6000 crore for Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I had mentioned about it in some other meeting. I have got the figures with me. The system can misguide the Finance Minister; the system can misguide the Prime Minister. But the system cannot misguide the Parliament. I have got records with me. I have the papers with me. I say this with all humility. I know, the hon. Finance Minister is looking at page 52, statement number 20. I have gone through each and every page of it. They have brought in nothing but the bundle of untruths. I went to the Department. I met the Section Officer. I met the Joint Secretary who is dealing with this subject. I met the Secretary. I request the Finance Minister to go back and do a little bit of home work and see that the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the poor people of this country are benefited. I had hoped that my friends from the Left parties, from the BSP, would raise it. Shri Swain was criticising the Budget from the rooftop. Instead of that, had he raised this issue, we would have been glad. But, I am forced to speak on this from the Congress side because this is the need of the hour. I request the hon. Finance Minister to go through this. I have got the records. I am placing it on the Table of the House.

With this, I congratulate the Finance Minister and I congratulate the Prime Minister. They are going to bring revolution in this country. They are going to bring revolutionary changes in the rural economy. Today, the country is in a praiseworthy position. I was a bitter critic of reforms earlier. Today, I gladly say that our country is the third largest economy of Asia. The foreign exchange reserves of the country are in the fourth place in the world. With this, I congratulate the Government, I congratulate the Finance Minister. I request him to do something for the poor people.

*Sir, economy goes with politics. Economy and politics are interlinked. Before I get into the Budget, I would like to speak a little about the history and geo-political situation. I happen to go through the Budget delivered by the Finance Ministers since 1947. The first Budget was delivered by Shri Shanmugam Chettiar, who was the first Finance Minister of India. Later, it was by John Mathai. In 1958, the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru presented the Budget and said while replying the Budget: "Our economy must be open to the world and when the world changes we should also change. We should keep our eyes open to the world."

The second thing is that "when we present a Budget, we should keep in mind what the pedestrian is thinking, whether he is happy or not; but not the people who are travelling in cars. That is important." Later in 1970, the late PM, Shrimati Indira Gandhi presented the Budget giving a different direction to the economy. Later, in 1987, the late PM Shri Rajiv Gandhi presented the budget which was 'socialists'. Besore 1990, we used to import oil and arms from Russia through Rupee-Rouble Agreement/ Exchange. After the sudden collapse of Soviet Russia, we got in to foreign exchange crisis. We were not having even foreign exchange for a few days. At that juncture, due to geo-political problems and keeping the economic crisis in mind, the Congress Party in power changed the economic direction on 24th July, 1991. Dr. Manmohan Singh, as Finance Minister and the Congress Party in power, brought an economic revolution in the country, more particularly, in urban areas. After a gap of 8 years, Dr. Manmohan Singh has become the Prime Minister to lead the UPA Government. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Congress President and Chairperson of UPA, the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, Comrade Bardhan, comrade Surjeet and other constituents of UPA brought

*Speech was laid on the Table.

the common minimum programme. We all are aware of the contents of NCMP. The main problems today are four in number:

Hunger; Joblessness; Disease; illiteracy;

From this Budget, what we can discuss today is that how we can analyse that the poor man's hunger is solved. The main Mid-day Meal Programme was started earlier by the Congress Party in power in 1995. It was started in a few areas and by giving 100 grams of rice or wheat to the children who are going to the primary schools. It gives an incentive to their education. Hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, said that there are 11 crore poor children in the primary schools who are getting the Mid-day meals, that is, 3 kg of rice per month per child.

I would like to congratulate whole-heartedly the Finance Minister, the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of UPA for bringing this programme.

Forty years back, I happened to take the Mid-day meal. I personally know the problem. This quantity of 100 gms per day per child is not sufficient. I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of UPA to raise this quantity from 100 gms to 150 gms per day, which comes to four-and-a-half kgs of rice instead of 3 kg, per month, also cook charges from Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per child per month. Please name this Mid-day meal after Rajiv Gandhi.

Secondly, the Finance Minister took some laudable steps and brought ICDS and Anganwadi centres. Again, this programme was brought by Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Congress Party in 1975. Today, 8,37,000 Anganwadi centres are there. The UPA Government is giving nutritious food to 1 crore pregnant women and immunization to approximately 4 crore children between the age 0 to 6 years of age group.

I request the hon. Finance Minister to include 1 crore more pregnant women in this programme and name this programme after the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Thirdly, very important programmes like Antodaya Anna Yojana was brought on 25th December, 2000 by the Opposition Party to help the poorest of the poor and the same programme, the hon. Finance Minister announced, that is, 35 kilos of wheat and 35 kilos of rice at the rate of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per kg, to remove the starvation from this country. This programme is to reach minimum two-and-a-half crore people in the country. This is one of the best programmes. I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and the Chairperson of the UPA and UPA constituents. To spell this Anna Antodaya Yojana Scheme is difficult so as to make it easier to pronounce, I request the Government to announce the Programme in the name of BTR Yojana. You may ask about the BTR. It is nothing but comrade BT Rana Devae who was the founder of the Communist Movement in the country.

I am sitting in Congress party. I strongly recommend this BTR Yojana. This is the major programme brought in by the Congress Party and the Minister to remove the hunger.

Next is about joblessness. Our main problem is no work and no food. There are 4 crore educated unemployed people in this country waiting for jobs since ages. In 2001, the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha announced in his Budget Speech, recommended optimisation. Every year, in the Government of India, 1,20,000 people are retiring. Instead of filling the job vacancies, he stopped 80,000 jobs in a year. Only, 40,000 jobs are filled. There is a big gap between the jobs and the educated unemployed people in this country. There are 4 crore people waiting for jobs. By going for optimisation, the educated unemployed who are poor and who cannot get jobs in private sector are losing hope. This is turning towards inducement and unlawful activities. That is why maoism, drug addiction are increasing in this country. I request UPA Government and Hon. Finance Minister to scrap this recruitment optimization order of 2001 brought by Shri Yashwant Sinha.

To create new jobs Finance Minister is bringing Food for Work Programme in 150 districts and creating new jobs in Textile industry by bringing Rs. 30,000 crores of capital and incentives to construction industry. We are going to get 70 lakh jobs. This is a very praiseworthy.

Next coming to diseases, to remove diseases, an amount of Rs. 10,000 crores have been earmarked for health. All PHCs and sub-centres, district headquarters hospitals are all to be provided with doctors and medicines. The PM and the Finance Minister are going to build temple of health in all important centres in India, like AIIMS-like hospitals. All these are going to be temples of health in India. Instead of building such temple of health, our friends on the opposite side wanted to build temple in Ayodhya, which is very difficult today to discuss.

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

Coming to education, the Finance Minister have earmarked Rs. 18,000 crore out of which Rs. 4000 crore coming to building primary schools in the country. 1968, 1986, 1992 educational policies were announced. In every village, there is primary school, high school and in every important place, there is a college and a professional college. These are temples of education. From primary school to universities, we are going to have. This is the creation of the Congress-led UPA Government. In this way, Congress Party and UPA Government are bringing revolution in the rural economy. Today we are proud to say, India is the third largest economies in Asia, and the 4th largest foreign exchange reserves in the world.

Coming to housing, Indira Awas Yojana, with full subsidy 15 lakh houses are coming. Coming to Bharat Nirman, in four years, the Government is planning to irrigate one crore hectare of land for the poor people. It would also provide electricity, telephones, drinking water to all villages, roads in all villages. Some friends from opposite side were asking us in 47 years, so that Congress has done for Bharat Nirman. I wanted to tell our friends on the opposite, Congress has brought freedom to the country, Congress has brought good Constitution to the country. Congress brought democracy. Even in countries like Russia, China, Pakistan, they do not have democracy. Congress brought Green Revolution and economic revolution in this country. Today ours is the 3rd largest country in Asia.

Coming to the Scheduled Castes, the Finance Minister has said that he is bringing 6000 crore, at page 52 of Expenditure, Volume I, this shows the Government is little dull with the welfare of Scheduled Castes. Here, I agree. In all areas, the Finance Minister did very well, but not to the Scheduled Castes. In the last budget speech, he said, his heart is nearer to Scheduled Castes and Tribes. But this year 2005-06 budget, he did not show it. That itself is an eye opener to us. My friends opposite side and Left Parties should have asked the Finance Minister, if they are really concerned about it. Now, I am doing their duty and request the Finance Minister to discuss again with the Department and rectify the mistake that was done last year and this year also. I am not an expert in economics like them.

But, I know the basics how tactfully our system can misguide the hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister and also the Parliament. Road from here to Jaipur costs Rs. 600 crore. The same amount of Rs. 600 crore was spent on SCs, from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. And this year also it has said Rs. 6000 crore for SCs and STs. This figure is wrong. You can say that the money is for SCs, STs, OBCs and other specific sections. Then I not say it is for SCs and STs. So, anyway, I congratulate hon. Finance Minister, hon. Prime Minister and hon. Chairperson of UPA from the core of my heart for bringing such a beautiful Budget, which, I have not seen in 57 years. Congress Party and UPA constituents are going to bring change in the country.

In 1958, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru while replying to the debate for his Budget speech said, "Whenever we present the Budget, we should feel what the pedestrians are thinking about it." Hence, I would like to tell you what they are thinking. A person who is eating the rice with *chutney* wanted a *dal curry* and a person who is taking rice with *dal curry* wanted to eat rice with egg. A person who is sleeping on the floor wanted to sleep on a mat and a person who is sleeping on a mat wanted to sleep on a mattress.

Today what is happening is that the gap between the rich and poor is widening. We have to reduce this gap and in "Bharat Nirman Project", in the coming 4 years, I hope we will be able to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. Thus, only we can build this society which is an inclusive society.

By building "Bharat Nirman", I request the hon. Finance Minister to keep in mind that the gap between the poor and the rich is widening.

With this I conclude.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister is a labyrinth of figures, so I have to say:

Budget Hai Aankaron Ka Maya Jaal
Garib, Kisan aur Majdoor Banenge Isase Behal
Bade Udyog Ke Sahukar Banenge Malamal
Madhyavargiya Kardata Kahata Hai Suno Dil Ka Hal
Mantriji Ne Bichhaya Karon Ka Mayajal
Anusuchit Jati Awam Janjati Ke Vikas Ka Nahin Khayal
Din Pratidin Khiche Jayange Unaka Bal
Sareaam Nikali Jati Hai Unaki Khal
Ajadi Ke Bit Gaye Pure 49 Saal
Kam Ke Badale Anaj Sabhi Ka Hai Pulawi Khayal
Aaj Bhi Bhukh Se Mar Rahen Hain Udaharan Hai Bamishal

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Mahila Kanp Udati Hai Dekhkar Yah Budget
Kahan Jakar Rukega Mahgayee Ka Yah Rate
Paisa Mangane Walon Ko Nahin De Sakange Date
Mana Charon Aur Katane Aati Kait
Vyapari Chilla Rahan Hain Dekhkar Vat
Mahaniya Vitt Mantriji Punah Vichar Vimarsh Kar Lo
Dekhkar Apna Budget

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to start discussion from where my previous speaker has left. There are 30 crore people belonging to ST and SC in this country whose interests have been totally overlooked in this budget. First of all I would like to talk about common minimum programme announced by the UPA Government in May 2004. In this programme, six basic principles of governance have been mentioned, I would like to cite five principles out of them

*[English]*

To provide for full equality of opportunity particularly in education and employment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and religious minorities.

*[Translation]*

In accordance with this declaration, I would like to cite para 13 of the address delivered in the Parliament on 25th Feb. 2005 by his excellency Mr. President. My Government believes that it is its responsibility to ensure that the deprived sections of society are given a fair deal. We are committed to taking steps for their educational and economic empowerment. We should also take simultaneous action to protect their human rights and also free them from age-old prejudices. The Government will take legal action to ban the degrading practice of manual scavenging and states would be given time upto August 2005 to enforce it. It further states: "My Government is equally committed to the upliftment and empowerment of physically and empowerment of physically and mentally challenged persons."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, to implement these announcements and to make them result-oriented no authentic ground has been provided in the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister. I want to say that ours is a democratic system. In this system whether it is the address of Mr. President or the budget of Finance Minister, hastily tempting announcements are made therein which affect every section. This practice has become a formality, which is being fulfilled. If the ground realities are looked at and these speeches are analysed then we find frustrating situation. These announcements were made here. I want to say that these declarations have been extensively made in our Constitution on 26th January 1950. The Preamble of the Constitution states:

*[English]*

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens: JUSTICE, social, economic and political".

*[Translation]*

Whether 30 crore people of the country are getting social and economic justice today. We should raise this question today. I accept that it is not possible to incorporate all such things in the budget of one year. But hon. Finance Minister said in his budget presented in July 2004, which was being referred by our hon. Member of Parliament, "I have special place in my heart for the subject related to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Allocations for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes under these programmes have been raised from Rs.1137 crore to 1180 crore and from Rs. 1087 crore to Rs. 1146 crore respectively under SGSY, SGRY and IAY and other planned schemes too. Special provisions have been made for the beneficiaries of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Which ranges from 50 to 60 percent." This figure has been reduced in the revised budget estimate of the year 2004-2005. The hon. Members of Parliament say that only an amount of Rs. 600 crore has been spent by the time of their execution. This is their commitment for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Hence I want to say to the hon. Finance Minister that the budget speech delivered by him this year contains "I wish to restate my commitment to inclusive economic growth. It is important to bring scheduled castes and scheduled tribes into the development process. For the first time you will find in the Budget papers separate statement on schemes of the development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. For these programmes allocation of Rs. 6255 crore has been made." This is totally wrong, hon. Finance Minister has tried to manipulate. I want to submit that there are different Ministries for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes which are known as Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs respectively. Similarly two different Commissions are there for them *i.e.* Commission for Scheduled Castes and Commission for Scheduled

[Shri Kailash Meghwal]

Tribes. But for both of them same figure has been presented and announcement was made. Here Finance Minister has shown his cleverness. The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have their different problems. After conducting a study in respect of their problems separately, Government should reconsider to make sufficient budget provision for them. An hon. Member of Parliament of Congress Party has also made similar submission.

I would like to cite an example of their economic survey. Economic Survey 2004-2005. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just started. I would lay rest of my speech after quoting one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Several hon. Members from your party have yet to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I would not raise any objection. I will obey you. After quoting one thing I will lay rest of my speech on the table of the House. Would you permit me to do it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to lay your speech on the Table of the House, then you can do it. Permission is granted to you to do it.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: All right.

*[English]*

Special Central Assistance to special component plan is a major scheme for economic advance of Scheduled Castes. During 2004-2005, an allocation of Rs. 402 crore has been made under this scheme upto 14.01.2005. The Ministry has utilised Rs. 206.13 crore.

*[Translation]*

An announcement has been made in respect of Safai Karamcharis. It is a matter of national shame that even after 57 years of independence we have not been able to liberate the scavengers from the practice of carrying night soil on their heads. What can be more shameful than this. You have said that Rs. 34.75 crore were provided for Emancipation and Rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and for the mechanism for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1999 during the financial year 2004-2005 and this amount was raised to Rs. 36.91 crore later on. I am surprised that seven lakh people are carrying night soil on their heads even today and you are providing such a meagre amount for emancipation of seven lakh people. I want to know as to how you will be able to emancipate such a large number of persons with the meagre amount. It is nothing but a mockery and a mere announcement.

I request that the entire budget should be reviewed. At least a concrete scheme should be introduced to abolish the practice of carrying night soil on heads so that this evil practice could be abolished by August 2005 as has also been announced by the hon. President. Provisions should be made in the budget to abolish this practice completely about which no provision has been made at present.

*Sir, the reality is that the budget provisions made for the entire process of development of the people belonging to scheduled castes is like a drop in the ocean. Every fifth person of population of the country belongs to scheduled castes. Scheduled Castes have been facing the sting of untouchability since hundreds of years. The people of these castes want to get rid of the inhumane and hateful position but the adequate efforts have not been made in this direction. A handful of people belonging scheduled castes have been benefited socially and economically through the reservation provided for them in the political democratic institutions and Government jobs. There is a strong desire to get social status amongst the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, they want to be economically prosperous but it is quite essential to be educated and entreprenuering to achieve this end. The position of the humanitarian approach of the Constitutional institutions set up in independent India is such that even after 57 years of our independence, we have not been able to emancipate them from the practice of carrying night soil on heads. Is it not a matter of shame on our part?

I would like to ask from the hon. Minister of Finance as to what is the share of people belongating to scheduled castes in the financial accounts and ownership of assets of the country as well as in the sources leading them towards economic prosperity. The poor and deprived section of the society have to depend on the people who have got their control over the economic resources. I want to know whether the people belonging to scheduled castes have their share in agriculture, industries and sources leading to economic prosperity in proportion to their population? The reply to these questions is quite disappointing. Gross dejection and frustration is prevailing amongst the scheduled caste community, which have to face the tragedy of social inhibition.

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*Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, the Presidential address and the present budget are not adequate for welfare of these people. The policies, schemes and programmes formulated for upliftment and welfare of these people after independence, have not been successful. There is a need to give a serious thought in this regard. The problems of scheduled castes have cropped up due to social, cultural, religious and economic circumstances and these are nationwide. It will be of no use to expect anything from the State Governments for redressal of these problems. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to reconsider his budget provisions and provide adequate funds for this section of the society so that a move for social revolution and cultural revival could be in place and this section could succeed in achieving development in the field of education and entrepreneurship.

*[English]*

*SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I am thanking our hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram for the presentation of a populist Budget. The Father of the Nation dreamed for Grama Rajya after freedom. Our Finance Minister dedicated this Budget for Grama Rajya.

I want to elicit certain salient features of this Budget:

— tax bracket altered;

— tax exemption upto 1 lakh;

— for women and senior citizens upto 1.5 lakh income tax exemption;

— from Rs. 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh tax will be 10%;

— from Rs. 1.5 lakh to 2.5 lakh tax will be 20%;

— beyond 2.5 lakh income, tax will be 30 per cent;

— allocation of Rs. 3,644 crore for Tsunami victims;

— no customs duty on LPG and Kerosene;

— non-agricultural product tax reduced to 15 per cent;

— textile machinery and refrigerated vans duty was reduced from 20 percent to 10 per cent;

— Food processing-reduced from 20 per cent to 10 per cent in refrigerated vans;

— Cooking coal duty reduced to 5 per cent;

— polyesters and nylon chips, textile fibres, yarns, intermediates, fabrics and garments duty reduced to 15 per cent from 20 per cent;

— excise duty on imitation and jewellery was cut down to 8 per cent;

— surcharge and excise duty on tea, refined edible oil, and vanaspati abolished;

— Customs duty on crude petroleum to be reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent;

— Service tax exemption to them whose gross turnover does not exceed Rs. 4 lakh per year.

Further, present budget is aimed at to develop the rural infrastructure. For the successful implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme, in the present Budget Rs. 74,849.46 crore are allocated. For the rural development alone, Rs. 22,682.26 crore are allocated. For Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana and for National Food for Work Programme alone Rs. 9,000 crore are allocated. Whether this amount will reach the poor, down-trodden people. The identification of these works is totally based on the recommendations of State politicians. The foodgrains are not reaching the poor. It is being sold outside to market by the contractors. For Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Rs. 3,809.50 is allocated. In Tamil Nadu, previously, the PMGSY road programmes were executed by panchayat unions, but now it is being taken up by Highways Departments. For the past one year, in my constituency, a number of works have not been started. The money allotted to these schemes is lying with the State Government. Under Area Development Programme for Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana—Backward Districts/Area, a Fund of Rs. 5,000 crore is allocated. My constituency, Palani, comes under the Dindigul District. It has been announced as one of the Backward Districts. For the year 2004-05, Rs. 15 crore were allocated, and for the year 2005-06, Rs. 15 crore are allocated. Last year, out of Rs. 15 crore, Rs. 124.310 lakh were allocated to Watershed Development Works through EE Agricultural Engineering but total Fund is misutilized. The above Department had not executed any programme properly in my constituency. In the same manner, for District Forest Office Dindigual and Kodaikanal, Rs. 145.450 lakh were allocated. For connectivity to forest villages Rs. 45 lakh were allocated. Under this Programme Ayyaloor in Vadamadurai Block to Senthurai in Natham Block were taken up, but the work is not yet completed. The work executed is also not proper. Huge money is swallowed by certain corrupt officials. If the method of selecting contractor, and the execution of work is verified, it will clearly prove the mis-management. Severe action is to be taken against the Forest official, who is executing the work.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

The works allotted to Agricultural Engineering Department, and Dindigul Forest Department under RSYV Scheme has to be thoroughly checked. Otherwise, allocation of huge amount by our Government is a total colossal waste.

Under RSYV Scheme, I repeatedly requested the District Forest Officer, Dindigual to include the connectivity to forest villages L. Malaiyar, P. Malaiyar in Natham Taluk, but no response is there till date. In this hilly region, people are struggling hard to reach hospital or market or town or for any urgent purpose without road. Most of the pregnant women were died before reaching hospital since they are taken by cot or by men. Road facility is very essential for the above hilly area.

Moreover, I want to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for giving importance to rural education. For Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2004-05, Rs. 3,057 crore were allocated, and for the current year, Rs. 4754 crore are allocated. For 'Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh", Rs. 7,156 crore are allocated. For Mid-day meal scheme, Rs. 1,675 crore were allocated during 2004-05, and for the current year, Rs. 7,156 crore are allocated. For the first time, for SC/ST students—those studying M.Phil and Ph.D.-'Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship" is created, and it has been decided to give Rs. 2000 fellowship per year. For Agricultural Marketing and Diversification, Rs. 2,283.28 crore is allocated. In the last Budget, our hon. Finance Minister allocated a huge fund for Agricultural Loans and Education loans, but some of the banks are wantonly avoiding to give loans to farmers and students. The Government announced 5 years time for payment of co-operative loans, but some of the Nationalized banks insist farmers to clear the co-operative loans and get non-objection certificates. Even though our hon. Finance Minister visited a number of banks and instructed the bank officials, yet they are not adhering to the orders of the Government.

Furthermore, I humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to consider the pathetic situation of the Indian farmers. In the North India, farmers are struggling due to heavy flood, and in South India farmers are struggling without water. The Government has to fund for inter-linking rivers at least for South Indian rivers.

Moreover, Government has to consider sympathetically the pathetic position of the poor farmers, and at least the Government has to waive off the interest and penal interest payable by the poor farmers to the co-operative institutions.

The hon. Finance Minister is a senior advocate, and a legal luminary in this country. He better knows the position of courts in rural area. Particularly courts in Taluk area are in very poor condition. For example, in my constituency, and in Kangayam town, Munsif and Magistrate courts are functioning in a cattle shed. Likewise, the Vedashenthur Court is functioning in a dilapidated old dwelling house. This is the situation throughout the country. A special fund has to be created for the infrastructural facilities for the rural courts in this country by our Government.

Moreover, I want to mention about service tax. Particularly, the lorries that are taking foodgrains—paddy, wheat, rice and other foodgrains—be exempted. Otherwise, it will affect the common men.

In the last budget, our hon. Finance Minister announced to adopt Anand Model for purchase of horticultural products. This has to be extended to medicinal plants, and its extracts. For example, in Tamil Nadu, agriculturists are cultivating "Glorisa Superba". From "Superba" extracts are taken, and imported abroad. From farmers, only a few people are purchasing "Superba" seeds for Rs. 300 per kilo, and are exporting abroad for huge money. So many farmers died due to this cultivation. On considering the pathetic situation of farmers, Union of India has to purchase from the farmers like Anand Model, and save them.

With these words, I am supporting the Budget, 2005-06.

*DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I would put this Budget as one of the most balanced one in so far as our country is concerned where majority of the population is below poverty line. The introduction to the speech very clearly spelt out its contents—very precise and inclusive. The whole exercise is completed in as many as a dozen segments.

Sir, I would start my discussion by quoting Para 183 of the Finance Minister's Speech: "This Budget is an attempt to lay down a path in which growth and equity will reinforce each other and build a new India." This is the theme with which the Finance Minister works to turn into action the agendum of the National Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance led by the Indian National Congress.

Sir, let me try to convince the hon. Members of this august House that this Budget is people friendly, poor

*Speech was laid on the Table.

friendly and in the process, it maintains the equilibrium among growth, stability and equity. While doing so, this Budget very clearly translates the address of His Excellency, the President of India to the Parliament into a perfect programme in words and in spirit. For this I wholeheartedly congratulate the hon. Finance Minister. Let us give him a big hand.

Sir, the assault on poverty and unemployment clearly attempts to empower the people by initiating many schemes or missions. I would like to mention a few of them like rejection of the idea of jobless growth, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Integrated Child Development Services, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign, separate statement on schemes for the development of SCs and STs, particularly, in the Education Sector by providing incentives or scholarships in large numbers, in institutes of excellence and Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. courses on the pattern of UGC fellowships.

Sir, gender budgeting, increasing the equity support for the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, opening of new schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, as well as, the Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya Scheme and opening of new anganwadi centres in districts having a substantial minority population and development of Urdu in Uttar Pradesh and implementing schemes for pre-examination coaching of candidates belonging to the minority communities for competitive examinations by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Backward Region Grant Fund, special economic packages for Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and the North Eastern Region, and the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund.

Sir, the implementation of the Udhampur-Baramulla rail line in Jammu and Kashmir as a project of national importance; supporting the Kumarghat-Agartala-Lamding-Silchar-Jiribam-Imphal projects with additional funds outside the Railway Budget as projects of national importance and approval of a special package for highway development in the North Eastern Region, show the keenness on the part of the Government to eliminate the regional imbalances apparently existing in the country.

Sir, I wholeheartedly join my hon. friends in the Treasury bench to complement His Excellency, the President of India for his overreaching vision called 'Bharat Nirman' to build India and the hon. Finance Minister for making it a business plan comprising of six components, namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity. The most encouraging part of this gigantic plan lies in its commitment to fully involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the planning and implementation.

Sir, in our country, with two thirds of the population dependent on agriculture and the sector producing only 21 per cent of the GDP in 2003-04, the Government rightly proposes to enhance public-private participation in investment in the infrastructure required to support expansion, diversification and value addition. Whereas in the industrial sector, both the public sector and the private sector are to be allowed the space to grow and compete with each other. In order to achieve this, a number of projects or schemes are proposed for implementation. I would like to mention a few of them like Roadmap for Agricultural Diversification, National Horticulture Mission, Massive Re-plantation and Rejuvenation, Development and Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure through agencies like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC).

Sir, the initiation of national projects for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; Proper and effective flood management in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and North Eastern States; Implementation of Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); Micro Irrigation; Regularization of Rural Credit and Indebtedness; Making Cooperative Banks in India to comply with Section 11 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949; Farm Insurance; Micro Finance; Micro Insurance; Establishment of a Knowledge Centre in every village in the country and recognition of the vital role of agricultural research in the present day environment; to take special care required for an agricultural land like ours.

Sir, the Budget suggests a number of infrastructural development programmes. The National Highway Development Project, Rural Electrification, Indira Awas Yojana, Special Purpose Vehicle, Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas (PURA), National Urban Renewal Mission are worth mentioning.

Sir, in the financial sector, the Minister has set things to the right direction and has tuned properly by balancing Banking, Capital Market, Over the Counter Derivatives,

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Stamp Duty on Stock Exchange Corporatization and Commercial Paper, Making a Regional Financial Centre at Mumbai and by introducing Gold Units. The setting up of a Pension Fund Regulatory Authority is going to do a lot of good to the needy. This Government is able to meet the extra burden expected to follow while implementing the Twelfth Finance Commission recommendations. Anyway, States are going to gain by the award of the Commission.

Sir, in implementing the NCMP, the Government requires a huge amount of money for which resource mobilization is the only way out. Hence, the result is tax proposals. While welcoming the tax proposals put forward in the Budget, which are quite balanced in both Indirect Tax and Direct Tax fronts, there appears to be a common wish everywhere to request the Finance Minister not to levy the 0.1 per cent tax on withdrawal of cash on a single day of over Rs. 10,000 or more from banks. I also very humbly wish that there should not be such a levy anyway.

Finally, Sir, I beg to join my esteemed friends in the Treasury Bench to support this Budget 2005-06, which is by far one of the most balanced Budget.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonepat): I oppose the budget for 2005-06 presented by the hon. P. Chidambaram since no facilities has been provided in this budget for rural development, farmers and agricultural labourers. Only nominal provision has been made for these sections of people. Mr. Speaker, Sir the progress of a village matters much for the progress of any country and a village can make progress only when it is connected with roads since as long as there are no roads in any village, neither any school nor any hospital will be opened there and nor any teacher nor any employee will visit there. Therefore, it is necessary to connect villages with roads. The former hon. Prime Minister Vajpayeeji had launched a very popular scheme for the development of villages named, "Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana" and this Government has scrapped this scheme, thereby deceiving the villagers.

India lives in villages and about 70 percent of population of the country depends on agriculture. No attention has been paid towards the problems of farmers in this budget. Almost every year the problems of farmers are discussed in this House and the hon. Members of Parliament put forward their views seriously about the problems of farmers but no attention is paid towards them. It's a bitter truth that the condition of farmers in the country is deplorable today and since the attainment of Independence the problems of the farmers were never taken seriously. Although the industrial policy was formulated in 1951, the agriculture policy was formulated after 50 years by Vajpayeeji and some good results thereof started coming out. Had the agriculture policy been formulated along with the industrial policy after independence the condition of the farmers would have been different. Today the condition has become such that our culture and civilisation are getting westernised and the work of cultivation is also getting westernised.

Our geographical condition is such as some parts of the country reel under drought and some parts of the country reel under floods and in some parts of the country crops are affected by diseases. But the previous Vajpayee Government had prepared a project for linking rivers to solve the main problems of farmers, the water problem and the famine. But the present Government has put this project on the back-burner causing great resentment among the farmers all over the country.

Today the size of holding has become very small. Now, farmers own only one or two acres of land and it has become difficult for them to earn their livelihood. Today there are 22 percent farmers in the country who have only one acre of land. 59.4 percent farmers are having only two and a half acres of land and 18.6 percent farmers have only five acres of land. As per the data of the Punjab Agriculture University there is a loan of Rs. 7600 on one acre of land. One can gauge the economic condition of farmers by this and the things have to come such a pass that hundreds of farmers are compelled to commit suicide in a prosperous State like Punjab and this number has been increasing continuously.

One means of livelihood of farmer is his livestock. Those who do not own land, rear cattle and earn their livelihood through it and they are losing even this means of livelihood. There were 452 animals per thousand people in 1952 and this number has come down to 232 in 1992 and it has been further declining.

The last Government had formulated several attractive schemes for the villagers and farmers which include Kisan Credit Card, Agriculture Policy, Crop Insurance Scheme etc. and these have done some good to farmers but the present Government is not paying attention towards these

*Speech was laid on the Table.

things and the previous Vajpayee Government gave reasonable prices to farmers for their crops during its full term. The prices of their crops used to increase in proportionate to increase in their costs. But this Government is not giving reasonable prices to the farmers for their crops. That is why farmers are not happy today.

This year farmers were compelled to sell their cotton crop at the rate of Rs. 1700 per quintal. Whereas its rate was Rs. 2700/2800 per quintal last year which had improved their economic conditon but today the cotton growers are in distress.

The Government should consider seriously on the issue that the farmers get remunerative prices for their crops and there should be 50 percent representation of the farmers in the Commission for Agriculture Prices and Costs which decides the prices of crops so that they can put forward farmer's side. The main things farmers need are electricity, water, cheap seeds and fertilizers and a proper marketing mechanism for their crops and remunerative prices for their crops. The Government should meet all their above requirements. As for fertilisers FICC determines the retention prices that should be wound up and the subsidy on fertilizers which is given to the factories should directly be given to farmers.

I have been repeatedly demanding in this House for one rank one pension for the ex-servicemen who guarded our borders and fought for the independence of the country. But today their families are reeling under economic crisis. But it's a matter of regret that the higher officers have been given the benefit of one rank and one pension scheme whereas the lower rank officers have been deprived of its benefit and their other entitlements are also being cut. This is really very unfortunate. The Government should solve the problems of ex-servicemen after holding talks with their representatives, this would also be in the interest of the country.

It is heard that the Central Government is contemplating merger of some banks as a result of which there is great resentment among the bank employees all over the country. The day this session began, the bank employees held demonstration outside the Parliament in support of their demands and for solution of their problems. I have heard that the Government wants to render thousands of bank employees jobless by way of merger of the banks and through retrenchment. The bank employees are demanding jobs for their families on the ex-gratia basis, they should be provided pension facility and their other demands should be taken into account seriously.

Now, I come to Haryana. Haryana is counted as one of the prosperous States. The condition of Haryana's farmers is worse than that of Punjab. Half of Haryana is affected by drought every year and half of it is affected by floods. The case of the SYL canal is hanging in balance for the last 37-38 years. Crores of rupees have been spent on it. The Supreme Court has also given its verdict in favour of Haryana. 121 Km. stretch of this canal has already been constructed only a 6 Km. stretch remains to be constructed. But our brothers in Punjab have made it unnecessarily a question of political prestige. The entire quantum of water which was to be shared by Haryana and Rajasthan through this canal is going to Pakistan. They are not willing to give water to the farmers of Haryana but they are not remorseful at all if this water goes to Pakistan. Today, there is congress led Government at the centre. Similarly there are congress governments in Punjab and Haryana and moreover, the Supreme Court has also given its verdict in favour of Haryana. Therefore, this canal should be completed as soon as possible so that Haryana gets its share of water. The entire economy of Haryana depends on water.

I welcome the increase in the amount of mid-day-meal scheme by the hon. Minister in the budget but generally it is seen that this meal is usurped by middlemen and other people and does not reach to the children. Special attention should be paid towards this.

Hon. Finance Minister has shown the attitude of this Government towards the farmers by increasing the tax on goods related to agriculture and petrol, iron, cement and fertilizer. Therefore, the tax imposed on cement, iron, petrol and diesel should be rolled back. So, I conclude my speech due to lack of time and through you, I submit to the hon. Minister that if villages will be developed, the country will develop. The progress of the farmers will result in progress of all the people.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget. I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 2005-06. I express my gratitude to the Finance Minister who has presented a very balanced Budget. Interests of people of all the classes have been looked after in this Budget. Hon. Minister has tried to present a balanced budget by keeping in view the farmers, labourers, youth, unemployment, industry, etc. It is a deficit budget to the tune of Rs. 95 thousand crore. But hon. Finance Minister has attempted to help people by increasing the provisions made in the budget for the year

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

2004-05 for important social services such as power, transportation, telecommunication, industry, minerals, rural industries, science and technology, environment, agriculture and irrigation. I do not want to go into its details, but would definitely say that he has tried his level best and the outcome of his attempt is to be seen. It is said that it is UPA Government's budget and is based on the Common Minimum Programme, but I think that it should be praised because the interests of the people of all the classes have been looked after in this budget. You must have seen that there was a high escalation in prices due to economic policies of the NDA Government and inflation had also went out of control. But, I suppose that our present Finance Minister is amply experienced. He has checked the rise in inflation with the help of his solid decision.

India is a country of villages. 70-75 percent population of the country live in villages. I suppose that inspite of our repeated attempts, country's public is going to prosper only when the villages are developed. The attraction of people for villages have decreased and their inclination towards cities has increased. The basic reason for this is that the people do not even get basic facilities such as water, electricity, roads, education, health facility etc. in villages and because of this people are migrating to cities slowly and slowly. It has resulted in fast growth of urban population during the last 10-15 years. Earlier urban population used to be 20-21 percent of the total population and today it has increased upto 34-35 percent. If migration to cities is not checked, the consequence will be very bad. All of us talk of villages but how much efforts we are really putting for villages is to be seen. I thank hon. Finance Minister for increasing the funds for the farmers by 38 percent in the budget. But even after that this amount is insufficient. Today, rural population accounts for 75 percent of the country's population and therefore, you will have to increase the funds for them by at least 50 percent. Indian villages cannot progress unless and until funds for the villages are not increased by 50 percent.

He talked of the employment guarantee and providing employment to a large number of persons. If your thinking gets formal shape, then everything can be effective. You will have to promote small-scale industries. If you wish to see the villagers prospering then the provision for the irrigation, the basic necessity of life like food, clothes, house, water, electricity should be increased. He has allocated fund for Indira Awas Yojana and said that seven lakh people would be allotted houses but I would say that it is very little.

I would like to draw your attention towards Bihar. Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are also States like Bihar but what is the condition of our Bihar? Per Capita Income of Bihar is Rs. 3345 only whereas per capita income of the country is Rs. 12870. In my view Bihar has been ignored since independence when the first five-year plan was implemented.

A provision of Rs. 400 crore per year have been made for Bihar. Rs. 7500 crore have been given for a period of ten years which is insufficient and is like a drop in the ocean. Bihar has the second largest number of population in the country. It has a population of nearly eight crore. On one hand, drought occurs in the State, on the other the people get affected due to floods. I would like to express my gratitude to our hon. Leader Shri Lalu Prasadji who tried his level best for the development of Bihar. When the NDA Government was at the centre, it ruined the country, sold the country. Senior BJP leader and our guardian Shri Malhotra is sitting here, I would like to tell him that during their Government there were twelve ministers from Bihar. When Bihar was undivided, the finance minister was also from there, but no one gave anything to Bihar except to criticise it. You used to return after criticising it. You did only that. Had you worked honestly, the picture of Bihar would have been different today. ...*(Interruptions)* Bihar was divided and was not granted a single paisa while it was said that a special package would be given to Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now, because other members of your party are also to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have hardly spoken for five minutes. I would like to have some more time since Bihar and people of Bihar have been a neglected lot. I want to say that Bihar has been divided under a conspiracy. All the hon. Members are sitting here. I want to appeal that if you want good of Bihar and Jharkhand, kindly reunite these states so that development could take place there. Jharkhand has been turned into a colony and the leaders of the Bhartiya Janata Party and plundering and looting there ...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, Bihar which has been neglected for so many years be saved. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you had also been there. You have also seen the extent of poverty, hunger, mismanagement and unemployment there. Is Bihar not a part of the country? If it is, then why it has been kept out of the mainstream of the country? During the period when Bihar was not divided, it was the rule of the centre there not that of Bihar. We had to take the permission of centre of extracting coal from the mines there. We did

not get our rights. Therefore, we are demanding for our rights, we are not begging alms.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I will take five minutes more. All the Governments be it our Government, the Congress Government or the BJP Government have exploited Bihar and they have used the people of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been said that Laluji and Rabriji have ruined Bihar. I would like to submit that we ruled Bihar for 15 years and we did the job of uplifting the people of the poor section. This is the Sir Laluji did. Had he not taken the cause of the poor, he would not have been sent to jail. Now the President's rule has been imposed there. The Government could not be formed there due to some circumstances. Our party has emerged as the largest party in Bihar. Neither our party nor any other party had got a clear mandate. You have been relegated to third position in Bihar. The BJP lost its security deposits at 34 places.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking for the last 14 minutes, so please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I will take some more time. What I want to submit is that ours is the largest party there. We did not get a clear majority. Therefore we could not form a Government and that is why the President's rule has been promulgated there. Various charges were levelled against the Rabri Government. It was said that it was behind kidnapping, so on and so forth. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing on Bihar right now, we are rather discussing on the General Budget.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I want to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that unless as a concrete way out is found to the problems of flood and drought, Bihar cannot march forward on the path of progress. Hon. Finance Minister Sir, you have not given a single paisa to sorolve the problem of flood. Flood is caused by the rivers originating in Nepal. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Gingee Ramachandran. Mr. Yadav, please conclude now. I have called the next member to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Finance Minister is a large hearted person and he have always adopted a positive attitude towards Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*. We people deposit the money and the people of Mumbai, Kolkata, Karnataka and Delhi make merry by withdrawing the same money. Kindly give instruction to give CD ratio to Bihar in the manner it is given to other states.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called the another hon. Member. Now, conclude your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Our CD ratio should be increased. Special package should be given to Bihar. Our state is affected by floods and drought. Kindly help us to tackle these problems. Allocation of funds under the Indira Awas Yojana should be increased. Similarly, the amount of funds for roads should also be increased. If we can tide over the problem of water-logging in our state then we can be in position to feed the people of other states as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have said that nothing will go on record. Why are you wasting the time of the House?

...*(Interruptions)**

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Pariyakulam): Sir, at the outset, I would like to state that it is a matter of privilege to be part of the United Progressive Government which has started on the right lines. There is no denying of the fact that the United Progressive Alliance Government would complete its full term and would bounce back to power with wider mandate.

This Government has made great strides in every conceivable field. Be it agriculture, education, health, power.

This Government is bound to make great strides in every conceivable field under the stewardship of

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*Not recorded.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

Dr. Manmohan Singh and under the able guidance of Smt. Sonia Gandhi, who has made great sacrifice by not accepting the Prime Ministership in spite of the clear mandate.

Our is not a marriage of convenience like earlier NDA Government, ours is a marriage of consensus which is going to continue for a longer period than expected by the Opposition.

Hike in petroleum has resulted in overall price increase. Central Government should come out with a formula which would help to stop the hike in petroleum products.

Of course, a number of problems have to be addressed by the Central Government. Namely, water, population explosion, health for all, power, floods, *et al.* It has just started its work. It has a long way to go.

The stark reality is that in India water problem would continue to haunt us as long as we depend on monsoon. We should develop a fool-proof rain harvesting system in each and every household to solve the problem of water. Another solution lies in the linking of rivers which is a stupendous and arduous task which can be implemented only by pooling enormous money. I do not actually know whether it is feasible. But I am all the more certain that I would take long years to complete the linking of rivers. But if we complete this unthinkable task, our future generations would have a sigh of relief. Central Government has to study afresh the problems being faced in the implementation of linking of rivers, at least, we can erect check dams in every 2 kms. on river waterways.

I would like to point out here that every year we discuss a multifarious issues, namely, floods, droughts, railway accidents, etc. Discussing such issues has become a sort of ritual every year. The outcome is not worth appreciative for reasons known to everyone. We take up issues piecemeal and go about sorting out the immediate problems but forgetting about chalking out a well thought out plans and programmes to cater to the needs of each and every impending issue that come up often and in every year. We have to fix our sight in resolving issues that crop up every year on a permanent basis.

I would like to point out here in this august House the plight of farmers in Tamil Nadu, in particular. A number of farmers have been facing problems due to shortage of water, difficulties in getting loans, etc. Government should waive all the pending loans and allow the farmers to start the life afresh. I am of the firm conviction that as long as we depend on monsoon, we are bound to face such problems. Waived off thousands of crores of rupees to save the farmers is in the interest of the country. Given free power to the small farmers would go a long way in increasing the production.

Stopping population explosion should be the immediate task of the Central Government. We could not move ahead as fast as we can in spite of our achievements in various fields because our ever increasing population is standing in the way of our country's glory in the comity of nations.

Health is one are in which India's position is not worthy of mention. Though we have made great strides in the field of health, according to a report, more than 26 crores people cannot afford healthcare and the Government hospitals cater to only a quarter of the people who approach the Government hospitals desperately without any source of treatment. Government hospitals should be upgraded in par with the state of the art private hospitals.

Funds should be extended generously to the schools run by Wakf Boards all over the country in general and Tamil Nadu in particular. Due to acute shortage of funds, schools under the aegis of Wakf Boards are in a pitiable condition. I hope Government would give utmost priority to this aspect to help the minority community to keep pace with the advancements made in other schools, particularly urdu schools.

Education is another area, where we have to lay more emphasis in the years to come. Dropouts from schools have not reduced over the years. Innovative and effective steps should be made to ensure that each and every child, particularly from the underprivileged sections of the society and people living in despicable conditions attend the school. If we provide education to one and all, there is no doubt that our country would become a developed country sooner rather than later.

Tamil Nadu has a huge tourism potential. It should be tapped from every sense of word. Tourism is an area where we can bring in more foreign exchange. Maintenance of historical sites along with improvement of infrastructure with low budget hotels, airports facilities and rail services would undoubtedly improve the inflow of foreigners. Government should look into this aspect with insight and should come out with immediate steps to set right the way for more inflow of foreign tourists into our

country, particularly Tamil Nadu, we have Ooty, Kaojikandal, Yercaud, Yelagiri Hills, Bodimottu.

I would like to suggest that a model school be set up in each district of the country; centres providing health care particularly to be needy and poorest of the poor should be started in the nook and corner of the country; proper roads should be laid in the remotest areas of the country so that people living in those areas would become part of the national mainstream.

Power is another subject which is to be treated with utmost seriousness. Power thefts should be stopped lock and barrel. All-out efforts should be made to use the renewable sources of energy like wind and solar energy to tide over the huge shortage of electricity in various parts of the country.

Unemployment is one of the gravest problems India is facing not only today but for years. New thrust should be given by the UPA Government to take the problem of unemployment with all the seriousness it deserves. Employment generation is to be given top priority. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana should be taken up with more vigour. It should be reviewed to see that whether it is moving on the right lines.

The UPA Government should strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions to see that the real fruits reach the people at the bottom for whom it is meant. Here, I would like to quote late Rajiv Gandhi, who said that only 10 per cent reaches the public and the balance 90 per cent is siphoned off by the middlemen. This trend should be set right.

When I was curiously going through the debates of the House and also the reports of various committees, I have found out to my astonishment that a considerable percentage of the grant or funds are not utilised in a particular year. This despicable situation must change if we want to see a bright future for India. We should ensure that funds are spent in full in a given year by planning in advance and executing well in time thereby spending the grant meant to be spent in a given year.

Mid-day meal scheme which is in vogue in a few States should be introduced at the national level to bring more people to school and which would provide at least a meal a day to those who could not make both ends meet or get a square meal a day. Central Government should extend grants generously so that we could improve the literacy of the country like the one in Kerala which has 100 per cent literacy. Any country which has its considerable population educated would undoubtedly make strides in every conceivable area.

Tamil Nadu has been facing the problem of water almost every year. Central Government should extend financial assistance to tide over the recurring problem every year. Protected water to be given to all rural public without fluoride content.

We have to take innovative and corrective steps. It would not be right on my part to outline what the Government should do as I have just started my Parliamentary life. I have a long way to go. But I am doubly sure that his Government would bring back the glorious days of governance of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi who took India to great heights.

*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to our great leader, hon. Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi and Thalapathi, M.K. Stalin for sending me to this august House. The Budget has been welcomed by all sections of the society although with certain minor reservations.

I have a few specific points to make regarding the budgetary proposals and put forth my suggestions and demands. First of all, I understand that it is under consideration of the Government to set up 6 AIIMS-like institutions throughout the country. But, no such institution is being set up in Tamil Nadu. I would like to request that one such institution is going to be set up in Tamil Nadu at a suitable location to cater to 6.5 crore people of the State. It is because the facilities in the State Government hospitals are not sufficient and the private hospitals charge heavy fees and they do not provide any quality healthcare.

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme for Children is a very welcome proposal. At present, the Government is providing foodgrains at the rate of Re. 1 per child. With the rise in general prices and inflationary trend, the amount allotted is very less. I would like to request that, at least, it should be increased to Rs. 3 per child.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri E.G. Sugavanam]

In the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, importance has been laid on tackling water quality in about many thousands of habitations in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, West Bengal and other States. I am sorry to say that the quality of drinking water in the districts, namely, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri is very poor and contains high rate of fluoride. Therefore, I would like to request that adequate financial assistance should be give under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission for providing protect water to the people of my constituency.

Sir, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts are facing acute shortage of water and groundwater level has also come down considerably. During the earlier Government, when Dr. Kalaignar was the Chief Minister, a scheme was inaugurated for Integrated Drinking Water Project in Hogenekal at a cost of Rs. 1,000 crore with Japanese assistance, and all modalities were worked out. However, the present Government has not taken any steps to implement the project and kept it in cold storage. I urge upon the Government to allocate adequate financial assistance for implementing the scheme on a war-footing level.

Sir, my next point is regarding the announcement of funds for backward districts. I understand that 170 backward districts have been identified. Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts are the most backward Districts in Tamil Nadu. There are no major industries here and as such there are no employment opportunities. Since there is no adequate water supply, the agricultural operations have been affected and people are forced to migrate to other States. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to declare the above two Districts as Backward Districts, and adequate financial assistance should be given for the development of these two Districts.

Sir, the proposal regarding pre-examination coaching of candidates belonging to the minority communities to allow them to pursue their courses in reputed private coaching institutions is a welcome step. But, this facility should be extended to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and economically weaker sections.

Sir, the National Horticulture Mission is being launched in April, 2005. Plenty of fruits and flowers are grown in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts. Therefore, a special package for these two Districts under the National Horticulture Mission should be allocated. In fact, the Finance Ministry should recommend to the Commerce Ministry for setting up of dry port in Krishnagiri Constituency for exporting fruits, vegetables and flowers to different areas within the country and abroad.

The National Water Project on Water Bodies is limited to 16 districts only. I would like to request that this project should be extended to Tamil Nadu and, in particular, to Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri Districts.

Sir, as the hon. Finance Minister is very well aware that Tamil Nadu is one of the leaders in handloom sector. But the export in this sector has dwindled in the past few years. Therefore, special steps should be taken to revive the sector and to increase the exports. Moreover, the life and health insurance packages should be extended to all weavers.

Sir, regarding the small-scale industrial sector, if more and more items are de-reserved, the small-scale industrial sector will not be able to compete with multinational companies. So, I would like to request the Government to give a serious thought before de-reserving any item from the small-scale industrial sector.

Sir, as I had already started that Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri are backward districts and they should be included under the 'National Food for Work Programme'. The housing scheme for weaker sections in my constituency is not much and adequate allocations should be made under the Indira Awas Yojana.

Now, I turn my attention to taxation proposals. The proposal to impose surcharge on withdrawal of more than Rs. 10,000/-on a single day has not been appreciated by majority of the population of the country. In fact, our leader, Dr. Kalaignar has also expressed his reservation against this move. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to withdraw this proposal immediately. Due to this proposal, the black money cannot be curbed. In fact, the black money will increase, as people will tend to keep money with them and not deposit it in banks.

Hosur, which is an important centre, is located in my constituency. It is very nearer to Bangalore—the computer capital of India. There is plenty of possibility for setting up of software industries and companies, as it would create employment opportunities for the people in my constituency.

*SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government and also the Finance Minister for presenting one of the best

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Budgets ever delivered in the Parliament so far. Every time whenever the Finance Ministry or the Railway Ministry used to be presentation of the Budgets people they used to fear that prices may go up and was a feeling of terror but both this Budgets Railway and General Budgets presented to Parliament was welcomed by all sections of people even the common man was happy as there was no burden on him.

Sir, this Government has shown that there is a keen desire to implement the National Common Minimum Programme more importantly, an enjoinment of social and political stability based on commitment of the welfare of weaker sections, backward classes and minorities has been created. This Government has infused a new sense of belonging among various disaffected groups, especially in the tribal, socially backward and minority communities across the country.

Sir, I would like to complement the Government for constituting a commission for the welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic Minorities. Certainly this Commission will examine the social and economic status of these deprived groups and suggest mechanism for enhancing their educational, employment and economic opportunities. I would like to propose a considerable Budget allocation to be earmarked for fulfil the aspirations of the deprived groups of the society.

Sir, I would like to compliment the Government which has decided to develop our rural India and the Budget has provided sufficient funds which will deal stepping up flow to farmers, enhancing public investment in irrigation and Waste Land Development increasing funds for agriculture research and creating a single market for agriculture produce and also investing in rural health care and education, promoting rural roads. This step, I feel a great step in improving our rural India.

Sir, the second area of special attention for this Government is employment. This Government has given priority to this sector as the share of youth in our population has risen and will continue to rise for some decades to come. Therefore, the policies aimed at increasing investment and stepping up the growth rate of agriculture, manufacturing infrastructure and the service sector will undoubtedly generate new employment opportunities. I hope and trust that Government will fully take care of such schemes so that they achieve the goal for which they have been started.

Sir, I congratulate the UPA Government for setting up a national commission for minority educational institutions to safeguard the interest of the minorities in higher education. This is also a welcome measure.

Sir, it is a very welcome measure under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya Scheme, the Government proposes to allocate funds for educational development, especially to the minorities wherever there is a considerable population of minorities in the rural area. I would like to suggest to allocate a sufficient funds at least 15% should be given to the minorities in the above scheme based on their population.

Sir, I would like to welcome the decision of the Government through the Finance Ministry to provide assistance for the recruitment and postings of Urdu Teachers in our country especially in the rural areas where the dropout percentage of the minorities is more comparing the other sections of the society. Hence, I propose to allot adequate funds for the recruitment of Urdu teachers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Balika Vidhyalaya and other educational schemes.

Sir, I would like to mention that the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech have, comprising that an additional cess of 2% will be levied which would generate Rs. 4000-5000 crores and will be spent on educational development programmes.

Sir, I would like to mention here that the nodal Ministry for education development is HRD, the Development of Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Backward Communities and Minorities, all looked after by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Hence, I propose to allot sufficient funds to both the Ministries so that justice will be done to allocate more funds to minority institutions and to the student community of the minority and other backward sections of the society. In this context, I would like to request that an amount of Rs. 200 crore may kindly be allotted to the Moulana Azad Education Foundation and an amount of Rs. 50 crore may kindly be provided as a recurring grant for the scholarship programme from the educational cess.

Sir, I would like to request that in all the financial corporation in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, 100% share capital is given by the Central Government. But the Government of India's contribution in case of National Minorities Development Finance Corporation is only 60%, States and Union Territories contribution is 26% and the remaining to be contributed

[Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi]

by the institutions and individuals having an interest in the welfare of minorities. Hence, I request to enhance the equity capital up to Rs. 500 crores with the 100% share capital by the Central Government for NMDFC.

Sir, I would like to mention here that the Central Wakf Council is having nearly 4 lakhs registered Wakf properties throughout the country, is given only 1.05 crore in the current Financial year. I propose the allocation may be increased up to 25 crore.

Sir, in the State of Karnataka nearly 800 villages were under the drought for the last three consecutive years. Every year the Hyderabad-Karnataka area is facing drought due to the acute shortfall in the rain. Many a times Central teams have been visited and recommended more financial assistance, foodgrains, to provide drinking water, employment generation etc., for the benefit of the drought effected people. Hence, I would like to request to grant a special allocation of funds in the current financial year for drought affected areas specially for Hyderabad-Karnataka area in Karnataka.

Sir, the Government of Karnataka has approached the Centre for financial assistance to complete all irrigation projects expected to cost of Rs. 25,000 crores over the next five years. There are about Rs. 13 crores required to complete project under the Krishna Nirvari River, the State has committed to complete work of Upper Krishna project. I request to grant special funds required by the State Government.

Sir, the Centre for the first time in recent years reduced the allocation to Karnataka under the accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). Sir, the Union Water Resources Ministry has allocated only Rs. 250 crores less than half of what Karnataka had asked for 2004-05. Hence I request an amount of Rs. 550 crores may kindly be given as the State Government has requested.

Sir, once again, I compliment the UPA Government and Finance Ministry for presenting pro-people, pro-farmer budget for the welfare of all the sections of the society particularly the Backward communities, SCs/STs and Minorities.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (Vandavasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote from *Thirukkural.*

"Idhanai idhanaal ivanmudikkum endraindhu
adhanai avankann vidal."

One who is able to do a particular work should only be entrusted with that work. This is said by Saint Thiruvalluvar. Hence, our hon. Prime Minister has entrusted our Finance Minister, Mr. Chidambaram to present this Budget.

At the outset, I shall congratulate our hon. Finance Minister for having presented a balanced and good Budget. I support the General Budget on behalf of myself and General Secretary, Mr. Vaiko of my Party, the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam.

I would like to say a few points about the Budget. There are important matters which are presented in the Budget. I think the Finance Minister has succeeded in satisfying the aspirations of the downtrodden and the poor people including the weaker sections of the society. Though various constraints and restraints might have come in his way, he has presented his Budget in a far-reaching manner. I once again express my appreciation to the Finance Minister who has sincerely taken care of not burdening the common man, especially the poor, the downtrodden and the backward classes.

Announcements made in this budget are good. If they are implemented in a proper way, it would be a welcome Budget. This Budget highlights so many measures. It tries to improve agricultural productivity and rural economy. It is focusing its attention on development of irrigation, infrastructure, rural electrification and telecommunication. I am thankful to the hon. Finance Minister for he has allocated more funds to agriculture and allied industries, rural development, agro and rural industries, health and family welfare, human resource development, fertilizers and chemicals, women and child welfare and to social services than the previous year. What does it mean? It means that he gives more importance to the rural people. It gives boost to the rural economy. I am very thankful to the hon. Finance Minister because he is focusing his attention on the rural areas. Poor people should be empowered to develop their economy. Due to this Budget, people in the villages will get benefited. I once again appreciate the allotment of Rs. 630 crore for development of horticulture in our country. It is a very good step.

I would like to talk about another thing. It is said that Rural Knowledge Centre will be set up with the latest information and communication technology. It will help the poor in updating their communication and technological skills to keep pace with the modern age.

I would like to make a request to the Government of India that a mandatory provision should be inserted that

whenever transactions take place by way of exchange of goods or sale or purchase of any goods or properties, they must be done through demand draft or cheque. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Ramachandran ji, if you want to read out your speech, then you can lay it on the Table.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I was reading it because I did not want to waste the time of the House.

I want to thank our hon. Finance Minister on behalf of my leader, Shri Vaiko. Since our leader, Shri Vaiko, took great pains, *Sethu Samudram* Project and inter-linking of rivers project were included in the Common Minimum Programme. I think the Tamil Nadu Government is not cooperating. I urge upon the Government of India to expedite these projects. They should be taken up very quickly.

I would like to appreciate once again the announcement declaring Tamil as a classical language. But it is announced by the Ministry of Culture. It should be declared by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry of Human Resource Development is giving so many awards and concessions to Sanskrit language. Tamil is the only language which is the mother of all languages in the world. But it is not being equally treated. It should be given proper treatment as a classical language. Tamil should be given proper treatment, which should be equal to the treatment given to the Sanskrit language.

The Government of India should announce Gingee as a tourist centre. It is a historical and monumental centre. The previous Government declared Hampi, Karnataka as a National Heritage Centre. Likewise, Gingee should also be declared as a World Heritage Centre. I urge upon the Government of India and the Finance Minister to kindly declare it as a World Heritage Centre. Then it will attract tourists.

I demand from the Finance Minister to provide a rope car system in the Gingee Fort. The previous Government had notified to take over the administration of Thiruvannamalai temple, under a notification from Archaeological Survey of India, Ministry of Culture.

I represented this matter to the hon. Prime Minister. Then, it was withdrawn. I have even my thanks to hon. Prime Minister and hon. Minister, Shri Jaipal Reddy. Also another matter is that I have represented to the Rural Development Ministry's Minister, Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji for the inclusion of Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam districts out of 150 districts which have been identified as backward districts. I am thankful, once again, to the Government of India, especially the Rural Development Ministry and Shri Raghuvansh Prasadji, and also our hon. Finance Minister who has allotted even more funds for the affected people, the Tsunami affected people in Tamil Nadu. Several State Governments have asked for Rs. 4,800 crore for rehabilitation works but the Government has allotted Rs. 1260 crore. I think, it is not sufficient. You can release more funds. At the same time, kindly constitute an all-party Committee to monitor whether the funds are properly utilized or whether it goes to the affected people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister about the Villupuram to Arcot road. It is an important road connecting south to north of Tamil Nadu and the northern India. This is going to north of India. I want to ask, once again to include this in the National Highway project. I would also like that more interest should be given to the poor people, that is, those who are living in the villages. Then only India will shine. I would like that the Finance Minister is going to present the best Budget. At the same time, I am giving my thanks to hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, my party is not happy with this Budget. Why I am not happy with this Budget? The Indian farmers are committing suicide. They are not getting Minimum Support Price (MSP). They are burning their commodities. This is the situation prevailing in this country. So, that is why, this is an anti-farmer Budget. That is why, my party is not happy.

Agriculture is a State subject. So many subjects are with the Centre, namely, the procurement, credit, insurance sector, storage, food-processing, exports and imports. Everything is dealt by the Union Government. But, if anything is asked from the Union Government, it is said that agriculture is a State subject. What can we do? We can give some assistance. We can give some scientific help to the State Governments. So, India's 70 per cent of the population lives in the villages, constituting 65 per cent of the population as farming community.

**16.39 hrs.**

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The agricultural sector contributes 24 per cent to the Gross Domestic Product. Exports contribute 30.1 per cent. Even 58.4 per cent of the rural workforce is from the agricultural sector. They are giving livelihood to the 650 million of the people. So, what the farmer is getting now? They are committing suicide. So, in this scenario, I am demanding from the Finance Minister that agriculture should be brought in the Concurrent List. Then only the Indian farmers will get benefit. That is my party's demand to bring to notice. Interlinking of water is the final solution for the removal of all problems faced by the country like the problems of unemployment, shortage of power, shortage of drinking water, shortage or irrigational water.

For all these things, the remedy is inter-linking of rivers. With the present system and legislation, it would not be possible to achieve inter-linking of rivers. So, in the Chief Ministers' Conference, a debate should be held on this subject. We have to amend the Constitution. Water should also be brought under the Concurrent List. Then only the Government of India can do some help to the farming community.

About credit, I would like mention that even the cooperative sector is not in a good position to give credit. It is not giving credit to the farming community. The Government of India helped the UTI. We know about the UTI scam. When the UTI was in a distress position, the Government has helped the UTI. Even for the Commercial Banks for clinching the balance sheet, the Government has given Rs. 20,000 crore; for the Rural Banks, assistance has been provided. Why have we not given it to the cooperative banks for clinching their balance sheet? That is why, the cooperative sector is completely ruined. Even the cooperative banks are not giving credit to the farming community. That is the problem.

The hon. Finance Minister has announced that they have formulated a Committee. All the previous Governments also formulated the Committees. They have given the report but the Government is not implementing those recommendations. Again, they have appointed one Committee for holding discussion with the State Governments. This will not serve the purpose of the cooperative sector.

Regarding the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, this Government has earmarked Rs. 4600 crore in this year's Budget. How is it possible to complete the pending 400 projects? I am asking this Government to react. There are 400 major and medium irrigation projects which are there to be completed. About 50 per cent of the work has been done. There is no money with the State Governments. That is why, they are not completing the projects. It requires Rs. 20,000 crore to complete the 400 pending irrigation projects. But the Government has earmarked only Rs. 4600 crore. This amount is not at all sufficient. Out of this amount also, the Government is giving 80 per cent as loan to the State Governments and the subsidy portion is only 20 per cent.

We are talking about agriculture and even the farming community. So, this is the situation. That is why, the Indian farmer is committing suicide. Even for the health sector, in the last Budget also, I proposed that there should be a Corpus Fund. The poor people in the villages cannot afford medical treatment. They are not getting assistance even from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Some State Governments like the Karnataka Government formulated a Corpus Fund of Rs. 100 crore or Rs. 200 crore. Out of the accrued interest, they are providing some money to the poor people for meeting the expenses in connection with major, chronic diseases. I am requesting the hon. Finance Minister that he should create a Corpus Fund at the national level with a sum of Rs. 1000 crore. Out of that, if you get something, then you can pass it on to the poor people. They are dying because of lack of money. This is the situation in the country.

We are talking about stock market and everything. If the stock market falls the whole Government is paying attention. But thousands of farmers are dying and we are not paying attention to them. How many people participated in the stock market operations? In the whole country, it is only 9 per cent. For example, you take the case of my village. From there, no person has invested money in the shares. Of course, in the European countries, in the USA, 95 per cent of the people are investing in stock market. Everybody is talking about stock market. But, in India, 75 per cent of the farmers are living in the rural villages. They have no link with the stock market and everything. If farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price, nobody is talking about it. If farmers commit suicide, nobody is talking. This is the scenario prevailing in the country.

I am giving one small example. I come to the Tobacco Board. The farmers have accumulated Rs. 100

crore of money to the Tobacco Board. Even the tobacco farmers are not getting the Minimum Support Price in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The farmers are crying. It is their own money. The sum of Rs 100 crore is the cess. That is the farmers' own money. The Government is not releasing the money to intervene in the market to purchase tobacco. These are our policies. We are not requesting the Government of India to provide some money. We are not asking the Government of India, the STC to intervene in the market for the purchase of tobacco. But the farmers have accumulated Rs. 100 crore of money with the Tobacco Board. Even the Government of India is not giving permission to the Tobacco Board to intervene in the market to purchase tobacco. These are the policies.

How will the Indian farmers get benefit? Our farmers are small and marginal farmers. Eighty per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers. Now, they have to compete with the world markets. After the World Trade Organisation (WTO), we have to face the challenges throughout the world.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: We have to compete with the world. If the farmers are happy, then the whole India is happy. Then only, we can say that the Budget is a good Budget. We have to think about the farming community. Otherwise, there is no meaning of this Budget. It is all right that we are providing money to every sector. What is the use of it? Our colleagues, our fathers, our brothers and our sisters are dying. We are not providing any help to them.

The hon. Finance Minister has increased the credit from Rs. 1,05,500 crore to Rs. 1,08,000 crore. I would like to give you one example about the nationalised banks, private banks and everything. Now, coming to the public sector banks, in the year 2001, only four banks achieved the target of 18 per cent, while 23 banks were failed to achieve this target. In the year 2002, only six nationalised banks achieved the target of 18 per cent, while 21 banks had not achieved the same target. In the year 2003, only five banks achieved the target of 18 per cent, while 22 banks had not achieved any success on this front. These targets were set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Now, I move on the private sector banks. In the year 2001, only one bank could achieve the target of 18 per cent, while the other 30 banks had not met with any success. In the year 2002, only two private banks achieved the target of 18 per cent. Our hon. Finance Minister is trying to cover the whole picture in the figure of Rs. 1,05,500 crore to Rs. 1,08,000 crore. Whatever he wants to do, he has to do it district-wise and State-wise. So many banks are not going up to the mark of 18 per cent. This is on record. These sources are given by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I am giving the sources of RBI Bulletin this is the ground reality.

My humble request, through you, Sir, to the hon. Finance Minister is that he should concentrate on agriculture. If he concentrates on agriculture, the economy will boost. This year, they want to achieve the target of 6.9 per cent of GDP. Today, agriculture contributes only 1.1 per cent. Last year, agriculture contributed 9 per cent. So, GDP has crossed more than 8 per cent. The National Common Minimum Programme sets the target to achieve 7 to 8 per cent. If you really want to achieve this target, you have to concentrate more on agriculture. Then and then only, you can achieve the target of 8 per cent. Otherwise, it is not possible to achieve the desired result. I will appreciate the Budget only when if you do any good of the farmer. This Budget is an anti-farmer Budget. Only the mere figures cannot help the farming community. If you stop this continuing and ongoing process of committing suicide by farmers and provide minimum support to them, then only the farmers will become happy.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to put forward my views before this hon. House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that I have a long list of hon. Members who want to speak. So, I would request every hon. Member to try to complete his speech within five minutes. This is my humble request to hon. Members. Otherwise, You will not be able to finish this list in the whole night. I will allow only five minutes to each hon. Member.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, how many hon. Members want to speak?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a long list.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me opportunity to speak on budget 2005-06. But I oppose this budget because it does not fulfil the expectations of common man and only jugglary of statistics has been shown in this budget. Hon. Minister himself has accepted that India is not a poor country but a large section of our population is poor. Many a things have been said regarding poverty alleviation, but these schemes are like a drop in the ocean. Employment Guarantee Scheme provides for 100 days employment in a year. Only 100 days employment in 365 days of a year, what an unemployed man will do during the remaining days of the year. Whether he will keep his family on fast for two days after giving them food for one day?

Similarly in food for work programme work is get done by machines instead of human labour. Fake muster roll is prepared. Unless these schemes are monitored they will be confined to papers only and continue to give rise to corruption. The number of the families living below poverty line under Antyodaya Scheme is being raised from 2 crore to 2.5 crore but nearly 26-27 crore families are living below poverty line.

Regarding National Rural Health Mission I want to say that even today buildings for hospital, sufficient staff, doctors and medicines are not available in villages. The people belonging to poor families cannot take benefit of any of the schemes of Government if they do not possess ration cards issued to the people living below poverty line even if they suffer from kidney, cancer or heart diseases or became disable after being seriously injured in accidents. They do not get required money for costly treatments. As they are looked down upon in hospitals, they do not get any kind of priority. There is a need to create additional funds for the treatment for those people.

At many places mid-day meal scheme has become lifeless. A lot of time of the teachers is wasted on this. At many places children have not got meals for one month and quality of food is also not good. It requires a lot of improvement and additional funds. Even today there are not sufficient number of teachers in the schools in villages in our country, but the students of public schools of the cities get education in well equipped schools. So children from villages lag behind in competition and get frustrated. Hence the number of Navodaya Vidhyalaya in rural areas and Kendriya Vidhyalaya in urban areas should be increased.

Even today some States like Madhya Pradesh are far behind in the field of irrigation. The farmers of this State, despite being competent lag behind from the farmers of developed States like Haryana, Punjab etc. only due to lack of irrigation facilities. Hence additional funds should be allocated for such backward States. Bina River Project is lying pending in my constituency for the last 10-12 years, it should be started on priority basis. The betel leaves cultivation has not been included in the National Crop Insurance Scheme though it is one of the important crops of our country and it is also exported but due to lack of protection it is lagging behind.

All the hurdles in the way of Bina Refinery to be started by Bharat Petroleum at Bina in my constituency have been removed. The State Government has also announced to extend its support for this. Hence it should be started at the earliest by the Central Government.

The UPA Government has set targets to bring 1 crore hectare of land under irrigation, to connect all the villages having population of 1000 and the villages having 500 tribal population with roads, to construct 60 lakh additional housing units for the poor, to provide drinking water facility to 74,000 settlements, to provide electricity connections to 1,25,000 villages and 2.3 crore families, to provide telephone connectivity to 66,822 villages etc., under Bharat Nirman Yojana, but it requires strong will power to achieve all these targets. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has not been even mentioned in it, whereas this scheme has created enthusiasm in the villages. NDA Government had provided gas connections and Telephone connections to 4.5 crore people.

Sir, The dream of Bharat Nirman would remain incomplete unless the people living in villages and the last man of society get water to drink, houses to live in, clothes to wear, medicine in case of sickness and unemployed are provided employment. Funds are made available for the schemes but a large part of it goes in corruption. Unless the corruption is checked these schemes would not succeed.

Unless opportunities of employment are generated for the huge population of India, especially youths, the country will not progress.

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*Speech was laid on the Table.

*SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Sir, first of all I welcome this general budget presented by the (UPA) coalition government. This is a progressive budget, on the one hand attempt has been made in this budget to maintain the pace of process of all round development of the country, and on the other hand many schemes have been incorporated in this budget for the progress of common men. This budget at the earliest will lead our country to the category of developed nations. This budget has been appreciated by all the sections of society whether they belong to the category of government employee, industrialist, farmer, scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, women, minority class or agro-industry. Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards some important points of the speech of hon. Minister of Finance of United Progressive Alliance Government:

1. Mention has been made about National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
2. It talks of National Rural Health Scheme.
3. Antyodaya Anna Scheme is being implemented.
4. It talks of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.
5. A very good scheme for drinking water and sanitation, has been prepared.
6. A scheme for the development of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe has been prepared.
7. A special scheme for women and children has been proposed.
8. More assistance has been proposed to bring minorities more in development process.
9. 170 backward districts have been identified for backward area grant fund.
10. It talks of water resources, control of flood and soil erosion which includes drip and sprinkle irrigation.

The National Commission on Farmers has recommended to set up Rural Knowledge Centres in each village throughout the country using modern information and communication technology.

Now I would like to throw light on the works done by our (UPA) Alliance Government during the last 6 months.

1. Our UPA Government has announced loan package for farmers in agricultural sector and during the last six months 30 percent more loan has been given. Plan allocation for agriculture research and education has increased to Rs. 1000 crore this year from Rs. 775 crore.

Relief would be provided to the farmers, hit by various disasters, through refixation of the instalments of loan and interests.

2. With the begging of construction of prototype fast breeder reactor with a capacity of 500 MW at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu, the commercial phase of the second stage of atomic power programme of India will begin.

3. **Chemicals and petro-chemicals**

A committee has been constituted to reduce the prices of essential drugs.

Concrete steps have been taken to provide sufficient quantity of fertilizers to the farmers on time.

4. **Commerce and Industry**

During the last seven months (April-October 2004) exports registered record growth with total export of more than 400 crore US dollar. This is 23.73 percent increase in exports as compared to the last year during the same period.

Upward trend is likely to continue on the front of domestic industrial activities—India and organisation of the six countries of the Gulf-Gulf Cooperation Council signed a draft agreement for economic operation.

5. **Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**

50 lakh more families, living below the poverty line, will be covered under Antodaya Anna Yojana being run for the poorest of the poor and thus the total number of families covered under the said scheme will be 2 crore.

An inter-ministerial committee namely Tuteja Committee has been constituted for the payment of outstanding amount of sugarcane price.

The Department of Consumer Affairs has constituted a three member committee to prepare a draft of consumer clubs.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba']

6. **Defence**

The allocation for Ministry of Defence has been increased to Rs. 77,000 crore keeping in view the increasing need of modernisation of Armed Forces. Successful test firing of surface to surface missile Prithivi-III. Joint India-USA airforce exercise at Alaska in USA.

7. **Environment and Forests**

The production of halogen gases, which cause damage to the ozone layer, has been stopped.

A forestry fund has been created to revive the ruined forests.

More reforms are being carried out in the process of giving environmental clearance.

8. **External Affairs**

Efforts regarding confidence building measures and talks and cooperation with Pakistan have been intensified.

High level talks with China have been continued.

9. **Finance**

About 2 billion $ U.S. dollar surplus in the current account of the country during the first quarter of current year.

Financial Accountability and Budget Management Act has been implemented by notifying the rules for reducing revenue and fiscal deficit.

A task force is mentioned to be constituted to receive suggestions for an action plan to revitalise the co-operative loan system of the country.

A new deposit scheme with 9% interest rate has been started for the senior citizens.

30 lakh farmers have been brought within the purview of institutional loan facility.

Health Insurance Scheme for all has been given a new look with a view to benefit especially those living below poverty line.

Hon. Prime Minister visited Jammu & Kashmir and announced a package which is seen as an initiative for the development of the State.

National Integration council has been reconstituted and Tamil has been declared a classical language.

*[Translation]*

10. **Human Resource Development**

Mid-Day-Meal Scheme is being made attractive by setting two goals. First one is to provide nutritious meal to the children particularly children of deprived classes and the second one is to provide education to all.

Cooked food will be made available in all the schools in the country in phased manner. A national monitoring committee has been set up for providing education to minorities.

11. **Panchayati Raj**

A task force of state secretaries has been constituted for implementation of centrally sponsored schemes through the Panchayati Raj Institutions in all States and Union territories.

12. **Road Transport and Highways**

822 kilometre long roads have been constructed under the Golden Quadrilateral Project. There is a proposal to convert the remaining 41,000 kilometres stretch of national highways at least into double lane.

New road transport policy is being formulated.

Sir, Uttaranchal State on the one side shares border with China and Tibbet and on the other side it is sharing long border with Nepal. In view of the political developments and Maoist activities taking place in our neighbouring country Nepal, the Government of India and the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal, who is a seasoned politician and popular Chief Minister, is trying to put in place a special security system to safeguard our national interests. The Maoists these can very easily cross the border and enter Uttaranchal. Sir, it is not the issue of security of Uttaranchal only but it is also a very sensitive issue linked with the security of the country.

It is well known as to how danger can be posed to the national security by misleading the youth (by giving them inducements). Based on our past experiences, we should tread cautiously, only then we can avoid such problems. For a new State like Uttaranchal, all the ministries of the Government of India need to pay special attention to address such problems there.

Uttaranchal is also called Switzerland of the East. If a number of such schemes are formulated for development of Uttaranchal, it will earn international fame for our country on the one hand and provide facilities to domestic as well as foreign tourists and it will be helpful in development of this newly created state as well as the country. Therefore, you are requested to provide more financial assistance for all-round development of Uttaranchal. Besides, there is a need to provide for centrally sponsored schemes for every sector in the state.

Sir, there are numerous problems facing a newly created State like Uttaranchal which is also known as Devbhoomi and it needs special economic package for development of places of pilgrimage in the state so that facilities to tourists from the country as well as abroad could be provided. Therefore, through you I have requested to pay heed towards solution of basic problems in the state only and I hope action will be taken on my request on priority basis. I am the only one elected member from Uttaranchal to this august House.

*[English]*

I would therefore, be very brief and would like to highlight some important issue concerning my state.

*[Translation]*

Sir, as the entire House is aware that keeping view the economic, social and geographical conditions of Uttaranchal, it was carved out from Uttar Pradesh few years back. This state still is in a position which needs special care and attention and this can be only in the form of financial grants from the Union Government.

Sir, I want to draw attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards some very important issues relating to development of this newly created state as well as our country which will definitely help in putting India among the leading nations on the world's map.

*[English]*

1. There is need to provide Excise Duty concessions to newly established Industries and existing industries in the State of Uttaranchal for a minimum period of another ten years.

*[Translation]*

Such concessions have been given to some States like J&K.

*[English]*

2. Sir, another important point is that special package should be given to the State for its overall and all-round Development to generate revenue.

*[Translation]*

Special package has already been given to some states like Bihar.

*[English]*

3. Special efforts should be made to boost domestic and Foreign Tourists.

*[Translation]*

Sir, Uttaranchal is called Devbhoomi. A number of hill stations, tourist spots and other places of scenic beauty like Mussoorie, Nainital, Jim Corbet Park, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Badrinath, Kedarnath etc. are there in the state visited by lakhs of tourists. If better medical, lodging, transportation and potable water facility is provided at all these tourist spots, the number of tourists visiting these places will increase and more revenue will be earned. Besides people will get employment also.

*[English]*

4. Damaged and shattered National Highways in the State should be repaired at the earliest for example—Kashipur to Ramnagar National Highway No. 121.

5. Medical Institute on the lines of AIIMS should be established.

6. Last but not the least point is that Bhawali Sanatorium, Nainital should be upgraded to the level of Chest Institute like Delhi Chest Institute.

*[Translation]*

Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the national highways in Uttaranchal are in bad shape. This state is the paradise of tourists and tourists from the country as well as from abroad visit Uttaranchal. Sir, there is an urgent need to improve the national highways in the state at the earliest.

Sir, I once again thank you and request the hon. Minister to formulate more attractive schemes to overcome all the problems in Uttaranchal. With these words, I support the budget and thank the hon. Minister also.

*[English]*

*SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU (Berhampur-Orissa): Sir, this Budget is pro poor and farmers friendly. Hon. Finance Minister while presenting the Budget has taken care of the common man as promised by the National Common Minimum Programme by the UPA Government. Sir, I do not want to repeat the points which my friends have already spoken. But, I want to remind my friends sitting on the other side that during the last seven years the NDA has taken the country to the path of capitalistic and pro rich and, therefore, poor became poorer. The programmes which have been started by Late Smt. Indira Gandhi and the dreams seen by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, were completely forgotten by the NDA followers.

Sir, they claim that the country's present good financial position is their contribution but if I remember, they have admitted in past that the present hon. Prime Minister is the real architect of the reforms. Now, under his leadership and under the guidance of hon. UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, during these last ten months "Bharat Nirman" has a starting. Sir, their feel good and India shining have been rejected by the people. But my friends on the other side are not in a position to digest the truth. Why at every point they want to disrupt the proceedings of the House?

Sir, coming to the Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister, it has taken care of all the sections of the people, especially, the common man.

Sir, it is first time in the history of India that about more than eighty thousand crore of rupees have been provided for the rural development schemes so as to eradicate poverty and unemployment from the rural poor. Sir, this Budget has provision of new people friendly programmes such as National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Backward Regions Grant Fund, Micro Irrigation Project etc. To develop the infrastructure both in rural and urban areas it has given the new direction to the Budget by announcing programmes such as knowledge centres in every village, solving of drinking water problem in urban India as National Urban Renewal Million.

Sir, as a whole it is a Budget which is growth oriented and shall definitely take India from developing towards a developed country as spoken by our hon. President of India that India shall be the World Super Power by 2020.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, I fully support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 2005-2006.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): I rise to support the UPA's bold and brilliant Budget. The UPA Government presented a Budget keeping in mind gender equality. I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, who is a dynamic leader, Shri P. Chidambaramji, for presenting this pro-people Budget guided by the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji, and UPA's Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji, and all the UPA leaders. The Budget won the hearts of millions of the Indian people, particularly, the farmers, labourers, children, youth and women, who will be going to be empowered.

Let me first of all thank the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, for presenting a constructive, realistic and futuristic budget. This Budget also has continuity with the goals of the Budget presented by the hon. Minister in July 2004, that is, agriculture-oriented with a resolve to double agricultural credit in three years, launch a horticulture mission and a new weather insurance scheme.

The hon. Minister, in his speech presenting the Budget, mentioned about the need to work for the 'greatest good to the greatest numbers'. With more than 60 per cent of the population living in the villages, it is imperative on the part of the Government to impart the 'greatest good' to these 'greatest numbers'. Even if agricultural sector contributes only 21 per cent of the GDP of the country, as the hon. Minister has mentioned in his speech, it is necessary, that we re-focus on this sector. This also accords with the UPA Government's agenda of National Common Minimum Programme, NCMP.

Giving a social touch to economic growth, the NCMP visualises that 'the economy grows at least 7-8 per cent per year is a sustained manner over a decade and more, and in a manner that generates employment so that each family is assured of a safe and viable livelihood. As the hon. Minister has mentioned in his speech, a 'decisive intervention of the State in favour of the poor' needs to be made to fulfil these objectives..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you want to read your speech, it will be better if you lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: I will do that, Sir.

One of the major problems in the Indian agricultural sector is the dwindling growth rates as compared to the other sectors of the economy. The economic surveys have indicated to the agricultural production decreasing for the past six to seven years, a decline of two per cent that led to an overall GDP growth below seven per cent. There has been some emphasis on the industrial and service sectors alone for some time now. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehruji clearly saw the linkage between agriculture and industrial sectors nevertheless. I would like to quote from his speech made in this House in December 1952:

> "If our agricultural foundation is not strong then the industry we seek to build will not have a strong basis either. Apart from that, if our food front cracks up, everything will crack-up too."

In the initial decades, Panditji allocated as much as 22 per cent of the total Plan outlay for agriculture. These were mainly in the fields of irrigation, power, research and extension services. Despite problems related to famine and other factors, Independent India was able to achieve food self-sufficiency by the mid-1970s, though farm production slowed down in the recent period from 212 million tonnes in 2001-02 to 180 million tonnes. When we emphasise more, in the recent period, on industry and service sectors, we need to be reminded of this comprehensive approach of the 1950s and for the larger security of our economy.

Sir, due to time restriction I would like to lay rest of the part of my speech on the Table of the House. But before I conclude, I would like to emphasise that unless we protect the farmers of the nation with stable prices to their products, with quality power supply to their corps, with rural weightage marks to their children in higher education and employment, with crop insurance and health insurance, etc. we cannot strengthen this motherland.

I would humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance to waive off the loans with interest to the farmers, particularly farmers of the drought affected States. Sir, I come from the State of Karnataka where a lot of farmers committed suicides. I hope the hon. Minister will consider this demand considering the plight of the farmers of the drought affected States.

Sir, I would like to mention here that Kuvempu, a national Poet from Karnataka, who won the first Jnanapeeth Award dedicated a poem to the farmers called:

*'Uluva Yogya Nodali'*

That means:

> "Look at the farmer, without any expectation he is serving the nation. Let the State emerge, let the State vanish, he will not leave his duty to produce the foodgrains to feed his fellow countrymen."

Let us not forget the farmer. Farmer is not a beggar, he is the backbone of the nation. As humble daughters and sons of this House, we must protect the farming community.

With these words, I lay the remaining part of my speech on the Table of House. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Sir.

*If we have to overcome problems in the rural sector, it is imperative on our part to make efforts for sustained agricultural growth of at least 4 per cent per annum in the coming years. This calls for pro-active measures from the Government in enhancing budgetary allocations for irrigation facilities, rural infrastructure, employment generation, R&D in seeds, and improving easy but effective credit facilities to farmers.

Overall public investments in the agriculture sector have declined in the 1990s to a mere Rs. 1,132 crore through private investments have come to the rescue of the Indian agriculture by raising investments up to Rs. 5,869 crore in the same period. Nevertheless, credit facilities in the rural areas are still hijacked by high-interest usurious groups. Indeed, the Reserve Bank of India admitted in 2002 that such public disbursement of credit declined from 15 per cent in 1980s to about 11 per cent. This needs to be evaluated and corrected. The CMP envisages that highest priority be given for investment in irrigation projects, as availability of water is a major issue determining agricultural production in India, given the vagaries of Monsoon. The plan is to bring additional one crore hectares under assured irrigation projects. This Budget provides for an increase of Rs. 14,000 crore in the total allocation for agriculture, irrigation and rural infrastructure. Our irrigation system has deteriorated over the years due to many factors including lack of investment.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh]

Irrigation programmes along may not be able to overcome the problems. Experts have computed that, by 2020, water availability would drastically come down by 21 per cent, and one-third of India would be face to face with absolute water scarcity. In order to save precious water resources, we also need to focus on micro-irrigation projects as well. It needs to be pointed out that out of 27 million hectares which have the potential for micro-irrigation, so far only half-a-million hectares have been covered and the target for the next five years is just two million hectares. It is heartening to hear the hon. Minister's budget speech on this subject:

> "1.2 million hectares have been covered under micro-irrigation so for, and the plan is to increase the coverage to 3 million hectares by the end of the Tenth Plan and to 14 million hectares by the end of the Eleventh Plan. Accordingly, I have provided Rs. 400 crore for promoting micro-irrigation in 2005-06".

As the task is urgent, we need to allocate more for these productive assets.

The UPA Government has made efforts to enhance of farm credit, more food-for-work programmes, and a mission on horticulture, restructuring farm insurance scheme, and revitalisation of rural co-operatives. The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned in his speech that credit was increased by about 30 per cent. Several experts have pointed to major flaws in the rural insurance schemes. These need to be carefully studies and rectified. The NABARD scheme of pre-development criterion for farmers, provision of crop insurance cover at nominal premium and other schemes need to be explored for effective implementation.

The area under certified seeds has increased from less than 500 hectares in 1962-63 to over 5 lakh hectares in 1999-2000, but is low as compared to other advanced countries. While overcoming problems related to transactional corporations' entry into genetically modified crops, it is necessary for the Government to invest more in the public sector involved in the advanced seed projects, and enhance R&D facilities across the country.

When we spend our precious resources on transforming agriculture from foodgrains to commercial crops, and reduction of subsidies as part of the WTO regulations, we need to learn from the Pakistan experience of food insecurity, in 80 out of 120 districts caused by introduction of corporate farming, reduction of subsidies and stopping the procurement of grains. Similar troubles stare at the neighbouring Chinese in their effort to transform the farm sector.

On subsidies to the agriculture sector, it needs to be pointed out that these are necessary and that we need to oppose international pressures, in withdrawing them. According to a report of the International Food Policy Research Institute September 2004, Indian farmers are losing nearly US$ 1.1 billion every year due to trade-distorting subsidies, which enrich United States and European Union farmers and traders. This practice is discriminatory because the US and EU spend nearly $ 300 billion subsidising their farmers (whereas we spend subsidies of about $ 1 billion only on our farmers) while pressurise us in cutting down these meagre subsidies and opening up the agricultural sector for cheaper imports. It is in the right direction that in the Budget speech, the Finance Minister has mentioned that fertilizer subsidy has been increased to about Rs. 16,254 crore, though such amount is paltry and more needed to be allocated.

Unless we protect the farmers of the nation with stable prices for their produce, with quality power supply to their crops, with rural weightage marks to their children in higher education and employment, with crop insurance and health insurance, we cannot strengthen this Motherland.

Agriculture may not be a profitable occupation, still this humble farmer dedicates his life to feed his fellow countrymen. There is no match to this service. I appeal the Minister to waive off the loans with interest part in drought-affected States.

Sir, we should respect and protect the interests of the farmers with pride. I will conclude my speech by remembering the poem written by the first Jnanapeeth-Award winner of Karnataka dedicated to farmers:

> "Look at the farmer who ploughs the land,
> Let the states emerge or vanish, he is not bothered
> He is dedicated to feed the mouths of the fellows."

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I am also supporting the waiver of the loan as well as interest on the loan, as has been told by Shrimati Tejaswini See Ramesh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

Hon. Members, I would again make a humble submission to all of you that it will not be possible for me to finish the whole list that is with me.

I request the Members, who wish to lay their speech, to lay them on the Table of the House. That will form part of the proceedings of the House. I also request the hon. Members, who want to give a lengthy speech, to lay their speech on the Table of the House. Moreover, it is my request that hon. Members should give the suggestions and not make lengthy speeches.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House. You can give the speech.

*[Translation]*

I request that if some hon'ble members if they wish, can lay their speeches on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and the Government towards the fact that on 28th Feb. at 11 a.m. everybody had a hope that through its second budget, the UPA Government would take some new measures for the progress of the country, betterment of the common man, improving the financial condition of the farmers. Sir, I am sorry to say that the hon. Finance Minister has disappointed everyone.

Dream like declaration about Bharat Nirman was made in the budget speech. We all want to build the nation. It is everyone's dream that each citizen of the country should get better facilities and better atmosphere for moving ahead. We all remain concerned about doing something for better education and health always. I feel sorry that he did not present any concrete scheme of Bharat Nirman. Bharat Nirman cannot take place just by renaming of many schemes started by the NDA Government. The hon. Finance Minister has failed to reflect in the budget the kind of will power that was needed for the timely implementation of the schemes and to reach the benefits to the intended target. Since independence, tax burden to the tune of billions of rupees is put on the poor people of the country every year with the pronounced object of providing better standard of life to the common man. Loans of billions of rupees were taken but the desired change in the condition of the common man could not take place.

Corruption, arbitrary bureaucracy and complex laws are the problems which are weakening our economy. The procedure of concrete action against the officers charged with corruption in very tardy, cumbersome and puzzle some. The common man suffers due to arbitrariness of the bureaucracy. Applications of general public lie pending for months together with the officials without any reason. It is high time that strict action is taken against the corrupt and inefficient employees and they should not be provided the protection of the Government. They should be held responsible personally for their malafide actions. But, there is no mention about them in this budget.

Sir, veiled threats has been given to the State Governments in the budget for implementing the value added tax system. The central sales tax and VAT cannot go together. No action plan and time limit has been mentioned in the budget for abolishing the central sales tax. About 4 crore small and middle-level shopkeepers and businessmen will get trapped in the grip of VAT system. About 5% increase in prices is likely due to implementation of VAT and retaining of central sales tax. It will leave a bad impact on the poor and middle class people. Multiple point sales tax system is being implemented by renaming it as VAT. This will lead to inspector raj and corruption.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by making declaration about increasing the allocation in education, health and other sectors the hon. Finance Minister has compared them with the revised estimates, instead of last year's budget estimates. In this way, he has tried to earn undeserved praise by telling that the actual increase is higher which, in fact, is very low. The budget estimates for the central plan expenditure for the year 2004-05 was Rs. 1,45,590 crore while the revised estimate for that year was Rs. 1,37,387 crore only. Thus, Rs. 8000 crore less were spent on the plan expenditure provision of Rs. 1,45,500 crore only for the plan expenditure in the budget estimates for the year 2005-06 has been made which is Rs. 2000 crore less than the last year's budget estimates. Thus, the promise of Bharat Nirman by this Government looks like a mere promise on the grounds of reality.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the congress had fought the election in 1971 in the name of Garibi Hatao. The people reposed their faith in their promises and intentions. They could not remove poverty, instead they removed the democracy in 1975. They suppressed the voice of the poor by declaring emergency. They fought elections in 1991 in the name of reducing inflation within 3 months. Everybody knows that inflation went further out of control after formation of their Government. This time, they have fought the elections with the promise of their hand with the common man. But, looking at their budget it seems

[Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari]

that their hand is proving too heavy on the pocket of the common man. This time, they have estimated an increase of Rs. 50,000 crore in the income from tax. The tax burden is definitely going to fall upon the people.

**17.00 hrs.**

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, by imposing tax on cash withdrawals from banks, the UPA Government has proved that it wants to burden the common man with taxes in any possible way. It is wrong to describe this tax as an effort to curb tax evasion and it is nothing about concealing the real intentions.

Sir, president of the main party of the ruling alliance is a woman who is now present in the House too. Women have also been neglected in the budget. Earlier, the women tax payers were provided a tax rebate of Rs. 5000 which has now been reduced to Rs. 2500. Similarly, tax rebate of Rs. 20,000 was available to the senior citizens earlier, but this has now been reduced to Rs. 5,000 ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech by reciting a very small poem and will also lay my speech on the Table but before that, since hon. Finance Minister is present in the House, therefore, I would like to speak about one thing related to my constituency.

Sir, the history of the land of Mewar, the land of the valour of Maharana Pratap, devotion of Meera and witness of Padmini's johar, is a legend of the glory of India. Mewar holds unlimited possibilities for development from the point of view of international tourism. A scheme by the name of Mewar Complex was formulated long time back for the development of tourism in this area with the central assistance. The implementation of that scheme has been put on hold due to non-availability of the central assistance. The hon. Finance Minister should immediately make available the sanctioned funds for the development of the tourist spots of Mewar by taking personal interest in this direction.

Sir, I would also like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the fact that there is some anomaly in the budget. The declaration by the hon. Minister of levying tax on branded jewellery is impracticable. The bullion traders all over the country had tried to attract the attention of the Government to the need of naming the branded jewellery and publishing the list of the branded names so as to let one know as to jewellery of which branch will be taxed and which will not be so taxed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since many hon. Members are interested in listening a poem, therefore, I will conclude my speech by reciting a very small poem in a few words:

Budget Aankaron Ka Maya Jaal
Garib, Kisan aur Majdoor Banenge Behal
Bade Udyogon Ke Sahukar Banenge Malamal
Madhyavargiya Kardata Kahata Hai Suno Dil Ka Hal
Mantriji Ne Bichhaya Karon Ka Mayajal
Avam Anusuchit Janjati Ke MPs Ke Vikas Ka Nahin Sthan
Din Pratidin Khiche Jayenge Unake Bal
Sareaam Nikali Jati Hai Unaki Khal
Ajadi Ke Bit Gaye Pure 57 Saal
Kam Ke Badale Anaj Sabhi Ka Hai Pulawi Khayal
Kisan Marne Par Majboor hain Udaharan hai bemisaal
Mahila Kanp Uthati Hai Dekhkar Yah Bajat
Kahan Jakar Rukega Mahgayee Ka Yah Rate
Paisa Mangane Walon Ko Nahin De Sakate Date
Mano Charon Aur Se Katane Aati Ho Cat
Vyapari Chilla Rahen Hain Dekhkar Vat
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Next, Shri Bir Singh Mahato please.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you and hope that the hon. Finance Minister will have a second look at the budget in the light of my poem and will pay attention towards it.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*[English]*

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): I rise to support this Budget 2005-06 as placed by the hon. Finance Minister. It is a balanced act. It tries to address the commitment made in the Common Minimum Programme. There are some welcome steps in the Budget. I welcome the proposal of the Finance Minister to create 1,88,165

*Not recorded.

Anganwadi Centres throughout the country. I also welcome the decision to cover drinking water in about 31,355 uncovered villages. I congratulate the Minister for the proposal regarding Total Sanitary Campaign Programme, which is going on in 452 districts. Now this Budget tries to cover all the districts throughout the country. I again welcome the proposal regarding creation of the Backward Region Grant Fund. 170 districts have been taken up through this Fund.

Regarding the widening of tax net, so far as I remember, the Standing Committee on Finance had made a number of concrete recommendations. I would like the hon. Minister of Finance to look into them.

The decision to de-reserve 180 items of small-scale industries would be detrimental to the rural and indigenous industries. this is against the commitment of the Common Minimum Programme.

There is no provision in the Budget regarding revival of public sector units and traditional industrial units and nothing has said regarding the revival of jute industry. Some support has been given to the sugar industry but no attention has been paid to the jute industry. One crore people in the eastern region depend on the jute industry. So, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to give his attention to the revival of the jute industry.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (Hanamkonda): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir.

As a first time MP elected on the aspirations of the backward Telangana, I, on behalf of myself and on behalf of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for devoting more than an hour of his Budget Speech to the components of the National Common Minimum Programme.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Would like to lay your speech on the Table?

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, I would like to speak on some points. On the other points, I would lay on the Table a written speech.

This Budget Speech, in character, justifies the mandate given by the people of this country to the United Progressive Alliance. This Budget reflects a remarkable social and rural sensitivity in its approach to the issues; and, of this, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Chairperson of the UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for providing the necessary directional inputs.

Coming to the specific proposals of this Budget, the increased allocation for education and the rural mission from Rs. 8,420 crore to Rs. 10,280 crore, increased allocation for the Integrated Child Development Services from Rs. 1,623 crore to Rs. 3,142 crore, the increased allocation for the mid-day meal scheme from Rs. 1,675 crore to Rs. 3,010 crore and the move to create a non-lapsable fund are equally praiseworthy. The Budget Speech was also path breaking in providing an exclusive statement on the schemes particularly meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Another praiseworthy initiative is the announcement of the new window of opportunity for students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for pursuing higher studies in institutes of excellence through the provision of a lot of scholarships but this scheme is to be implemented immediately.

The United Progressive Alliance has gained power at the Centre by aggressively articulating the failure of the previous Government, particularly in the agricultural sector and by raising the aspirations of the Indian farmer. For this, the UPA has to redeem its pledge and commitment to the Indian farmer. I would like to bring to your kind attention that the hon. Minister of Finance has himself admitted in a Press Conference at Hyderabad that only four crore farmers out of around 12 crore farmers in our country have access to institutional credit. This is a dismal and much less figure. I am very sorry to note that the hon. Minister of Finance has not given a serious reflection on this with any urgency to take bold initiatives.

Hence, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance to examine this subject and launch a "National Rural Credit Mission" to ensure rural credit to all the eligible farmers within next three years, as promised. Therefore, I once again humbly request the hon. Prime Minister, hon. Chairperson of the UPA, and hon. Minister of Finance to revisit this critical issue of Rural Credit. Hence, I would request, once again, the hon. Minister of Finance to give a serious thought on this issue.

Sir, because of paucity of time, I would just like to make one point here. I come from the backward region of Telangana and a backward district like Warangal. I welcome the initiatives of the hon. Minister of Finance on Backward Region Grant Fund for allocation of Rs. 5,000 crore. But, I have a doubt. My district has been earlier covered under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana which is being

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wound up. I would like to know whether my district is eligible for this Backward Region Grant Fund. It has to be clarified.

Lastly, coming from a rural constituency, it was a sweet music for me to hear the grand intention of *Bharat Nirman* with its six components relating to rural infrastructure. But I would request that one more component may be included, that is, *Bharat Nirman* Vision cannot be complete, unless land records in rural India are fully computerised by all the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Vinod Kumar, you have already taken six minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, with your permission, I would like to lay the remaining part of my speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, you may do so.

*SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: As a first time MP elected on the regional aspirations of Backward Telangana, on behalf of Telangana Rashtra Samithi, I convey my gratitude to Hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram Garu for devoting almost more than one hour of his Budget speech to the components of National Common Minimum Programme and to outline the Government's commitment to social sector development and rural India and agriculture. Such a Budget speech with inclusive agenda for development was long overdue and was not heard in this august House of Parliament aftermath of Economic Reforms. The Budget speech in character partly justifies the mandate given by the people of this country to the UPA Alliance.

I always hold that the Reforms initiated in our country since 1991 have been necessary keeping in view of the global trends, but this reform process needs to be continued with social and rural sensitivity to make it sustainable and equitable. On that score, this Budget reflected remarkable social and rural sensitivity in its approach to the issues and allocations. For this, I must congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singhji and the Chairperson of UPA Alliance, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji for providing necessary directional inputs in this regard.

Sir, coming to the specific proposals of the Budget, the increased allocations to health sector by Hon. Finance Minister under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) from Rs. 8,420 crore to Rs. 10,280 crore and to Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) from 1623 crore to Rs. 3,142 crore need to be applauded. Sir, similar effort by Hon. Finance Minister to increase Budget Allocation to Mid Day Meal Scheme from Rs. 1,675 crore to Rs. 3,010 crore and create a 'non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh' for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by increasing allocations to Rs. 7156 crore from Rs. 4,754 crore is also equally praiseworthy.

Equally commendable, Sir, is the increased allocations to Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission and Total Sanitation Campaign (TCS) which would positively enhance the quality and dignity of life in our villages.

This Budget was also path-breaking in providing an exclusive statement on the schemes for development of SCs and STs and the respective allocations. It also makes a commitment for inclusive economic growth by involving the SCs/STs in development process. I would request the Hon'ble Finance Minister that Government should release date State-wise and District-wise, with regard to funds utilisation and beneficiaries at half-yearly intervals so as to ensure that his inclusive process in indeed more broad-based.

Another praiseworthy initiative is the announcement of new window of opportunity to SC/ST students for prosecuting higher education in the Institutes of Excellence through provision of large scholarships. I would again request the Hon. Finance Minister to operationalise this Scheme during this academic year itself by giving wide publicity in each District Headquarters. I would also request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to examine the involvement of local Member of Parliament along with District Administration in the selection process of awarding these scholarships. Similarly, an half-yearly report on the progress of implementation of this Scholarship Scheme with District-wise beneficiaries may please be submitted to Parliament. I also commend similar procedure of selection, reporting and review for adoption in the proposed Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SC and ST students for pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. course in selected universities.

Sir, Indian agriculture and farmers are passing through the testing times and Hon. Finance Minister too acknowledged this reality in the Budget speech. Sir, UPA alliance has gained the power at Centre by aggressively articulating the failures of the previous Government in rural and agriculture sector and by raising the aspirations

*Speech was laid on the Table.

of Indian farmers who constitute 65% of Indian population. Sir, time has now come to redeem our pledge and commitment to Indian farmers in a more demonstrative manner. In this context, I would like to bring to your kind attention, Sir, that the Finance Minister himself admitted in a Press Conference at Hyderabad that only four crores of farmers out of 11.55 crores of farmers in the country have access to institutionalised credit. Majority of them farmers in the country numbering around 9.27 crores are small and marginal farmers. This is dismal and unacceptable situation and calls for urgent measures/steps on 'war-footing' to provide institutionalised credit to these 11.55 crore farmers within a period of two to three years. But, Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister's initiatives and the performances figures with regard to provision of rural credit and indebtedness leave much to be desired Sir, there is no reflection of urgency and bold initiatives for rural credit in this Budget, which itself outlined a new deal in many other sectors. The dependence of Finance Minister in capacity of NABARD and RBI for attainment of the rural credit targets as grass-root level is not adequate enough to bridge the gaps in rural credit expeditiously. The hon. Finance Minister mentioned about the acceptance of the recommendations and report of Task Force on Rural Co-operative Banking in principle and involving the State Governments in consultative process. This process of restructuring of Cooperatives has been hanging on fire for more than a decade and a lasting solution is still evading. Involving the State Governments for consultative process and restructuring these cooperatives would stretch beyond the term of this 14th Lok Sabha. The extension of credit to 58.5 lakh farmers in current year and the proposed target of 50 lakh new farmers in the next years are far below the potential rural credit gap to 7.55 crore farmers who are yet to be credit-linked. Therefore, Speaker, Sir, I would like to request Hon'ble Finance Minister to examine the launching a "National Rural Credit Mission" to ensure the rural credit to all eligible farmers within next three years. This missionary approach calls for total restructuring and gearing up of NABARD, Regional rural banks and rural branches of commercial banks which are in control of Central Government. Simultaneously, the Government may continue the efforts of restructuring the Co-operatives through involvement of State Governments. Otherwise, Speaker, Sir, the farming community would be unforgiving if UPA Alliance does not tackle this critical issue with all its energies and capabilities at its disposal. Therefore I once again humbly request the Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Chairperson of UPA and Hon. Finance Minister to revisit this critical issue of rural credit and indebtedness with utmost seriousness and concern. Speakers, Sir, similar urgency and seriousness need to be displayed in redesigning the existing Crop Insurance Scheme to make it more transparent and farmer friendly. The Hon. Finance Minister has proposed to extend the present form of Crop Insurance for one year. But, Speaker, Sir, the time is running out and the country's millions of farmers are eagerly awaiting a totally revamped and user friendly Crop Insurance Scheme. Therefore, Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw kind attention of the Finance Minister that these twin issues of Rural Credit Coverage to all eligible farmers and revamping of Crop Insurance Scheme are going to be the greatest challenge of UPA Alliance and I request Hon. Finance Minister to deal these two issues with same boldness and finesse he displayed in tackling the issue of economic growth and equity. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister needs to be complimented for making a bold announcement on Outcome v/s outlay debate. there are no two opinions, Sir, that delivery mechanism and performance of Government would have to be improved substantially to reach the Aam Admi. In this context, I would like to suggest to Finance Minister that, to start with, the district-wise and constituency-wise allocations of Budget outlay for various schemes of Government may please be provided to all Members of Parliament and may also be put on the website of the Government. This would not be asking too much, Sir, considering that we are expecting similar information flow and transparency from Panchayat Raj Institutions at grass-root level.

Now, coming to Part B of the Budget speech, Speaker, Sir, I and my party compliment the Finance Minister for his efforts towards rationalisation and simplification of direct tax regime for individual tax payers. I also compliment the Finance Minister for downward revision of customs duties on various items as this would lead to considerable reduction of prices and make these products affordable to Aam Admi.

I welcome the announcements with regard to constitution of Knowledge Commission, National Urban Renewal Mission, Creation of Regional Finance Centre at Mumbai. These are long awaited initiatives which deserve full justification.

Coming to the critical proposal of two anti-tax evasion measures, the logic of Hon. Finance Minister in shaping up these proposals in impeccable. But, Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind Hon. Finance Minister that his noble intentions about movement to Cheque economy are not supported by extant infrastructure relating to Cheque Clearing system in the hinterland of the country. There are many hundreds of emerging towns, where established

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clearing system is conspicuous by its absence. Under such circumstances of infrastructure deficit, imposing a tax on cash withdrawal of Rs. 10,000/- and above would pose serious and unavoidable hassles to farmers, small businesses, micro-credit players and marginal classes. These small towns do not have the luxury of credit card or debit card infrastructure. Therefore, I request the Finance Minister to remodel the proposal on the basis of availability of Cheque Clearing Infrastructure and fix separate limits for urban/metro and semi-urban/rural branches. The revised limits may be Rs. 50,000/-for rural and semi-urban branches where clearing system is absent and Rs. 20,000/- for metro/urban branches where Cheque clearing system is in vogue. Similarly, the rural branches should be totally exempt from the reporting requirements on TDS to avoid hardship to the small depositors.

To sum up, Speaker, Sir, the entire budges canvass was very wide and inclusive. There are many bold and path-breaking initiatives which are long overdue. The underlying philosophy of growth with equity and human face has been well articulated in many initiatives relating to social and rural sectors. My suggestion to Finance Minister would be to bring about more improvements in data profile on allocations with exclusive reference to district-wise and constituency-wise so that many new Members of Parliament would be in a position to play a constructive role in translating the outlays of Budget into outcomes in their home constituencies. Before I conclude, I would like to draw my attention to Hon. Finance Minister again about my suggestion of 'National Rural Credit Mission' and 'Urgent Revamping of Crop Insurance Scheme'.

I thank you, Speaker, Sir, for giving me and my party an opportunity to share our views and feedback on Budget 2005-06.

*SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (Ludhiana): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity. The Indian Government is going to implement VAT in India. The way VAT is being implemented, I think it will badly affect agriculture as well as industry. Sir, there are a lot of faults in VAT. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these faults and lacunae should be removed. If VAT is to be implemented, it should be implemented uniformly in all the States. Otherwise, in Punjab it will be implemented in one way, in Haryana in another way and in Himachal in yet another way. VAT should not be implemented by States in different ways. In 126 foreign countries, VAT has been implemented. But in all those countries, VAT was implemented in a uniform way and not in different and haphazard ways.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Dhillon, one minute! Can you speak in Hindi? You have not given notice to speak in Punjabi.

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: I will speak in Punjabi.

If VAT is to be implemented then all other similar taxes should be abolished.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will try to accommodate maximum Members under the rules.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should try to speak in Hindi, you have not given the notice.

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: I will speak in my state language only.

*[English]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Let him speak in Punjabi. It is more like Hindi. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON: If you have to implement VAT, then all such similar taxes like Sales Tax, Central Tax, Excise Tax, Octroi Tax, etc. should be abolished, as is the case in foreign countries. In India, lakhs of small-scale industries are there. And crores of people work in these small scale industries as workers. It will spell doom for small scale industry which will be destroyed. And crores of people who work there will become unemployed. So I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he will compensate the affected industries that will suffer due to implementation of VAT? I do not see any ray of hope for these industries if VAT is implemented in this way. I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister what he intends to do regarding the price rise that will result due to increase in tax on more than 1000 products from 8% to 12.5%? Common man will suffer due to the sky rocketing prices. So the Government should seriously reconsider the issue of implementation of VAT as agriculture and industry will suffer. Punjab is a border State. As Himachal Pradesh

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

and Jammu & Kashmir have been granted concession in taxes, similarly, Punjab should also be granted tax concessions. Punjab has suffered losses in the past. So, being a border State, it should be granted tax concessions.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Thank you, sir. I rise to recollect the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru while inaugurating the Nagarjunasagar Dam and the Bhakra Nangal Dam and the Hirakud Dam when he said that these are the modern temples of India. He never thought of building temples in Ayodhya, Mathura or Puri, He said 'these are the modern temples of India.' ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not disturb him.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: That is why, today, this UPA Government, through this Budget is talking about *Bharat Niraman*. *Bharat Nirman* does not mean that we are reconstructing India but we are trying to re-focus on what happened in the last six years, on the derailment and we are trying to bring back on the track and trying to re-focus on building India. That is why *Bharat Nirman* is the need of the day. It is not only the need of today but it was the need of the past and it will be the need of the future. That is the reason why all of us need to focus on *Bharat Nirman* and concentrate on the essential things for the common man like drinking water, water for irrigation, education for all, health to all and gainful employment to one and all. We need to focus on these things.

Our hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram has said that 'we need to take a leaf out of China'. Yes, it is not only a leaf, but I will tell you, we need to take a seed out of China and we have to plant it here so that seed can generate many such leaves which would transform India. The reason why I am telling you that we should take a leaf out of China is, it is not just to please our Left Parties but I am talking about the facts.

In the last six years if you look at the growth, you see what happened in the steel sector, cement sector, power sector and in exports and imports. I will give you some brief statistics. In the last six years, China has added more than 150 million tonnes of steel; we have added only seven million tonnes of steel—that too not because of new industries but because of enhancement of the old capacity. When it comes to cement, China has added 280 million tonnes and India has added only 23 million tonnes. When it comes to power, we had added 52 billion units of power whereas China has added 555 billion units of power. When it comes to exports, their exports are more than 593 billion dollars and our exports are only 64 billion dollars. If you take the imports, China's imports are 561 billion dollars and our imports are 78 billion dollars.

There is a need for tremendous growth and all-round development. That is why Madam Gandhi has said that we need to look at it not only with a human face but with a human heart. We need to look at it and work with a human heart. Our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has said that it is not the promises but it is the governance that matters. Our hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram has said that it is not the outlay but the outcome that matters.

I will tell you one thing in cricketing terms. This Government, through this Budget, has in single stroke scored a sixer, six runs, which is the maximum that anybody can score.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (Malegaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the budget presented for the year 2005-06.

Kumbh Mela is organised in Nasik and Triambakeshwar in Maharashtra after every twelve years. At least 2 crore devotees from all over the country as well as from abroad went there for having a bath in Ganga which made it very crowded there and 29 devotees lost their lives in the stampede. Devotees always go there in lakhs. I want to say that there is need for providing some facilities to Nasik and Triambakeshwar in the budget. There are two very big rivers Naar and Paar in my constituency Malegaon. Only a survey about irrigation has been conducted there during the last thirty years. If this project is completed then the farmers of my constituency and nearby districts like Dhulia, Ahmednagar, Nandurbar will get water for farming and drinking. That is why there is need for providing some allocations for Naar-Paar project in the budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Why you left out Sai Baba of Shirdi?

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: It is nearby from there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary. Let him conclude as time is short.

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Hon. Finance Minister had told in his budget speech that a person withdrawing Rs. 10,000 from bank in a single transaction will have to pay a tax of Rs. 10 Before independence, there were many farmers in the rural areas, particularly in the tribal areas, who had money which they used to keep inside the ground. Even today, that practice is prevalent in the countryside, especially in the tribal areas. We have the urban banks and the cooperative banks. The person taking a loan from these banks, takes a long time in returning the loan to the bank. That is why the urban and cooperative banks are getting closed. No action is taken against them in this regard but the person who has to withdraw his money from the bank, will have to pay tax—I oppose this proposal.

I want to say many more things but I will lay rest of my speech on the Table.

*Sir, I oppose the budget for the year 2005-06 presented by the hon. Finance Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to attract the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. Kumbh Mela is organised in Nasik and Triambakeshwar in Maharashtra after every 12 years. Last year, two crore devotees from India and abroad visited the Nasik and Triambakeshwar Kumbh Mela for taking holy dip/bath in Ganga. Even without Kumbh Mela a large crowd or devotees goes there regularly for taking a dip in the Ganga. No provision has been made in the budget for it.

There are two rivers Naar and Paar in my constituency Malegaon and the people of the area have been demanding for constructing of bridges on these rivers for the last 25 years but no attention has been paid by the Government. A survey of Paar river only has been conducted. The irrigation and drinking water problem of districts Nasik, Nagar and Dhulia can be solved if the scheme for bridges on Naar-Paar rivers is completed. These bridges are within the border of Maharashtra and Gujarat, therefore, there is need for making a provision for construction of these bridges in the budget.

A new tax of 0.1% has been imposed on withdrawal of Rs. 10,000 from bank. People in the rural areas used to keep their money inside the ground before independence. If people will need to pay tax on withdrawing money from bank, then they will desist from keeping their money in the banks and will start using the old method. The tax imposed on the withdrawal of money from bank is unjustified. It needs to be removed.

For the first time since independence, the former Prime Minister of the National Democratic Alliance, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had started the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana through which many villages got connected to roads. Still, there are tribal and hilly villages in Maharashtra where one has to walk 40-50 kms. on foot. Since the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act in 1980, permission from Central Government has to be sought for constructing roads, dams, erection of electric poles in the forest area. The irrigation tanks which were started before 1980, are lying incomplete even after spending crores of rupees due to the Forest Act. It is requested that a provision should be made in the budget by relaxing the forest rules under the Conservation Act.

Funds of Rs. two crores under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) scheme is too small an amount to ensure development of as many as 6 legislative assemblies constituting a parliamentary constituency. Therefore, a provision needs to be made in the Budget for increasing the MPLAD fund to Rs. 5 crores.

*[English]*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. This is a full-fledged Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister after the UPA has come into power. In the last Lok Sabha elections held last year, people have voted decisively against the communal-led politics of BJP and for banks-led new economic policies.

Sir, because of the shortage of time, I will restrict myself to seven points. The first point is regarding minority development. The Finance Minister has spoken in his speech that the equity of National Minority Development Finance Corporation will be increased, but if you look at the budgetary documents, especially page 41 of Expenditure Budget of 2005-06, you will find that for 2005-06, the budget allocation for NMDFC is only Rs. 19.60 crore. Last year it was Rs. 71 crore. The Finance Minister in his speech has said that the equity will be increased. But it has not been increased; it has been decreased.

I would like to point out, through you, to the Government that in the year 2003-04, the budget given to Maulana Azad Education Foundation by the NDA Government was Rs. 13 crore. Last year, it was decreased to one crore of rupees and for this year, 2005-06, not a single paisa has been allocated.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

The people are asking us about the allocations that have been made for the development of minorities. Sir, I would request the Government, through you, to increase the Budget of the National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC). Its corpus fund should be increased to, at least, Rs. 1,000 crore. Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) was established exclusively for the educational development of the minorities. Its corpus fund should also be increased to Rs. 200 crore.

Thirdly, last year this Government had collected nearly Rs. 4,000 crore on account of a 2 per cent cess on education. At least, 2 per cent of Rs. 4,000 crore so collected should be given for the educational development of the minorities. The Finance Minister has stated that all the coaching centres will be given the work to teach the minorities to come forward for the competitive examinations. I welcome this step, but unless and until the Government comes forward and strengthens the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, and the National Minorities Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC), the education upliftment, and economic upliftment cannot take place. I was hearing the speech made by one hon. Member of the BJP, and he stated that it is minority appeasement, namely, allowing the minority students to go, and take coaching in specialised coaching centres. How can it be minority appeasement? The 2001 census is very clear that literacy level of muslims in India is 59.6 per cent. It is less than the national average.

The work participation of muslims is the lowest in the whole country. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister not to give us the fish, but to teach us how to catch the fish. This is the demand of the minorities, and smart words will not help us in this regard.

This Government has got a mandate, and the mandate was against communal politics. The mandate was against all that had happened in the last six years. There was no development of the minorities during that period. I hope that the Finance Minister will respond to our request.

Fourthly, the hon. Finance Minister has talked about a growth of 67 per cent. In the last five years, after reading the *Economic Survey*, we have observed that there is only a jobless growth. The projection of a higher economic growth will not solve the unemployment problem, which is prevailing in our country. I would request that this jobless growth should end, and more focus should be given towards having an economic growth, which will provide equitable growth and employment opportunities.

Our party opposes FDI in mining. Joan Robinson, one of the renowned economists of the last century has stated that it is jeopardous to allow FDI in mining. It is because it is our natural resource, and they are exhaustible. I would request that the Government should utilise the intellectually skilled labour, and create a surplus. This surplus can be utilised to create the infrastructure.

Fifthly, our party opposes the pension fund. We cannot give pension fund to any foreign operator. It has two purposes. All sectors in the economy have their own macro-economic factors. The pension funds are still being utilised in the social sectors. We are also opposing the pension fund because the common man is politically empowered, and not legally empowered in it. I am saying this because in our legal system a common man has to spend lakhs of rupees to get justice. Hence, the claim of the Finance Minister that the pension fund will legally help them in untenable. I would also like to say that more stress should be given on higher education.

Lastly, he has stressed in his Budget speech about a famous tamil poem, and he has also recited it. I would say that wealth should be created for the minorities also. Please do not fall in the trap of these people and talk about minority appeasement. It in to a question of minority appeasement. We want justice to be done to us.

Sir, I am concluding my speech. I have been sitting here for the last seven hours. Smaller parties should also get some chance to speak in the House.

*[Translation]*

Please allow me to speak for one minute more. I am listening to all the hon. Members since yesterday. My dear friend has said that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shunning attack on anyone, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am telling the truth. You may verify it from the records. If I am wrong, you please correct it. Here, I want to say that an impression is being created and minorities are being projected as third world *vis-a-vis* the majority. If you fall in that trap, who stands to lose? Who is likely to suffer the political loss? You will have to work openly and fearlessly for the minorities because it is our country. This country does not belong to Hindus only. This country

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

belongs to every Hindustani who follows its secularism. You will have to work in this way. I hope that our Government will do a better work. The people who are harassed and enraged by them during the last six years will get social justice.

*SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in favour of the Budget. Through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister because this Budget is village oriented and is in the interest of the poor people. It will help in the all-round development of the country. It will generate employment opportunities. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that even after the lapse of 57 years after the Independence, villages have not been developed as much as they should have been. I want that 80 per cent funds should be spent on the development of villages and the funds should be spent on the development of backward castes, minorities and the Scheduled Castes as per their population. The exploitation of sugarcane farmers should be stopped. Providing of jobs to the unemployed persons should be ensured. Floods hit my parliamentary constituency every year. Roads have been damaged, poor people's houses have collapsed there and 'India mark' hand pumps are needed for drinking water. Therefore, please do construct ten thousand Indira Awas houses and make available five thousand India mark hand pumps. Please get constructed the 'Buddha Paripath' (Buddha circuit). A concrete bridge should be constructed on the river 'Ghaghra'. Electrification work should be carried out in the whole area. Damaged roads should be repaired/ constructed.

*SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Sir, the general budget presented by hon. Finance Minister in the UPA Government is far away from the reality. I would say that in this game of maintaining balance between the financial situation of the Government and expectations of the common man, he has shown wizardry of hand tricks and financial engineering. Grand declarations have been made in the budget but it is not mentioned where the funds for them will come from? He has mentioned 25 per cent rise in the revenue collections but from the experience of the previous budget, it seems that the Government will have to backtrack on many declarations, like they did it in the budget for the year 2004-2005 when seeing no expected rise in the revenue of the Government, they curtailed the planned expenditure of Rs. 145590 crore by 5.5 per cent and reduced it to Rs. 137387 crore. I am feeling the same thing this time too.

There is a lot of trumpeting in most of the declarations by the hon. Finance Minister and in grand declarations like about Grameen Rozgar Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman Yojana, investment in agriculture sector etc. the budget provisions are not in accordance with the scope of that programme. Expenditure for the Rozgar Guarantee Scheme in the current financial year has been estimated to be Rs. 4020 crore but provision made for the next financial year is Rs. 5400 crore and 50 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains, while looking at the enormity of the programme and if it is implemented truly, then a minimum of Rs. 20000 crore will be needed for it. The following targets have been fixed in the budget till 2009 under the Bharat Nirman Yojana: Irrigation facility in additional one crore hectare land, 60 lakh houses for the poor, electricity connection for 1.2 lakh villages and connecting 66822 villages with telephone. Targets are good but there is no provision for funds in the budget, *i.e.* it is merely a flight of fancy.

The budget has failed in reducing the fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit in the year 2005-2006 will be Rs. 1,51,144 crore, *i.e.* 4.3 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. It is a little lower than 4.5 per cent in the year 2004-2005. The main reason for this is tremendous revenue deficit which will be 2.7 per cent of the GDP and Rs. 95,312 crore in rupee terms. The main reason for this failure is the fall in the total revenue receipts.

Plan outlay has been increased in this budget. The Central plan outlay which was Rs. 82,529 crore for 2004-05 has now been raised to Rs. 1,10,385 crore for 2005-06. But this has been done at the cost of the States. The Central plan assistance for the State which was Rs. 54,858 crore in 2004-05 has been reduced to Rs. 33,112 crore, *i.e.* a major cut of Rs. 21,746 crore has been effected.

The economically weaker States will have to bear the brunt of this year's burden. The Finance Commission has recommended that the State Governments should borrow from the market to meet their budget requirements instead of taking loans from the Central Government at higher rates. But it would benefit only the States which are financially stronger like Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka etc. But nobody can say the extent to which the financially weaker States like Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh would be able to mobilise resources through loans. As per the advice of the hon. Finance Minister the States will have to mobilise a total sum of Rs. 29003 crore through loans from the market

*Speech was laid on the Table.

to meet the expenditure on their respective schemes. Thus the hon. Chidambaramji has succeeded in effecting a major cut in the Central assistance for the schemes of the States and Union Territories in this budget.

There is no mention about providing special package to newly created States in this year's budget. Chhattisgarh is new State but Bihar was given a package. No special announcement has been made by the Central Government for Chhattisgarh where 44 per cent of population belongs to SCs/STs.

This budget is not providing any relief to farmers either. The amount of loan for them has been increased threefold but no announcement has been made to provide any package or concession to the farmers who have fallen in a debt trap for years together. The UPA Government has shown its anti-farmer face.

There is no mention in this budget above providing loans to farmers at lower rates whereas the Chhattisgarh Government has taken a decision to provide loans to farmers at the rate of 9 per cent from this year. The hon. Finance Minister should sanction a scheme for providing agriculture loans to farmers all over the country at lower rates so that farmers could earn benefits minus the cost they incur on their produce.

Therefore, this budget presented by the UPA Government is anti-poor and anti farmers and hon. Chidambaram has played the trick by juggling with figures. I, therefore, oppose this budget terming it as anti-people.

*[English]*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget for 2005-06.

I am sorry to say that I am not at all happy with this Budget because of the allocations that have been made with respect to tribal areas and the North-Eastern Region. The North-Eastern Region is very much backward, neglected and discriminated against over the last half-a-century since Independence in all the spheres of developmental activities. In the North-Eastern Region, our Bodoland Territory is one of the most backward, most neglected and discriminated Territories. This Territory was carved out in the form of an Autonomous Territorial District by the name 'Bodoland Territorial Areas District' under the provisions of Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Very unfortunately, the Government of India has not done anything tangible for the development of Bodoland Area and other tribal-dominated areas across the country over the past half a century period since Independence.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India that a good number of special packages for development should be announced for the Bodoland Territory in particular and for the tribal-dominated areas across the country in general. For the development and welfare of the tribal people of the whole country, a minimum of Rs. 1,00,000 (one lakh crore) should be earmarked in the Central Budget, and a minimum of Rs. 10,000 crore should be earmarked for the development and welfare of the North-Eastern Region. For the development and welfare of the Bodoland Territory, a minimum of Rs. 1,000 crore should be earmarked and should be sanctioned by the Government of India to create necessary infrastructure. We do not have any roads; we do not have any hospitals; we do not have any drinking water facilities; and there is no electricity. You always talk about this project and that project at the national level, but your tall claims are meaningless for the Bodoland people.

I, therefore, would like to request the Government of India to take appropriate steps to set up the following educational institutions of serious public importance:

- A Bodoland Central University should be set up at Kokrajhar, which is the Headquarters of the Bodoland Territorial Areas District (BTAD);
- A Central Agricultural University at Kokrajhar;
- A Medical College at Kokrajhar;
- An Engineering College at Kokrajhar; and
- An AIIMS-model Institute at Kokrajhar.

The Government of India has announced a policy to set up six AIIMS-model institutes. Why should they be set up only in six States, and why should such an Institute not be set up in Bodoland and in other tribal-dominated areas too? Why are you so miser? I strongly demand that some more AIIMS-model Institutes should be set up within tribal-dominated areas also, especially in the Bodoland area.

The proposed Indian Institute of Management meant for the North-Eastern Region should be set up at Kokrajhar within the Bodoland Territory.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

A National Institute of Information Technology also should be set up within the Bodoland area.

A National Institute of Textiles and Fashion Technology also should be set up within the Bodoland Territory because hundred per cent Bodoland girls and tribal women are born experts in weaving. Our Territory is very much rich in a special variety of silk known as 'Indi Silk-(Wild Silk).

A minimum of five numbers of polytechnic institutes should be set up within the BTAD;

A minimum of five numbers of ITIs should be set up within the BTAD;

A National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management also should be set up within the BTAD.

A regional Institute of Bio-Technology should be set up at Kokrajhar;

Doordarshan Kendra at Kokrajhar should be upgraded into a full-fledged Doordarshan Kendra. There is a Low Power Transmitter Centre at Kikrajhar;

Why that Transmitter Centre should be of low power? Why cannot that be upgraded to a fulfledged transmitter just like the ones in Guwahati and Delhi? This is very unfortunate!

Over the last more than 57 years since Independence, you could not do anything for the development and welfare of the tribal people. What kind of justice have you accorded to the tribal people in this country? This is the land of Mahatma Gandhi. You always claim that you all are Gandhians. What kind of allegiance do you owe to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi when you deny due justice to the tribal people of this great country whose forefathers had made a lot of sacrifice during the freedom struggle. This is very unfortunate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I would like to Table the remaining portion of my speech.

In the end, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to look at the endless tragedies and miseries being suffered and faced by several millions of the tribal people of this country.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: What you have done for us. Efforts are also made to efface our identity...*(Interruptions)* We have not got enough autonomy even after independence. Different definitions are given for different terrorists. The Central Government provides Rs. 10,000 crore each year. Despite that the people there are not happy...*(Interruptions)*. This is quite a huge amount for them.

*[English]*

*Respected Sir, May I humbly request you kindly to allow me to place the following portion of my speech on the Table of the House?

Through your honour, I would like the Union Finance Minister, in particular, and the present UPA Government at the Centre, as a whole, to take appropriate steps and prompt action to fulfil my long-pending genuine demands as mentioned thereunder:

(a) A Special Central Assistance to tune of minimum Rs. 10,000 (Ten thousand) crore per annum should be allocated for the welfare and development of the Scheduled Tribes across the country.

(2) A Special Central Assistance to the tune of minimum Rs. 1000 crore per annum should be allocated in favour of the 'Bodoland Territorial Areas District'—a constitutionally recognised backward tribal area created in 2003 in Assam under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution as a measure to help re-compensate the loss suffered by the concerned, neglected and deprived Bodo-Tribal Territory over the last half a century period since Independence considering the degree of the backwardness of the Bodoland Territory.

(3) The Central Fund under the provision of Article 275 (1) should be given directly to all the Autonomous District Councils created under the provision of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India with special mention to 'Bodoland Territorial Areas District' in Assam.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

(4) Out of the total Central Fund allocated for special economic development projects and programmes for North-Eastern Region under NLCPR, minimum of Rs. 500 crore per annum should be provided to the Bodoland Territorial Areas District considering the degree of the backwardness of the concerned Bodo-Tribal Area in question.

(5) Out of the total Central Fund allocated for NEC, every year, minimum of Rs. 100 crore should be given to the 'Bodoland Territorial Areas District' in Assam to help create necessary infrastructure in the overall discriminated, deprived and neglected Bodoland Territory, although the same area is having Indo-Bhutan-international and Assam-West Bengal-interstate boundary attachment.

(6) The NLCPR fund for N.E. Region should be enhanced up to Rs. 10,000 crore per annum excluding the State Plan and other Central/ national projects/programmes.

(7) The NEC fund also should be enhanced up to Rs. 1000 crore per annum.

(8) The Government of India should take appropriate action to declare 'Bodoland Territory' as a 'Special Economic Zone' (SEZ) in North-Eastern Region.

(9) A few selective agro and forest based industries should be established within the 'Bodoland Territory'.

(10) Some food-processing industries also should be set up within the 'Bodoland Territory'.

(11) The Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station (BTPS), Salakati in Kokrajhar, a 240 Megawatt power generating project should be revived, renovated and re-run in the overall interest of the down-trodden Bodo-Tribal people of the Bodoland Territory.

(12) The Centre should take appropriate steps for massive rural electrification in the Bodoland Territory, in particular, and also in all the Tribal dominated villages across the country as a whole.

(13) The Centre should take appropriate steps to construct, at least, 1000 kilometres of National Highways within the Bodoland Territory, and the East-West Route Corridor should be implemented through the original alignment as proposed by the NHAI, that is, through NH-31 (c) and NH-31 along the Bengal *Duars* and the Bodoland-Assam *Duars*.

(14) The Centre should take appropriate steps to help complete the half-done 'Champamati and Dhanshri (Major river irrigation projects) under AIBP in BTAD by giving one-time adequate amount of Central Fund to the concerned languishing irrigation projects. Besides, the Union should take necessary action to create the necessary infrastructure on irrigation sector in BTAD area.

(15) All villages should be connected with improved roads under the PMGSY in the BTAD area.

(16) The Centre also should take necessary steps to provide telcom service facilities to all the people within the Bodoland Territory by creating the required infrastructure.

(17) The Union Government of India should also take up some multi-purpose hydro-electric power and irrigation projects on some viable rivers originated in Bhutan and China and which flow through the Bodoland Territory.

(18) The Union Government should take necessary steps to set up one domestic Airport at Kokrajhar and one International Airport within Bodoland Territory adjacent to Galegkhu in Bhutan Kingdom.

(19) The Government of India should take appropriate action plans to address the perennial flood and river-erosion problems in the Bodoland Territory.

(20) An Indo-China Trade Route/Road in Bhutan along our Bodoland Territory should be constructed.

Necessity of setting up some specific educational institutions of serious public importance:

The following educational institutions should be set up by the Union Government of India in order to help boost the education sector within the Bodoland Territory also:

(i) A Bodoland Central University at Kokrajhar.

(ii) A Central Agriculture University at Kokrajhar.

(iii) A Medical College at Kokrajhar.

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwishmutthiary]

(iv) An engineering college at Kokrajhar.

(v) An AIIMS Model Institute at Kokrajhar.

(vi) The Proposed IIM recently announced for NE Region should be set up at Kokrajhar.

(vii) A National Institute of Information Technology at Kokrajhar.

(viii) A National Institute of Textiles and Fashion Technology at Kokrajhar.

(ix) Minimum five numbers of polytechnic institutes within BTAD.

(x) Minimum five numbers of ITIs within BTAD.

(xi) A National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management at Kokrajhar.

(xii) A Regional Institute of Bio-Technology at Kokrajhar.

(xiii) The Doordarshan Kendra, Kokrajhar should be upgraded to a full-fledged Doordarshan Kendra.

(xiv) AIR Station, Kokrajhar also should be upgraded to a full-fledged AIR Station.

(xv) A National Tribal Cultural Heritage Museum should be set up at Kokrajhar.

(xvi) Tourism should be developed in BTAD.

(xvii) Minimum of 100 hospitals with modern amenities and facilities should be set up within BTAD.

(xviii) Special central assistance for the development of Bodo language and Bodo-medium education.

The Government of India should allocate minimum of Rs. 500 crore per annum for the development of Bodo language and Bodo-medium education.

There should be a special package for the Tribal people across the country as mentioned here under:

(i) A Central University for the Tribals should be set up in New Delhi.

(ii) A Central Medical University for Tribal people should be set up in New Delhi.

(iii) A National Institute of Information Technology for Tribal people in New Delhi.

(iv) A National Institute of Free-Examination Coaching of Tribal candidates in New Delhi.

(v) As many as 10 Nos. of Tribal Guest House Complexes in New Delhi.

(vi) As many as 10 Nos. of Tribal hostels should be set up in New Delhi.

(vii) A National Level Tribal Development Authority should be set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister himself comprising all the ST MPs as Members.

(viii) Total allocation under Special Central Assistance for the welfare and development of the Tribal people across the country should be enhanced up to Rs. 1,00,000 crore per annum.

(ix) A National Museum for Tribal Cultural Heritage should be set up in New Delhi.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: While expressing my gratitude, I conclude my speech incomplete.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded now.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

*SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Sir, this Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister is quite misleading and anti people. As per his past practice he has juggled with the figures and tried to mislead the entire country through this budget.

Sir, our country is pre-dominantly an agriculture county where more than seventy per cent population lives in villages and without improving their living standard one cannot imagine development of this country. There is no concrete action plan in this budget for the farmers, agriculture labourers who are exploited and contribute a majority in this country. The much publicised development schemes of this Government were either launched or proposed by the NDA Government headed by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The UPA Government is trying to take the credit of these schemes by changing only their nomenclature.

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*Not recorded.

Sir, there is an urgent need to improve the living standard of the rural people. Awareness should be created among them. Education should be provided to all sections of people. Education should be made accessible to all the children of the country. There should be a clear-cut policy in this regard. It was the dream of the former hon. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to educate each and every child of the country and the NDA had a clear cut policy in this regard. but there is no such mention in this Budget.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in several countries of the world, the respective Government take direct responsibility of people's health care and they discharge their responsibility sincerely. Sir, lakhs of children get inflicted with serious diseases every year due to malnutrition. These diseases are not fatal in their initial stage but due to lack of treatment, these turn to be fatal and claim the life of children. The UPA Government which follows the policy of the Congress repeatedly claims to be the benefactor of the poor, farmers and down-trodden but this Budget shows the true colour of this Government as they have made no provision in this Budget to provide relief to the people of these section in the field of health care.

Today, AIDS is spread as an epidemic in this country this is what the Government is propagating and media causing an adverse impact on the people inflicted with this disease.

They are scared and demoralised and embracing death untimely. While what was required to be is that a fearless atmosphere to live neat and clean should have been provided to the people suffering from AIDS. They should have been encouraged to live such a life as everybody knows that there is no treatment for AIDS patients in the world and in such a situation, AIDS patients are not getting any relief even after incurring thousands crores rupees. Moral support to the AIDS patients is the biggest need for them. For this, such camps or programmes should be organised where they could get the spiritual and moral support as well as the homely atmosphere so that they could have attraction towards life and lead fearless life but this budget does not reflect any such scheme.

Sir, I want to say that in our agriculture dominated country the giggest problem in the country is to provide the farmers with proper market for their produce so that they are not exploited, the children of the farmers do not migrate from villages and rather they take up agriculture as their profession. Agriculture should not be a compulsion, rather it should be respectable profession Agriculture should not be a compulsion, rather it should e respectable profession. There is a need to formulate an action plan on agriculture and agriculture products for the purpose but I am sorry to say that the UPA Government has not made any such provision in this budget.

Globalisation has worst affected the indigenous small scale and cottage industries in the country. The present budget will harm the indigenous industries the most. Employment opportunities in any country are generated through the production based policies but in this budget, we have paved the way for reducing the country to become a trading centre instead of developing as a production based country, where any country could sell its produce at cheaper rates which have a direct impact on indigenous industries.

Sir, where on the one hand, there is absolute absence of any clear cut development oriented policy for rural areas, on the other hand, there is no concrete proposal in this Budget for relieving the urban areas from the filth and providing employment opportunities and if it is not so, let the hon. Minister of Finance tell the number of youths likely to be provided guaranteed employment in the country during this year in real sense of the words. Mere the unrealistic statistics cannot help achieve the development. But, the hon. Minister of Finance has made such an attempt as he believes that a common man cannot understand these statistics and because the Congress party has ruled the country for 47 years by creating such confusion.

Our country abounds in natural resources. National resources and natural beauty put this country on top of the world but quite amazingly I am compelled to say that while a number of countries of the world are generating income in thousands of crores of rupees as well as the employment opportunities in the tourism sector, our country, in the absence of a concrete policy, is simply earning only partially in comparison to the rest of the world. Sir, this sector needs special attention. I would like to draw your attention towards my parliamentary constituency Jabalpur, Katni which is not only rich in natural beauty with sites like Bhedaghat, Chaunsath Yogini, Veerangana Rani Durgawati's Samadhi Sthala, 110 hectares of forest reserve Dumna, places like Karondi, the geographical centre of the whole country, it is the biggest producers of green peas besides Singhara, tomatoes and other agro products in the whose country. Jabalpur district is the largest producer of green peas in the country. Katni area abounds in lime-stone and marble

[Shri Rakesh Singh]

mines, and several other minerals are also in plenty there, but this area is still untouched by the Central policies. Through you, I put a demand that a special scheme should be formulated for this area so that not only this area but the entire State could see the light of development through that scheme. Jabalpur is surrounded by places like Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Pench National Park, Panchmarhi, Amarkantak, Chitrakoot, Maihar and Kundalpur. People from all over the world like to visit these places but lack of infrastructure is the greatest hurdle.

Sir, once again, oppcsing this Budget and with the hope that you would include my suggestions in the budget, I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

*SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Sir, the UPA Government came to power and the visionary leadership of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi under her dynamic leadership, the UPA parties and leaders jointly prepared a National Common Minimum Programme for the country as a governing instrument, which is one of the unique feature and will convert India as the tallest nation economically, socially & politically in the years to come.

Mr. Chidambaram has endeavoured a very thoughtful and meaningful Budget to implement the Common Minimum Programme and its aims and goals to the expected level and satisfaction. The Common Minimum Programme mandated the Government to maintain a growth rate of 7 per cent to 8 per cent a year, to promote investment, to create employment opportunities, accelerate fiscal consolidation and also greater emphasis on agriculture joined with manufacturing and infrastructure. The CMP also provides for greater access to education and healthcare. To support the weaker sections in the rural areas, the Finance Minister has promised one hundred days of employment to one person in each family is a milestone arrangement to help the poor. In the first year of UPA Government, in spite of a number of financial development activities taking place, the inflation rate went up to 8.7 per cent in the month of August, 2004. But, due to the best management efforts and effective control mechanism, Mr. Chidambaram was able to bring down the inflation rate to a level of 5.0 per cent, which is one per cent lower than what it was in the same week of previous year. He restored the confidence among investors in the year 2004-05. Today, the non-food credit has gone up by 22.2 per cent.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

In the last year's Budget, both the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, earmarked agricultural credit to the tune of Rs. 1,05,000 crore. This was one of the greatest helps to the agrarian community, who is longing for better facilities and loans availability.

Education loans were given to the students by the Finance Minister. I personally thank him for having agreed to my suggestions that the students from poor community all over the country should get education loans. The Finance Minister's announcement, as also the implementation, of this noble cause of giving loans to thousands and millions of needy young boys and girls throughout the country is a welcome step. This will go a long way in promoting higher standard of educational facilities, particularly to the weaker sections of our society. The families and the students are blessing our Hon. Finance Minister for this humane approach.

I also thank and appreciate that the plan allocations for the economic year 2005-06 at Rs. 18337 crore for education, Rs. 19334 crore for rural development, fertilizer subsidies to the tune of Rs. 6254 crore and health sector has got Rs. 10280 crore. These are the main component of our community which has got a fair deal from the Finance Minister.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has got a boost by providing Rs. 5400 crore as a cash component and Rs. 50 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains worth another Rs. 5600 crore. Thus a total sum of Rs. 1100 crore for this scheme is one of the very important areas where crore of unemployed people will get security and employment in an honourable livelihood.

The Mid-day Meal Scheme was introduced in the State of Tamil Nadu by the late lamented leader Karma Veerar Kamraj, the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and today the Government of India provide Rs. 3010 crore of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to enhance the health of eleven crore young children. I request the hon. Finance Minister to make it compulsory for all the schools all over the country and allocate more funds for this noble scheme. Thereby, we can create confidence and health creation to our children.

The Congress Government, led by Shri Narasimha Rao during 1991-96 period, initiated Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission. For this programme, the Finance Minister has provided an outlay of Rs. 4750 crore for 2005-06 to cover the uncovered 31355 rural habitations. I also urge the Finance Minister to announce a time-bound

programme, *i.e.*, within five years, by 2009, all habitations—rural and urban—in our country must get potable drinking water by all means.

The NCMP has clearly demarcated that our Government will provide the necessary funds to promote the SC, ST, OBC and minority communities in all totality, *i.e.*, socially, economically and educationally forward movement for this weaker section. I am thankful to the Finance Minister that this year he has done his best by providing Rs. 6253 crore for only SC and ST development schemes and programmes. This is very much welcome and I urge him to earmark more funds for SC/ST communities.

But, to my surprise, the Finance Minister has forgotten the promise made to the OBCs by the NCMP, *i.e.*, there is no allocation whatsoever to this 60 per cent population of our country, which is not only the weakest among the weaker sections in all terms *i.e.*, socially, educationally and economically.

There is no separate Ministry for the OBCs. There is no Standing Committee in Parliament to care to cater to the needs of these millions of backward-class people in our country. I urge upon the Finance Minister, at least in its reply to the Budget debate, to announce a substantial allocation to the backward class community for their development in this year itself.

The minorities of our society are always getting due consideration and encouragement by all means for the betterment by our UPA Government, for which I am thankful to the UPA leadership.

His Excellency, the President of India, in his Address to the Parliament outlined a vision for Bharat Nirman under the dynamic leadership of UPA Government. Our goals are to bring additional one crore hectares under assured irrigation, to connect all the villages that have a population of one thousand and in hilly and tribal areas five hundred with roads. Sixty lakhs additional houses for the poor drinking water to the remaining 74,000 habitations. 1,25,000 villages to get electricity and also 2.3 crore household electricity connection. 66,800 villages are to be connected by telephones. These are the main objects of Bharat Nirman Programme. This will be completed by the year 2009. This is one of the very important milestone achievements. If we do this, and I hope that our Government will be able to achieve, it will bring laurels to the community.

The farm insurance programme is one of the important components of the Budget. I appeal the Finance Minister that an individual farmer, who is affected by plague, natural calamity or drought, be given full advantage of insurance cover so that affected agricultural people are able to refurbish their livelihood in an honourable way. Micro Finance Programme through self-help groups is also laudable. Finance Minister's proposal to enhance the target for credit linking in 2005-06 to the tune of 2.5 lakh shgs. is the commitment from the bottom of his heart. I welcome this initiative. Both women and men must join in this endeavour to promote for betterment.

Employment generation through various means is very much needed to solve unemployment problem in this country. One area where we can create more employment schemes next to agriculture textiles. In the agrarian sector—we can create agri-business programmes through agro-based industries, such as food processing etc. Also the Government's programme of investing to the tune of Rs. 33,000 crore is a welcome feature in textile industry.

The other employment protection is the Khadi and village industry, which has the maximum possible avenues in creating new jobs to the rural community. Our Government is alive of this situation and my request to the Finance Minister is to increase the Budget allocation for this sector especially.

The other area of concern is SSI sector. Today, majority of SSI units are closed in the country due to want of funds. Upgradation could not be completed and they could not compete with the international competition. The liberalisation has brought many good things to the country and, at the same time, there is the other side effect of losing our traditionally small industrial ventures to lose its place. Hence, I appeal to the Finance Minister that special care is taken to help the SSI sector by infusing the necessary funds, also the technological back-up, so that hundreds of new units and employment generation is created in the rural areas. The minimum limit of one crore to three crore and subsidy from 15 per cent to 25 per cent is a must. I hope you will help this sector.

Now, I come to the banking sector. Sir, in your Budget, you have mentioned that the top-most bank of our country, *i.e.*, the State Bank of India, ranks 82nd in terms of business in the international area. The banking sector is to be re-oriented to meet the challenges and needs of the common man. That is a humane face is the need of the hour. Our beloved leader, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, nationalised the banks to suit the needs of the

[Shri K.V. Thangkabalu]

common man, particularly the rural people. In spite of our best efforts, the banking people, at all levels, are still thinking that they are the masters and they do not think that they are serving the people. The attitude is negative and arrogant by all means. You have ordered that the agricultural community should get loans without any difficulty also the students. But, in real terms, we find the officers of the banking system are not implementing the way you want and the way the UPA leadership wants to help the poor people. I urge you to direct all the bankers—the public sector, rural banks and co-operatives—to meet the requirements as per the norms.

The banking system has to implement the rules prescribed by the RBI and the Government of India. But, they are not doing so and also there are a lot of complaints of mismanagement, misbehaviour and supporting only the rich. I personally can report you a number of instances where genuine people are not getting their due through the system. Your indulgence and order to set right the sector is very much urgent.

The centrally sponsored schemes are to be monitored by the respective MPs. The State Governments are misusing the funds, which are meant for this programme by selecting their own ways and means the beneficiaries. This should be stopped forthwith and the Members of Parliament should be empowered to select, administer and minitor the programmes by this way only the centrally sponsored schemes will have their total implementation.

You have increased the PF share from 8.5 per cent to 9.5 per cent thereby our commitment to the working class is honoured.

Sir, in my constituency, Selam Steel Plant, a public sector undertaking is there and it needs your blessing, your support by ordering all your department needs of coin making so that the coin blanking machine in Selam Steel Plant will have the benefit of full utility.

The Watershed Programme is one of the important areas and you are very considerate about developing water body in the country. I request your goodself to announce more amount for implementing the water bodies and develop new water management programme so that we can save, use and conserve water for the community.

The linking of rivers is one of the most urgent and important programme, which will help not only stopping the wastage but also improving our agriculture, drinking water utility and enhancing the food production for our own needs and also the exports. This gigantic programme needs your support and initiatives and I hope you will do good to this area also.

I personally congratulate to you for the bold steps you have taken to implement the CMP and enhance the prestige of the leadership of Smt. Sonia Gandhi and Dr. Manmohan Singh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, first of all you should go to your seat. if you have any difficulty in speaking from there, I can allow you to speak from here. If there is no difficulty, please go to your seat.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I thought it was by order of the hon. Speaker. It may go like this while you are here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The order of the hon. Speaker is final.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Minister of Finance has done a good job by presenting this budget. A test match lasts five days. We have won the five day election test match under the leadership of Soniaji. While presenting this budget, hon. Chidambaramji thought that he might not get a chance to win by scoring singles or twos, só he tried to present the budget by hitting fours and sixers and the result is that the budget of 2005-2006 is very good.

"2005-2006 ka Budget hai bahut hi achchha,
Saare desh ka khush hai naujvan aur bachcha-bachcha,
Arth mein Chidambaramjee nahin hai kachcha,
Dr. Manmohan Singh Pradhan Mantri hai Sachcha.
NDA ne six varsh mein kamaya hai bahut maal,
Aub UPA wale raj Karenge paanch sal,
Apne Chunav mein failaya tha satta ka krur jal,
Lekin Soniajee ne kiya NDA ka bura haal.
Aub hangama khada karana hi tumhara kaam hai,
Iske liye saare desh mein tumhara naam hai,
Hamare hi paas aub Seeta ka Ram hai,
Advani, Johsi, Uma ka Ayodhya mein kya kaam hai,
Hamare aangan mein tumahra kya kaam hai,
NDA ki janata mein aub Satta ke Shaam hai."

This Budget is a very good budget and it will do justice with our farmers and labourers. This budget is not good for those with black money but it is quite good for the common public. All of us have come here to support this budget—the dalits, the Muslims and various other castes—all will support the Budget. this budget will do justice with the poor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the question is to give justice to the society you hail from and hon. Chidambaramji has tried to give this justice through this budget. The Government which has taken over under the able leadership of hon. Soniaji is a good one. Hon. Laluji is sitting here, but I do not know where Paswanji has gone. Sharad Pawarji, the DMK people, the RPM and the CPM people all are here.

All the people support this Government and this Government will continue for five years, there is no need to worry. We have won the test match. Now one-day match will come, and at that time what would happen, I do not know.

"Sonia hari, magar Soniaji nahin harin,
Atalji, ab apki nahin ayegi bari,
Kyonki ab desh ki jag gayi hai nari,
Janta aayegi UPA mein sari,
Advaniji ki ab kaise ayegi bari."

Ono of our Ministers, who is a poetess, is sitting there, she also composes poems. She should come here, not sit there. This budget is to the tune of Rs. five lakh crore. People belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been allocated 16% and five and half percent respectively out of it.

If we have to eradicate poverty then there is a need to make a provision of Rs. 1 lakh 25 thousand crore for the development of STs and SCs. If poverty is to be removed more funds will have to be allocated for these people. The Planning Commission should consider this issue. I request Sonia Gandhiji to pay special attention towards STs, SCs and the minorities. We are in the treasury benches for ensuring their development. We should work for dispensing justice to the people belonging to backward class and make more provisions in the budget for this purpose.

Provisions have been made in the Budget for construction of roads. There is a need to provide Rs. one hundred crore for Baba Saheb Ambedkar Memorial. The work related to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Memorial is underway at Mumbai and Delhi, the Government of India should provide sufficient funds for this. Innovative schemes should be prepared for the poor. Banks do not provide loan to them. The banks should be taken to task. The Government should make arrangements to ensure that the banks provide more funds to the poor people. If poverty is to be eradicated then more and more funds should be provided. ...*(Interruptions)* There are many more issues ...*(Interruptions)*. The members of my party are the members of Legislative Assemblies of various States, but I am the lone person from my party to represent here ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the central budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance Shri P. Chidambaram on 28th February 2005 has touched the heart of India and provided momentum to the process of Bharat Nirman through reforms, rationalisation, fundamental changes and rural development. The Central budget is growth and employment oriented and based on bringing change in the lief of common man so that Indian economy could get more impetus and strength.

I congratulate the Union Minister of Finance for presenting a people friendly budget which gives special importance to major issues which are related to the people as well as the development and progress of the people. Unemployment is a major problem with which the young people of this country are grappling most. To resolve this problem, the Government of the United Progressive Alliance has presented such budget in which the new packages announced for agriculture, food processing, textile and information technology sector would help generate three crore employment opportunities in the next two years. For this I am grateful to him. I hope the provisions made in this budget would help make the future of our youths bright.

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*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

To ensure the speedy progress of farmer community, which forms a greater part of our population, additional encouragement has been given to agriculture, horticulture and food sector. With the provision of Rs. 630 crore for national horticulture mission in the budget, horticulture sector will get an impetus in the country and States like Himachal Pradesh which are known as fruits and vegetables producing States. For this, I am grateful to hon. Minister.

By providing Rs. 22,268 crore for elementary education and literacy, such emphasis has been given on these areas. The allocation of Rs. 7156 crore for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan will facilitate comprehensive extension of teaching facilities. Rajeev Gandhi National Fellowship has been started for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities and for this purpose universities have been identified in the country. I am grateful to you for this. Similarly a budget provision of Rs. 10,280 crore has been made for health services and for that too, I am grateful to hon. Minister of Finance. The steps taken by the Government for empowerment of the women should be welcomed. The Government has set target to provide irrigation facilities across one crore hectare area of land, construct 60 lakh housing units for the poor providing drinking water facility to 74 thousand habitations and facility to 1.25 lakh villages in order to achieve the target of 'Bharat Nirman'. Besides it, provisions have also been made for Construction of roads and funds has been provided in the budget for this purpose. I would like to request that my constituency is tribal one. Hon. Minister of Finance has fixed the criteria of 500 population. I demand that this should be reduced to 250 population so that tribal areas may be covered under this and such facilities could be provided to tribal areas also. I request that these norms be refixed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, concessions for north-east States and Jammu and Kashmir have been provided in the budget. I want that Himachal Pradesh also be added in this. You know that conditions are conducive for the construction of rail lines in Himachal Pradesh, which may help removing unemployment in the time to come. As the rate of literacy is higher in Himachal Pradesh as compared to North-East States, the problem of Unemployment is bigger in this State. I request that to deal with the problem of unemployment, there is a need for faster industrialization of this State. So I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Finance towards this. From tourism's point of view, Himachal Pradesh is an important state. If we want to promote tourism and attract tourists there, then there is a need to construct air-strips in this State. You know that Kullu-Manali is a tourist place, people want to go and enjoy there, but due to lack of a air-strip, foreign tourists cannot reach there. I request hon. Minister of Finance to make separate provisions in the budget for the construction of air-strips there, so as to attract foreign tourists in the State.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the House towards one more important point and would say that post offices and sub-post offices in Himachal Pradesh were getting NRC earlier, which was stopped during BJP rule. As a result the economic burden on the State Government has increased. The total amount of non returnable construction works out to Rs. 10-12 crore. I should be written off in lump sum. In addition to this, the BJP Government has left a loan of Rs. 15 thousand crore on the Public and for this Rs. 2 crore is being paid as interest. I request the Government to write off the unnecessary burden of Rs. 17 thousand crore on the poor people of Himachal Pradesh. I hope that the Government of India will help the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to hon. Prime Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji who have attached special importance to Himachal Pradesh and encouraged this State so much.

At last I would like to request you to pay special attention towards the loan amount of Rs. 17 thousand crore left on us by the previous Government and liberate us from this burden with these words, I thank you once again and conclude my speech.

*The tribal areas of the State remain connected by road for a small period of time and during winter season these areas are connected only by air. The State Government provides helicopter services for tribal and remote areas during winter season. But air services, being costly and solely alternative, is out of common men's reach. Keeping this in view, it is necessary to provide subsidy for the helicopter services in the State on the line of North-Eastern States. North-Eastern States, like Sikkim, have been brought under the subsidy scheme for helicopter services.

The geographical conditions of Himachal Pradesh and North-Eastern States are alike and hence, Himachal Pradesh should be brought under this scheme. I request hon. Minister of Finance to consider to provide the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

helicopter services for tribal and border districts of the State as a special case.

Special attention has been paid towards ambitious Rohtang tunnel construction project but expected progress has not been made in this regard. The construction of this tunnel will provide tele-communication facility to the district of Lahol-Spiti throughout the year. I demand to make sufficient allocation for this project which would bring sea change in the lives of the tribal people.

Market and industry has expressed faith on the proposals of Central budget. Budget proposals would give impetus to the economic growth of the country. The creation of backward area development fund will remove imbalances on the one hand and help in poverty alleviation on the other. We hope that we have reached the threshold of achieving millennium development targets for the golden future of the country.

Industry is the only ray of hope with the help of which we can deal with the burning problem of unemployment to some extent but due to pressure from the neighbouring States the Centre has the period of this industrial package restricted up to 2007. In the interest of the industrialisation of the State it is necessary to extend it up to 2013. Many industrialists have started rethinking to set up industries in Himachal Pradesh. Hence, I would like to request the Government to extend the period of industrial package up to 2013.

Himachal Pradesh is a peace loving States. There is vast potential for electricity generation there. There is cordial relation between the industrialists and the labourers so the Government should consider setting up electricity plants there.

From the point of view of natural beauty, Himachal occupies a special place and that is why it is also called Devbhumi. Air-strips should be constructed at Kangara, Kullu and Shimla. At present it is necessary to upgrade the airports of Shimla and Kullu so that tourism could get a fillip there. The number of tourists visiting there is less as adequate air services are not available for there.

Himachal Pradesh has immense forest wealth which has been preserved by the Congress Government of the State so far. Felling of trees is totally banned in the State which is adversely affected the income of the State. I request the Central Government to provide adequate grants to the State of Himachal Pradesh for its special efforts in the field of forest conservation, so that its economic condition remains strong.

The Kalka-Parwanu and Jogendra Nagar-Pathankot line be converted into broad gauge as it would save the time of the passengers, they would get more facilities as well. Besides, I would also like to request that the construction of Bhanupalli rail line for which survey has already been conducted be completed at the earliest.

*SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL (Kota): The UPA Government has enunciated three main objectives in its common minimum programme. These are to accelerate the pace of development, increase employment opportunities and continuance of the reforms programme. Hon. Finance Minister has also said the same thing. But this budget does not live up to these objectives. As regards acceleration of the pace of development, only 1.75 per cent increase has been effected in the original budget provision in this proposed budget as compared to the last year. The prevailing rate of inflation stands at 6 per cent. Thus, the expenditure is going to be less in the proposed budget as compared to the current financial year *i.e.* 2004-2005. The provision for plan expenditure is only Rs. 1,43,497 crore which amounts to 27 per cent of the entire budget whereas the same used to be between 32 to 25 per cent in the past several years. What is more concerning than this is that the expenditure in the revenue account under the non-plan expenditure never increased to this extent. It has gone up from Rs. 89,673 crore to Rs. 1,15,982 crore. Consequently, the expenditure in the capital account has come down to Rs. 27,515 crore from Rs. 47,714 crore. The reduction in the Plan expenditure as compared to last year and a huge reduction in the Capital expenditure under the same head are never effected in the history of free India. The capital expenditure always remained between 30 to 25 per cent in proportionate to non-plan expenditure. This has come down to 21 or 22 per cent in this budget which is only 5.6 per cent of the entire budget. Thus this budget is irrational and useless altogether from the view point of development.

As for increase in employment, nothing of that sort is seen in this budget. The Planning commission had set up a task fore two years back. The recommendations made by it, its report in this context are somewhat startling one of the findings of this task force is that if the present scenario of economic progress continues, there is no possibilities to generate new avenues of employment in the organised sector in the coming years. The second findings is that if the avenues of employment are to be increased investment needs to be increased in both the Government and private sectors. Agriculture accounts for 56 per cent in providing employment in the unorganised

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Raghuveer Singh Koshal]

sector and the small scale industries, cottage industries and tourism account for rest of the employment. The Central Government, State Government and corporate sector came under the organised sector and their contribution is only 8 per cent in which 69 per cent is in public sector whereas the corporate world provides only 2.4 per cent employment. And the number works out between 80 to 90 lakhs. These figures are mentioned in the economic survey of the Government. Thus all the possibilities of employment lie with the unorganised sector like agriculture, small scale industries, small trade and tourism. But there is no special provision in the budget for providing assistance to these industries. Economic reforms are pro-industrialists and pro-traders. the unorganised sector faces the brunt of Government's restrictions and corruption prevailing in its machinery. 118 items manufactured by the small industries have been reserved. Besides lowering the import duty will create more problems for the cottage and small scale industries. This is all being done for the benefit of capitalists and foreign companies. As for the agriculture, only 1.3 per cent of national income has been provided for it, whereas agriculture accounts for 25 per cent of the national income. The percentage of employment in agriculture sector is 56 and the percentage of population dependent on agriculture is 69. If we go through these figures there is 26 per cent investment in the entire economy. There should be an allocation of 6.5 per cent for agriculture sector in view of its contribution in the national income. Only 4.9 per cent is provided to agriculture out of plan expenditure. The agriculture sector which contributes 25 per cent in the national income and accounts for 56 per cent in terms of providing employment, has been grossly neglected. The Government has announced to double the loan amount for farmers but no arrangement has been made for safety of their crops. Only nominal assistance is provided to farmers in case their crops are damaged due to hail storm, cold wave, fire, flood etc. and that assistance is provided to the marginal farmers only. How a farmer can repay his loan in case his crop gets damaged. And if his land is auctioned, he is driven to commit suicide. The crop insurance scheme is also not in the interest of farmers. If more than 50 per cent of the crop of a tehsil is damaged only then the amount of insurance is given and this rarely happens when the crops of the entire tehsil gets damaged. Thus, the farmer does not get insurance amount. But the premium for insurance is deducted while granting loan from banks. Thus the agriculture scheme is beneficial only for the insurance companies, the farmer has not been benefited by it.

Therefore, this budget is neither development oriented nor employment oriented. The increase in growth rate and higher technical job less growth may increase national income but it is not going to benefit the common people. So, this budget is irrational and useless from all points of view.

*[English]*

*DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, at the very outset, let me congratulate and complement the hon. Finance Minister for this excellent Budget, which takes care of the needs of all sections of society. This pro-poor Budget is targeted to remove poverty and deals with one of the biggest problems of our country, that is, unemployment.

The National Rural Guarantee Scheme would prove a boon to the unskilled rural people. The new jobs are to be created by enhancing the irrigation facilities in agricultural sector. Investment in food processing industries, textile industries, IT sector and construction sector would create lakhs of new jobs in the years to come.

It is high time that we should devote our attention to rural healthcare. The launching of National Rural Health Mission is a welcome step. The poor health infrastructure in rural areas is a cause of concern. The sub-centres are unmanned. the public health centres does not have sufficient number of doctors and nurses. The community health centres do not have gynaecologists, paediatricians and anaesthetists. These health centres lack in equipment, that is, ex-ray machines, blood analysers and other investigating facilities. The budget for medicine has to be increased. Immunization and nutrition programme needs to be strengthened. We have to think a lot more about the population control programme. The time has come when young couple in rural India is trying to adopt contraceptives and other family planning methods. There is a great-unmet needs. Our healthcare delivery system has to be strengthened so that the maternal and infant mortality could be reduced. The general public, by and large, has appreciated the proposal of imposing cess on *tobacco, cigarettes* and *gutkas*. We must increase public awareness about the damage being caused by using these tobacco products. We have to put a ban on the advertisement of these items on TV and other media.

Enhancement the scope of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Integrated child Development Scheme, and Mid-Day Meal

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Programme are all targeted keeping in mind the upliftment of the poor brethren and sisters. In the next four years, the face of villages must change. The dream of *Bharat Nirman* must become a reality. This new deal to change the face of Rural India should not remain a slogan, but it should be reflected in action.

Today, the face of villages has become dirtier day by day. The village streets are full of mud. It does not mean that there is no drainage system. A large number of villages are not even remotely connected with roads. The telephone connectivity becomes a daydream in the desert and hilly areas of Rajasthan.

The previous National Democratic Alliance Government did not do anything for the rural areas. The targets envisaged in the *Bharat Nirman* have to be achieved by the UPA Government.

Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to my home State of Rajasthan. By all standards and parameters, Rajasthan is the most backward State in the country. Rajasthan is one of the largest States in the country. Most parts of Rajasthan are drought-prone areas. The drought situation becomes a synonymous for the Western Rajasthan. Nothing has been done to combat and check this menace of drought. A large number of people migrate from Western Rajasthan to Gujarat and other areas in search of jobs. It is a cattle-breeding area. It has also the grazing land and forestation. Rajasthan canal, which is our lifeline, needs to be completed as soon as possible. For this, adequate Budget allotments have to be made.

There is a large reserve of oil in the western part of Rajasthan. Barmer and Sanchore Basin have large reserves of oil, and they could probably change the future of poor Rajasthan. HPCL has proposed to set up an oil refinery in Rajasthan. Almost all the people of Rajasthan are disappointed by the attitude adopted by the hon. Petroleum Minister, because Rajasthan does not find any priority in his frame of mind.

Sir, I would like to request, through you, Sir, to consider installing an oil refinery in Rajasthan at the earliest. This project would open up new job opportunities for thousands of people of Rajasthan.

I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to consider giving special financial package to Rajasthan. I would like to request to make amendments in the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, on whose basis, the transfer of grants from Centre to States is done. In this existing formula, due weightage needs to be given to areas, as the cost of delivery of service is more due to large area and low density of population.

Sixty per cent Rajasthan is desert. Special weightage should be given to hilly areas. A large population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes residing in Rajasthan also needs special consideration.

In the end, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Finance Minister to my constituency Alwar. Though this year we were hoping for a good harvest of mustard and wheat, but the last week's hailstorm damaged the whole crop. I would like to request that a special team should be sent to this area and drought should be declared. Compensation should also be given to farmers. The relief works should also be started as early as possibly.

The industrial town Bhiwari needs special attention. The Malviya Industrial Area in Alwar was the vibrant and dynamic industrial area once upon a time. This area is lying dormant and quiet. Most of the factories in this area are closed. The whole area is deserted. The workers and labourers have become jobless in the past few years.

I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to constitute a special team or a task force to examine the causes of closure of industries in Malviya Industrial Area of Alwar. This team should suggest ways as to how the industries can be revived and restarted. We should also provide special incentives and tax benefits to industries in this area.

Although Alwar is a part of the National Capital Region Territory but so far it has not received any special financial assistance or any package from the hon. Urban Development Minister. We are paying higher prices of petrol and diesel, but we are not getting any benefit in the development of infrastructure, roads, industries, educational institutions and other civil amenities. It has the vast potential for starting the agro-based industries. I sincerely hope that the Central Government would do all possible efforts in this direction.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all eyes are on the budget presented in this House. Since the budget presented in this House reflects the financial health and the future plans for the economy of the country. But these things are missing in this year's budget. There is no scheme for the betterment

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

of the poor, workers, women and middle class families. This budget is inflationary and the middle class families will have to pay more tax. The UPA Government has failed in containing revenue deficit and fiscal deficit.

Hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about Bharat Nirman in his budget speech but he has failed to give a new direction to the country in this budget. But on the contrary, he has presented a populist budget to please all. For Bharat Nirman, it is necessary to provide employment to the unemployed, work should be done for the betterment of the farmers and women should be empowered. During the NDA regime, the poor, middle class and common people were free from any tension because the prices were stable and the inflation was under the control. But the UPA Government has failed to control the inflation. There is no limit of the price rise. And nobody knows when the price of any commodity would go up. By imposing a cess of 50 paise on diesel and petrol, the Government has picked a hole in the people's pocket. Besides, toll-tax has also been imposed after every hundred kilometer distance for the construction of the national highway which is wrong. That apart, small vehicles have also been covered under such taxation. The hon. Finance Minister should have imposed toll tax after every five hundred k.m. distance. Although the procedure for providing loans to farmers has been streamlined but there is no scheme as to how the farmers would repay the loans. So long as the farmers do not get the remunerative price for their crops and there is no scheme for the welfare of the farmers, the farmers would not become prosperous. It is because of this the farmers are getting disheartened and committing suicides. It appears that if our mindset does not change and the Government does not formulate any scheme for the well being and prosperity of the farmers, then the farmers would continue to commit suicides. The Budget does not speak of the measures the Government proposes to take to promote capital investment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the NDA Government had made efforts to connect all the cities from south to north and east to west with the metro cities under the Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. But, this present Government has made no provision therefor in its budget. Besides, there is no mention in it about the scheme for connecting rivers. AC,s have definitely been made cheaper in the budget but it has been done to pamper the rich, while most of the people sleep in the natural air. The common man of India, which lives in the countryside does not need an AC. Nothing has been given separately for these people in the budget.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unemployment has been increasing in the country today. The youth is full of dejection and frustration due to lack of employment. Declaration for providing more employment in the 2005-06 budget in the next five years has been made with much fanfare but targets have not been fixed for creation of jobs. Statements from high level were made in the budget about employment but what is needed is that concrete targets should be fixed in various areas for an integrated economy so that the route to achieve full employment can be determined. National Crop Insurance Scheme has been kept unchanged for the year 2005-06 while it is limited to papers only. There are many anomalies in the Crop Insurance Scheme which have not been removed. The assessment of damage under it. ...*(Interruptions)* should have been done at the level of Patwari or Halka, which has not been done and the farmers are not getting the benefits of the Crop Insurance Scheme.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Thus, talking about Bharat Nirman in the budget looks like a dream only. ...*(Interruptions)*

**18.00 hrs.**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Thus, on practical considerations, the talk of Bharat Nirman looks like a dream only.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wait.

There are six more Members to speak on this. If the House agrees, I may extend the time of the House till this business is over.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: It is, therefore, requested that hon. Finance Minister should correct his

speech and improve his budget further so that the poor people, the workers and the farmers in the country may get relief. The education should also be made cheaper and attention should be paid towards empowerment of women also. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ilyas Azmi. Please conclude within five minutes.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Why this time binding for me only?

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am saying this for all, not to you alone. Please do not be under the impression that I am saying this only to you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I rise neither to support the budget blindly nor to oppose it blindly.

There are many good things in the budget, which I welcome, like raising of limit for income tax which has been raised upto Rs. 1 lakh. There are many things which I would not like to discuss in detail as very short time has been given. I would like to say that many things are extremely wrong like two much obsession to implement VAT as if it is as much essential as Koran, Bible and Gita. I am entirely against it.

Secondly, from the President's Address to the hon. Finance Minister's speech, not a single word has been said about checking the corruption prevalent in the country while 50% money is going down the drain due to corruption. UPA should either, accept the corruption and recognise it or there should be atleast some comment or words against it. The budget has reversal heads in which funds the allocation of fund is tantamount to loot *e.g.* National Literacy Mission. I can say with challenge that not more than 5% of the funds are utilised for the intended purpose. Even after spending billions of rupees, ten adult persons can not be found in the whole country who might have become literate through National Literacy Mission. But, funds are being provided for it as if it is a shloka from Gita which can not be changed. In 1996-97 Devendra Prasad Yadav ji was the Food Minister and Chidambaram Saheb himself was the Finance Minister. A scheme for providing cheap foodgrain to the poor people was formulated at that time by putting in a lot of hard work. I know that Chidambaram Saheb did not want it and he knew it that this money will be swallowed by corruption. Today, funds under this scheme have been increased from Rs. 800 crore to Rs. 25-26 thousand crore. Each member sitting is aware that hardly Rs. 1000 crore might be reaching to the poor people and the rest of the money is pocketed by the unscrupulous persons, officers and go-between's brokers. Chidambaram Saheb will still have one lakh more cards made. He has supposed that the whole budget is meant for distribution among those corrupt elements and staff, the money meant for poor people is for distribution among them. If he wants to help the poor, then, I would like that he may think of devolving some method whereby money should be given directly to the people living below poverty line instead of in the shape of foodgrains or otherwise, so that the money does not go into the pockets of the corrupt officials. Corruption does not simply mean that the money is being diverted out some nouveau rich people come up in the villages who are Mafia, corrupt and tend to promote this kind of thinking. I would like to say if there is 22½% reservation is SGRY, then can any member tell that 22½% of SGRY money is spent separately on scheduled castes? All goes into Panchayats. I will not speak more. Certain schemes are very good where there is no corruption-such as Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. It is very beneficial for villages and poor people. Hon. Finance Minister finds it very difficult to increase the funds of such schemes but he is increasing the fund amount in schemes where the entire amount is being plundered.

This Government has come into power in the name of secularism, and by opposing communalism. They have handed over power in Bihar and Jharkhand to the NDA in the name of secularism. Speeches only are not going to bring secularism. As my friend Shri Owaisi said, you have not given anything to the Maulana Azad Foundation. Maulana Azad Foundation, under the Central Wakf Council, is the back-bone of the educational system for the minorities. Have you given anything to this foundation? You may say a million times that you are secular, but every one knows that Maulana Azad Foundation is related with educational institutes. When the NDA was in power, be it Shrimati Menaka Gandhi or Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, no one ever complained. Would you please tell us the number of meetings of Maulana Azad Foundation convened since the secular forces came into the power? How much amount has been given to the educational institutes belonging to the minorities? It seems that to give amount in this corpus is considered sinful. Not a single rupee was given to it last year and the earlier due amounts to Rs. thirty crore. Hon. Finance Minister has

[Shri Ilyas Azmi]

said that the Government will pay the interest. They will pay interest at the rate of four per cent. When their deposition in corpus is at eight per cent, they get the interest at the rate of nine per cent. He has promised to give the amount later. Probably he will give it after the end of the month of March. You can not become secular by shouting for secularism. You have fooled the people for a long period. You have gained a lot by garnering votes of minorities by spreading hatredness against communalism in the name of secularism. But now, our democracy has also completed sixty years. Even an illiterate person becomes intelligent in sixty years. You will not change yourself on my directions. This is your style since hundreds of years. I would like to say particularly to my brothers from the Congress Party that Mrs. Sonia Gandhi herself belongs to a minority community and if they believe in secularism then it should reflect in the functioning of their Government. Utterance only for secularism is not going to be beneficial.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, please conclude your speech.

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Sir, I am listening to the sound of the bells. I will conclude in one minute only. Lastly, I want to say only this much that please deposit Rs. one thousand crore in the corpus of the Maulana Azad Foundation. We will not ask for money from you after that. The people belonging to minority communities particularly the Muslims have lagged behind in the education. If you weep, do not shed crocodile tears. You state the reality. Rs. one thousand crore is not a large amount. You are squandering Rs. 25 thousand crore on officers in the name of giving low-priced foodgrains to the poor. If you grant Rs. one thousand crore, the people belonging to the minorities will find that change is really taking place. The people belonging to minority communities will find that certain secular people have come into power and they not only voice secularism but also have faith in it. With these words I conclude and would like that my brothers from the Congress Party pay attention to this couplet by a poet:

"Shouke safar men gard na inti udao ki
kanjil par jakar saans bhi lene muhal no".

*PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Sir, I want to lay my speech regarding Budget on the table of the House. Kindly accept it.

Sir, I would like to say to the honourable Finance Minister that it is not a balanced budget. The interest of the proletariat class of the country has not been looked after. Most of the country's population live in villages and towns. Basic problems faced by the rural public are roads, schools, electricity, water, drainage, veterinary dispensary and hospital, fertilizer, irrigation, diesel, pesticides, employment, etc. There has been no mention of any other rural connecting roads except the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Many villages do not fall under the periphery of this scheme on the basis of population or distance or because of being connected on any one side under the rules framed for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Does it mean that roads will not be constructed there? Arrangement should be made to connect these villages under some other scheme. Such scheme should be launched in the name of Dr. Lohia, Choudhary Charan Singh or Shri Jay Prakash Narayan. In addition to connect large villages, arrangement should also be made to connect smaller majars, thars and nagals.

Sir, the Union Government do not have any clear policy about the electricity. There is no electricity in lakhs of villages in Uttar Pradesh. It should be the responsibility of the Union Government to make available electricity to huts also. A law should be enacted and after making available the fund, complete electrification of each home, each settlement and each village should be carried out. The Union Government which is unable to provide even safe water to its public should not have moral right to remain in power for even a single day. Almost all the diseases occur due to contaminated water. If the people are unknown about the occurrence of diseased due to contaminated water, then why Bisleri and other drinking water brands are being produced at such a large scale. It should be the responsibility of the Government to ensure arrangement of safe water for all. Hon. Finance Minister should accept this responsibility and ensure safe potable water.

Sir, there should be a large irrigation project which will help in maximum irrigation of fields. No mention has been made of any such project. The canal system adopted during the British rule was a better one. There is a need to protect and promote that system. Unless every field gets water, farmers would not be able to progress. The way of prosperity of the country goes through fields and barns. Cities can not prosper without the villages. But villages can prosper without cities.

There is no industry in my Lok Sabha constituency, Jalesar. Employment should be provided to the unemployed of the rural areas by setting up industries

*Speech was laid on the Table.

there. So long as the unemployed of the country do not get employment, state of unrest will continue in the country. The previous NDA Government and present UPA Government talked about providing employment to the youth, but they did not prepare any time bound action plan. 'Jab tak insan bhukha rahega, dharti par tufan rahega.' An empty mind is a devils workshop and violent thoughts keep on coming in it. Mulayam Singh Government of Uttar Pradesh is trying to provide employment to the unemployed youth in every sector and has prepared a scheme to give them unemployment allowance till they are provided employment but no help is being provided by the Central Government. I would like to request you to give special package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Ignoring Uttar Pradesh means ignoring a large territory of the country. Today you should announce a special package for the all round development of Uttar Pradesh. So far as Housing is concerned reference of Indira Awas Yojana has been made but it is not enough. The amount under this Yojana should be increased. Even today a large section of our population is living under open sky. The Government should ensure proper arrangements for food, cloths and house. I may recall a poem of Shri Adam Gondavi that:

> "Sau mein sattar filhal jab nashad hai, dil par rakh kar hath yah kahiye desh kya azad hai?
>
> Kothiyon se mulk ke meaar se mat ankiye, adha Hindustan to footpath par abad hai"!

Sir, the budget reflects the thinking of hon. Minister of Finance and hon. Prime Minister. There is no mention of the soul of India in this budget and how can it be there as both of them have been educated abroad. There can be no similarity between the education of Harvard and the soil of villages. A person who studied in Harward can speak English fluently. The company or the behand of their wrist watch and pen reflects their mentality. How can the people using Charli Lovender and Maxfactor perfume understand the feeling of the aroma of the soil of villages. The fragrance of the imported perfumes has suppressed the aroma coming out of soil, fields and barns of the villages. In my view the people who study in Harward, may eat in five star hotels, sleep on dunlop pillows and in airconditions can study 'Pos ki Raat', the story written by Munshi Premchand, wrote this story and get 90 per cent marks, but they cannot understand the pain and plight of the Characters of this story. One, who has not passed a cold and chilling night of Pos in a pichhoura with an old caladar cannot understand that pain and plight.

Sir, children coming from rural areas have to endure the impact of dual education system. They have no future. At first level children are getting education in the colleges of Switzerland, Australia, New-Zeland and Europe. Though they are not learned, but they are getting employment. The second type of education is being dispensed through Sherwood School, Mayo College and Sindhiya School. The third type of education is being given in every big city through schools known as Peter, Charles, George School. The fourth type of education is being provided through private schools and the children of villages and sons of farmers are getting education in such schools. These are not good schools. Where there is school, there is no teacher. If teachers are available there is no black-board. If there is black-board, there is no chalk. Where there are chalks there are no jute mats to sit on. Unless there is a uniform education system, unless the child of the President and his peon gets education in the same school, India cannot become a great nation. Unless a level playing field is provided, it will cause problems. Hence everyone should get equal food and education as well as equal opportunities of employment.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Dharmendra Yadav to speak. You are a new comer even then I can give you only five minutes. Hon. Members, this is his maiden speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Mainpuri Constituency, I would like to thank you for providing opportunity to the junior most member like me to speak on such an important issue like budget after winning the Lok Sabha by-election from Mainpuri Constituency.

Sir, during freedom struggle the farmers, weavers, young students of the country fought a battle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi Ji. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Today through this House and through you. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance that whether the dreams of Gandhiji and young students have came true? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHI (Puri): Now duplicate Gandhis have surfaced, the real one has gone. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this is my maiden speech so I would like to request that I may please not be disturbed during my speech.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the farmers of this country, whose contribution in the field of employment is the most important have been continuously ignored by most of the governments since independence. Today why farmers are forced to commit suicide in India, why farmers are forced to call for mercy, the main reason for this is that the Governments till date have continuously neglected them. If there is anything to give to the farmers in the schemes of hon. Minister of Finance, that is loan and that is such a loan which has very high rate of interest. Will the farmers be able to repay that loan with paying higher cost of inputs and getting low price of their produce? No, then he will be forced to commit suicide. Be it Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra or Karnataka, farmers in every nook and corner of the country are on the verge of committing suicide.

Sir, in this country after agriculture, small and cottage industry generates largest avenues of employment. After independence Mahatma Gandhi Ji had connected the common men with CHARKHA by launching Khadi wearing movement and made charkha, a medium to provide employment in every village. Today where the charkha of Gandhiji has gone. Today we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Dandi March of Gandhiji. I would like to ask the Government as to where our small and cottage industries started by Gandhiji have gone whether they are safe? Today where is the silk industry of Banaras, where is the carpet industry of Bhadoi and where is the glass industry of Firozabad and where are other small industries of the country. People working in those industries have been rendered jobless and these industries are on the verge of closure. Crores of people connected with these industries are stably facing unemployment and starvation today. Through you, we would urge the hon. Finance Minister that cottage and small industries should be set up in the country and we hope that he will bring some big and important schemes for setting up these industries.

Sir, next to the farmers, it is none other than the young students who have suffered the most since independence. While starting the movement during the struggle for freedom, the youth had never imagined that even after 57 years of independence the students passing out of university will have to run from pillar to post in search of jobs. I think that atleast 80 to 90% youth coming out of universities and colleges are facing unemployment today. Through you, I would like to appeal to hon. Finance Minister to bring a special scheme for the employment of the youth of the country. I would like to tell that we are not against the liberalisation policy or any other scheme of the Government. Today, emerging out of the university and colleges after having participated in student and youth politics there, I am standing before you and take this opportunity to make an appeal to him that he should bring some scheme for the students coming out of universities so that they do not have to run from pillar to post for employment. I want to ask which schemes he has brought for them? While it is true that we should not appose the schemes brought by him as these schemes are approved by the highest institution of the country *i.e.* the Parliament. But, I would express concern on this occasion and ask as to what benefit has accrued from all the big talks made so far from 1991 in the name of liberalisation and how many Indian people have got employment in the period of liberlisation?

How many youths coming out of the universities, colleges and big institutes have got the employment? Through you, I want to apprise him of this concern and feeling of the youth towards this problem. I feel happy and welcome the promise made by the hon. Finance Minister to guarantee the Rashtriya Grameen Rozgar Yojana but at the same time I would also like to urge the hon. Finance Minister to tell us how the lot of the Indian youths can be improved by providing employment only for 100 days and what they will do on the rest of the days. Whether the Government will give guarantee about it? Hon. Minister, Sir, on this occasion we would like to assure you that all the problems of the country—whether of Assam or Kashmir or any State and all the movements which are on the rise anywhere in the world, from Naxalites to others, the biggest factor at the root of all of them is definitely the unemployment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding schemes from Golden Quadrilateral to other schemes for four laning for driving big Indian cars and for increasing the market of foreign cars, the funds allotted for them in the last financial year have not been spent fully, as hon. Suman ji has mentioned just now. An additional cess of 50 paise was imposed on farmers, which is the weakest section of India, to extend the scheme to them also. Hon. Minister, Sir, we appeal to you that you can increase the cess for extending the scheme further. The 4.08 crore in the employment exchanges in the country, is as per the economic survey presented by you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have come here from amongst the students and youth. It is our estimate that

nearly 10-12 crore youth in the country are on the verge of unemployment and more than half of them are educated having post-graduate and other higher degrees. The scheme implemented by you is definitely for the poor people of villages but I think the students and youth coming out of universities and colleges, will not be benefited by this scheme. Hon. Finance Minister, Sir, on this occasion today, I will appeal to you that continuous efforts are being made by the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide employment to youths and success has been achieved in it to a large extent but there are some limits of U.P. Government and of other State Governments too. The hon. Chief Minister of U.P. has appealed to the hon. Prime Minister for some assistance from the Union Government for giving of unemployment allowance to youths in U.P. We hope that the hon. Finance Minister will definitely oblige the youths of Uttar Pradesh by giving some consideration to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we feel happy that the hon. Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore for making the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore world class. I welcome and congratulate him for this step and also appeal that he will take care of other regions in the country beside Bangalore. With this hope and belief, I also thank the House for cooperating and motivating me so much in my maiden speech. Through my speech, we appeal to you to provide an opportunity for a special discussion on the concerns and problems of youths after the passing of the budget because the biggest and most important problem of India is that of unemployed youths.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hope that cooperation and support from all of will remain with your junior most MP. I support the budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister with the hope that he will take full care of the youths.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mani Charenamei—not present.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 2005-06. At the very outset, I would like to congratulate the Minister for touching every aspect of the National Common Minimum Programme in his Budget speech. He had spent most of the time and space in his Budget speech towards the agriculture sector. Very rightly so because agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Nevertheless, I am constrained to point out certain glaring omissions in the Budget speech as far as the agriculture sector of our economy is concerned. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 5,14,344 crore, the allotment for agriculture sector is only Rs. 6,949 crore, which translates to 1.25 per cent of the total outlay. I think this kind of omissions and glaring disregard occurs mainly because the Finance Minister has failed to consult the farmers and farmers' organisations before preparing the Budget. Every year, before preparing the Budget, Finance Ministers usually make very exhaustive consultations with Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of Indian Industry, trade unions and various other stakeholders of the country. But unfortunately this year, as far as I know, the hon. Finance Minister has failed to consult the farmers or the farmers' organisations regarding the problems faced by this sector. I hope that at least from next year onwards, the hon. Finance Minister will give a thought to this suggestion.

There are certain other glaring omissions in the Budget. Even though the hon. Minister has touched in his speech various aspects of agricultural development of this country, two very vital aspects, which will cater to the development of agriculture in the rural sector, are missing. One is organic farming and the other is development of bio-gas plants. Organic farming is the need of the present and the future. We have to give enough thought and support to this aspect. We do not even have a certifying agency of international standards in our country. There is only one certifying agency and that is situated in Kerala. But their certification has to be re-certified by a foreign agency for the products is certifies to be accepted in the international market. The Government should give proper thought to this.

Coming to big-gas, this is the answer to our rural energy needs. For cooking and lighting, it is going to be the cheapest energy. We were constructing almost one lakh to one and half lakhs of bio-gas plants. But the next year's target is only 12,000 plants. This particular project has to be entrusted to the Ministry of Agriculture. But this is being looked after by the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources. Unfortunately, the previous Government had totally neglected this very vital sector. I request the hon. Finance Minister to give more allotment for encouragement of bio-gas and bio-gas plants. ...*(Interruptions)* I have just taken two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken five minutes. I am looking at the clock.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I am the last Member.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there are three more hon. Members to speak.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, there has been a mention about National Rural Employment Programme. This Programme has to be linked with skill development. There is a mention about the skill development in the Budget speech. It has to be linked with this particular Programme.

The Finance Minister has very generously mentioned about the plantation sector. The plantation sector is also facing a severe crisis for the last three or four years. Over a lakh of plantation workers are out of job throughout the country. In my constituency, Udukki district of Kerala, eighteen plantations have been closed. More than thirty thousand workers are jobless for the past three years. More rejuvenation and re-plantation is not going to solve the problem. The hon. Finance Minister should look at the human problem. Rejuvenating and replanting tea bushes or coffee plants by itself is not going to solve the problem of the plantation sector.

We have to open the plantations. We have to give work to the plantation labours. The State itself cannot do that. There has to be liberal Central assistance. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will take a liberal approach to this very vexing problem.

There has been mention about creating a knowledge centre and the National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research. These are very welcome steps. When we think of the knowledge centre in every village, we have to think of one thing. The Dr. Swaminathan Committee mentioned about establishing virtual universities, linking all the villages through satellites, using the Doordarshan and the local channels to disseminate knowledge in the agricultural sector for the benefit of the rural farmers.

There has been mention about the PURA—Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas—Scheme. This is very ambitious programme which has been mentioned in the President's Speech. This is the one programme which is always being talked about by the hon. Rashtrapathi ji. Providing Urban Amenities in rural Areas is his pet programme. The hon. Finance Minister says in his speech that there is going to be only a few pilot projects. Elaborate exercises have been carried out throughout the country connected with panchayats bordering municipalities. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to sanction all these projects that have been brought to the Central Rural Development Ministry in connection with the PURA Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Let me complete. I am not taking more time. There are so many other things. Since you are asking me to stop, I am constrained to stop it. I would request, once again, the hon. Finance Minister to think of writing off the interest and the penal interest on the agricultural loans up to Rs. 1 lakh. That has to be done to help the poor farmers who have been committing suicides in hundreds and thousands in this country for the last several years. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Sir, I defend the Union Budget for 2005-06 for its pragmatic and farsighted approach concerning the immediate needs and the future growth of our country. The Budget is a balanced one focusing its attention on the growth and social justice.

The transition of our country from a Developing State to a Developed State, as envisaged by 2010, is only possibly by converting our huge human resource into human capital. Keeping this in mind, the hon. Finance Minister has doubled the allocation for the education sector.

Last year, the allocation for the education sector was of the orders of Rs. 8,225 crore. This year, the hon. Finance Minister has increased it to Rs. 18,337 crore. His thrust in education in further envisaged, in his proposal, for enhancement of scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in selected institutions, and also in introduction of Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship Scheme for the Scheduled Caste students, who are doing M. Phil and Ph.D. The hon. Finance Minister has also allotted funds for upgrading Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore into a world-class University.

About 100 Industrial Training Institutions (ITIs) will be upgraded, out of which 67 will be linked with industries. All these attempts are aiming at the conversion of human resource into human capital.

The hon. Finance Minister has extended his helping hand to all segments of our society. The salaried class

*Speech was laid on the Table.

and senior citizens are happy for getting income tax relief. The business class is also happy for getting tax relief in certain sectors and various incentives for growth orientation.

The unique feature of the Budget is that, for the first time, it takes into consideration the gender equality. The hon. Finance Minister is trying to reduce the long-existing discrimination of status between men and women.

Eighty per cent of our population is rural. The hon. Finance Minister has made some provisions, which were long awaited, for their upliftment and development. For diversification of agriculture, a National Fund of Rs. 50 crore is earmarked to implement the recommendation of Task Force. Before 15 August, 2007, every village will be covered with a Knowledge Centre with the help of NABARD.

An amount of Rs. 11,000 crore have been allotted for the employment generation. One-Hundred-Fifty districts are to be covered under the Food for Work Programme, 60 lakh new houses are going to be constructed, 74,000 villages will be supplied with potable drinking water, 125,000 villages are going to be electrified and 16,822 villages will get the telephone facilities. As per the existing population norms, more than 1.88 Anganwadi Centres are going to be set up, is a welcome step.

All villages, which are having a population of more than 1000 people, are to come within the roadmap of India. In the case of tribal areas, the population criterion is 500. Moreover, one crore hectare of land will come under the guaranteed irrigation system. There will be unprecedented investment in providing these benefits in rural area which is no doubt a bold step to convert the rural area into a growth engine. The economy will be dynamic only when the purchasing power of the rural population is increased. These steps will reduce unemployment directly and indirectly, and generate income in the rural sector.

Sir, we are in Assam suffering from the problem of financing education. Thousands of schools and colleges, where teachers are rendering honorary service for a long time, could not be taken over due to shortage of funds. There is unrest among the teachers' community as a whole. I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to make special provision so that our State Government can take over some schools and colleges, which were recognised long back but could not be taken over due to paucity of funds.

Since there is provision for drinking water, rural electrification, housing and connectivity of villages, we see a ray of hope for our people staying in rural areas. I would like to hon. Finance Minister to look into the problems, which we are facing in the bordering districts and allot adequate funds so that the basic problems of the rural people could be alleviated.

We have our heritage in agriculture and tea industry. We want these two sectors should be developed at par with other parts of the country. The imbalance of development should be reduced.

We are joyful that provisions are made in the Budget for Barak and Brahmaputra Rivers for protecting us from the devastating floods. We are also happy for declaring the long pending Lumbding-Badarpur Railway section along with Silchar-Tupul and Kumarghat-Agartala as national projects, and also for the specific provisions made for national highway developments in the North-Eastern States. We will be more happy on completion of the projects.

Revival of waterways or carrying goods for Kolkata is a long-standing demand of the people of South Assam. This will also help Tripura and Manipur. I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to consider our demand for reviving waterways from Barak-Kushiaqra to the Hoogly River in Kolkata through Bangladesh.

Sir, my constituency covers two revenue Districts—Karimganj, Hailakandi, and part of Cachar District, which is a very backward area in the State. More than half of the boundary of my constituency is with Bangladesh. I hope that the districts of my constituency are included in the list of backward districts for which special provision of Rs. 500 crore are made. If it is not included, then, I would like to request you to kindly include all the three districts, that is, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar for special grants under the provision for backward region.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): The general Budget for the year 2005-06 is an anti-farmer and anti-public budget. Agriculture, small-scale industry and unorganized sector have not been paid sufficient attention in the budget. It will benefit urban high income group only. It does not have any thing for the labour class. This budget would increase the prices. Salaried employees will have to pay more tax now. The inflation

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary]

will increase owing to imposition of cess on diesel and petrol. VAT should be implemented equally after consultation with all the States. It is ridiculous to relate grant of special package to Bihar with the Finance Commission. A special package should have been ensured for it, Rs. 180 crore have been given jointly for flood control and management in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and North-eastern States which is quite insufficient. On one hand, since the beginning the Government has been talking of it encourage health sector and on the other hand the fund arranged for the health sector is less-than the requirement. In view of increasing number of patients in Central Government's hospitals located in Delhi, the amount allocated is quite insufficient. Particularly, the condition of Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, the only hospital in Delhi for providing medical facility to children, is very miserable. In that situation, increasing the budget of this hospital from Rs. 17.25 crore to Rs. 18.07 crore is a very small increase.

The scheme of pre-examination coaching by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the candidates belonging to minority communities is a discriminatory one. It should be implemented for other communities, poor, backward and rural candidates also. It does not seem possible to provide full meal to any of the children at the rate of one rupee per child for foodgrains and its cooking under the mid-day meal scheme. Arrangement should be made for increasing the said foodgrain amount from one rupee to atleast Rs. Two. But the blackstop of the budget is the delisting of 108 items from the list of small-scale industries and out of these 30 items are related with textile products including hosiery. It is being claimed that the textile sector would create nearly 1.2 crore jobs in the next five years but the relevant question is that the budget will promote factory sector instead of decentralised sector. Exclusion of 30 items of textile sector from the reservation list will naturally result in promoting factory sector instead of decentralised sector based on handloom and powerloom. This back spot of the budget manifests that as a result denseness will increase in small sector units. All these steps are being taken in the name of increasing competition.

One more flaw in Shri Chidambaram's employment generation strategy is this that it claims to generate more employment opportunities in the next five years.

But it does not set any target for total employment generation during the year 2005-06. So, the question avoided by the Finance Minister is that what will be the effect of the special programme and projects of employment generation on the total employment? In this context, it will be appropriate to mention that the World Commission, set up by the World Labour Organisation in regard to social dimension of globalisation, had recommend that it will be a proof of wisdom on the part of the various countries to accept the employment targets as an organ of budget process and to analyse clearly its effect on employment in the policy decisions. Employment has been much talked about in the Budget but the need of the hour is to set solid targets for various sector as well as the whole economy so that the path of the achieving employment for all can be paved.

A bright aspect of the budget 2005-06 is that it pays attention to such economic programmes which are directed towards the weaker sections of the society. For example, it has made an allocation of Rs. 5400 crore for 'Food For Work' programme for the year 2005-06. In addition to this, there is a provision in the budget to make available 50 lakh Metric Tonne foodgrains for this programme. Its main aim is to convert it into National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. It aims to extend the Antyodaya Anna Yojana to nearly 2.5 crore families. Apart from this, the allocation for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been increased from Rs. 4752 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 7156 crore for 2005-06 *i.e.* an increase of more than 50 per cent. Drinking water will be made available to approximately 2.16 lakh families under the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission. A provision has been made in the budget 2005-06 for a huge amount of Rs. 14739 crore for women and child welfare. In addition, there is a provision of Rs. 6253 crore for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Following targets under Bharat Nirman have been set in the budget for the period upto the year 2009—Providing irrigation facility for one crore hectare additional land, 60 lakh houses for the poor people, making available electricity to 1.2 lakh villages resulting in 2.3 crore electricity connection and connecting 66822 villages by telephone. But even after setting this target for the rural India, the budget does not mention the quantum of amount needed to be invested to achieve the said targets. It has been left unclear. Inspite of that, the Finance Minister should be given credit that he has drawn attention towards the rural development.

It would be interesting to analyse the black spots in the budget. First of all, the budget has failed to reduce the fiscal deficit. On the basis of the indications, the

fiscal deficit is estimated to be Rs. 1,57,144 crore for the year 2005-06 *i.e.* 4.3 per cent of the gross domestic product. It is slightly lower than 4.5 per cent of the G.D.P. for the year 2004-05. It's main reason is the huge revenue deficit which is likely to be Rs. 95,312 crore or 2.7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. It is at the same level which existed in 2004-05. The main reason for its failure is the shortfall in the total tax revenue receipts. Modified estimates indicate the revenue receipt to be Rs. 3,06,021 crore against the total revenue receipt of Rs. 3,17,733 crore during 2004-05 *i.e.* a shortage of Rs. 11,712 crore. There have been indications of a serious shortage in receipts of union excise duty and corporation tax. Even then, there is in estimated increase of nearly 21 per cent in the total tax revenue in the budget 2005-06. Despite that, the corporation tax has been decreased from 35 per cent to 30 percent alongwith a cess of 10 per cent has been imposed. The Finance Minister hopes that it will help in revenue receipt of Rs. 1,10,573 crore in 2005-06 while it is estimated to be Rs. 83,000 crore only during the year 2004-05 *i.e.* there will be an increase of 32.2 per cent in it. It is beyond understanding why the Finance Minister is so much optimistic when there was a shortage of Rs. 5436 crore under this head during 2004-05. Similarly, there is an estimate of 20.6 per cent increase in the revenue from Union excise duty during the year 2005-06. Another black spot of the budget is to decrease the planned expenditure, which was Rs. 84529 crore during the year 2004-05, has been decreased to Rs. 40385 crore in 2005-06 but it has been done at the cost of states meaning a cut of Rs. 44,144 crore under the Central Assistance Scheme 2005-06. It is also to be noticed that receipt from the internal and external budgetary resources of the public enterprises has been estimated to be Rs. 1,00,858 crore in 2004-05. It is to seen in the background of this hard fact that there was a shortage of Rs. 7545 crore as against the estimate under this head during the year 2004-05. On one hand, the Government wants to bring down its share to 51 per cent and on the other it hopes to collect additional revenue of Rs. 32,564 crore under the said head. There is contradiction in the Government policy. Apart from it, the receipt of the budgetary resources from the public sector has been over estimated.

One more black spot of the budget is the increasing burden of interest which will rise from Rs. 1,22,905 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 1,33,945 crore in 2005-06 *i.e.* an increase of Rs. 11040 crore. In the backdrop of declining interest rates in the country, the increasing burden of interest clearly states that as a result of increasing fiscal deficit, market loan is being used more and more to bridge this gap. It is 38 per cent of the total revenue receipts which is at a very high level that needs to be brought down.

In addition, there are two more taxes which, according to the Finance Minister, are aimed at checking black money transactions. This first one is the proposal to impose a tax of 0.1 per cent on cash withdrawals, including fixed deposits, drafts and checks also of more than Rs. 10,000 from banks. As far as cash withdrawal tax is concerned, it has been opposed by the people in power as well as the opposition but the important question is that how can an insignificant tax of 0.1 per cent limit the transaction of black money? The Ministry of Finance has reasoned that it will help in locating black money income on which income-tax or corporation tax evasion takes place. But it can also be achieved by making mention PAN compulsory on every cash withdrawal. Secondly, this target can also be achieved by computerisation of banking processes without imposing this tax. If the Government would have been serious, it would have analysed the cash withdrawals that took place during the year 2003-04 and would have estimated the likely revenue receipt on account of this tax. Nothing like this appears in the budget-documents. As known, a large number of cash transactions take place without any cash withdrawal from banks. For example, a part of property transactions is paid through cash withdrawal from bank but the main part of the transaction is paid in cash (currency notes). The real problem is that the black money originates because of Minister alliance among agencies, businessmen and government officials.

As conclusion, it can be said that it is not Shri P. Chidambaram's budget because on one hand it tries to satisfy the demands of leftists as they are supporting the UPA Government and on the other it tries to satisfy capitalist lobbies which have been pressurising to reduce union excise duties and corporation tax. This budget is a balanced process between both of them. Corporation sector praised the Finance Minister because corporation tax as well as union excise duty were reduced by him. The middle class also felt that the Finance Minister has given them relief by increasing the income-tax exemption limit. The proposal of deducting saving upto Rs. one lakh directly from the taxable income has given them more relief. The Finance Minister has been suitably titled with infatuating capitalists for satisfying leftists and market lobbies in an impressive manner. Therefore, the leftists have accepted these proposals by reluctantly observing a short comment on the budget proposals that Shri Chidambaram would have done more to fulfill our

[Shri Nikhil Kumar Choudhary]

demands. FICCI, ASSOCHAM and CII have falsely praised these proposals.

In his Budget speech, the Finance Minister has mentioned various policy related measures. But he has put under carpet the issue of privatisation and labour laws reforms. He also set various targets from disinvestment during 2005-06. The targets were different from said targets in earlier budgets. He committed the mistake of delisting 108 reserved items of small scale sector. But in comparison to the quantum of praise for the budget, there was no sharp reaction against it.

Remarkable white spot of the Budget is the change in attention of the Government towards more emphasis on employment, rural infrastructure and social sector. More financial allocations for these sectors indicate the change in preferences of the UPA Government.

But there are lots of black spots. Mentionable among those are revenue deficit and as a result failure in checking the fiscal deficit, extremely optimistic and unrealistic estimate in regard to different taxes resulting in over-estimation of revenue, tax crisis, failure to increase Gross National Product, reduction in capital expenditure, unrealistic estimate of internal and external budgetary resources from public enterprises, Government's inability to reduce the interest burden and the hollow measures of cash withdrawal tax to check use of black money. It is expected that the Finance Minister will pay attention to important issues for establishing fiscal equation in the Indian economy.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would request Shrimati K. Rani to speak for only two minutes.

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put forth my views on the General Budget for the year 2005-06.

Like the Budget of the last year, this Budget has also, to a great extent, proved to be a popular Budget brought by our prudent Finance Minister under the overall guidance of our charismatic leader Madam Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA, and under the leadership of the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are reading your speech. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: In this Budget, there has been a special focus on the social, economic and educational betterment of the minorities and the SC/ST communities. Numerous provisions have been made to provide better education to minorities such as the percentage of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya will be opened in predominantly minority districts or development blocks.

These are the most commendable aspects of this Budget. Besides this, a significant increase of Rs. 1335 crore has been made in the Budget allocation as compared to that in the last year for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme for school children.

The reputed private coaching institutions have been allowed to participate in various pre-examination coaching schemes already being run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the minority students. Similarly, in it, a new scheme has been formulated to provide better higher educational opportunities to the SC and ST students. A list of some reputed educational/vocational institutions will be prepared for this purpose in which much more increased scholarship will be given to the SC/ST students to pay the fee, meet the day to day educational expenditure and to purchase books and computer. This Budget provides for the launching of Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship for SC/ST students doing Ph.D. or M.Phil in some selected Universities. In Tamil Nadu, there are a large number of SC/ST students who are studying in professional colleges. They are not in a position to pay the fees on their own. So, they are approaching the nationalised banks to get loans. But the bank authorities are demanding security for the same. Even if they provide the necessary security, the bank officers are not treating them honourably and only 10 per cent of the students are getting loans. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to issue suitable instructions to all the bank authorities to sanction loans to SC/ST students pursuing higher education. If it is done, all the SC/ST students and their families would be highly grateful to the hon. Finance Minister.

It appears from the Budget that despite continuing its agenda of economic reforms, the Government has tried its level best to please the people of all the sections of the society.

In this Budget, the Finance Minister has shown greater concern for social sector by announcing a National Rural Health Mission, which aims at strengthening of primary health services based on the community

ownership. Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is also being launched to generate jobs in villages.

In this Budget, substantial tax relief has been given to the salaried class people. On a salary of Rs. 1.5 lakh, for instance, there is a saving of Rs. 8,000 as income tax has been brought down from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 5,000. For those who are self-employed, income tax saving is greater as the tax is down from Rs. 19,000 to Rs. 5,000. In this Budget, the Finance Minister has sought to materialise the promises made to the common man in the UPA's Common Minimum Programme.

The main thrust of this Budget is on promoting investment, generating employment, accelerating fiscal consolidation and strengthening the infrastructure in rural as well as urban areas. It is a budget full of positives, and I hope it would be instrumental in higher economic growth, thereby increasing employment during the year 2005-06.

With these words, I support this Budget.

*SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, who under the able guidance of hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, has presented a people-friendly Budget for the year 2005-06.

Sir, I welcome the Budget and I heartily congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for rural-development-oriented proposal by him.

At the outset, the Budget is devoid of concrete measures to help reasonable and remunerative prices for farm produce. It lacks effective market regulation to ensure payment of those prices in order to check exploitation of the producers by the monopoly traders or industry and vested interests.

Hon. Finance Minister proposed to introduce a new scheme called "Development and Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure" and has not specified the supportive services offered.

Often learned economists and scientists talk about higher yields, productivity and quality etc. But, unfortunately they do not talk about the prices to be paid to farm produce. Producers should be enabled to secure fair prices. Farm workers should get fair wages, handloom weavers should get fair prices for their produce and rural artisans should get fair prices for their products. Unless these are ensured, the purchasing capacity of the rural people cannot be improved. It is highly improper to expect rural people to live on doles and subsidies. The money is to be pumped into the pockets of all kinds of producers in the rural sector. Only then their purchasing capacity will improve to procure the requirement of their choice, their self-respect and dignity would be preserved and their individuality in the society would be maintained.

Poverty alleviation is possible only with self-employment, self-earnings and self-purchasing to meet the needs of their families. The rural people should not be left to beg for credit from individuals or institutions. Rural people should be enabled to live and transact their operations with their own self-finance and to carry own their production activities with their own self-finance on the strength of their production, but not at the mercy of the private sector. The policy and programme of the State should aim to achieve the independent and self-respecting rural sector.

Even after 60 years of swaraj, we failed in all respects to adopt a realistic, complete, comprehensive and progressive policy for the improvement of the lot of the rural masses. It is indeed a pity. The flag of India should fly high in the high skies of globe taking advantage of enormous natural resources, healthy climatic conditions and toiling masses who believe in hard work, dharma and satyam with rich culture for the last 5,000 years.

The consistent agitation for parity prices for rural masses has become a cry of the father's of rural champions in India and is in the wilderness. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to consider steps to be taken to avoid exploitation of the rural sector by the organised and harsh traders. There must be a parity between the prices paid to the rural producers and retail prices to be paid by the consumers for the end products to minimise the exploitation and to ensure fair justice to the rural masses.

I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to consider the immediate need to take steps to bring about a comprehensive and radical reformation for regulating marketing of all the farm produce of commercial foodgrains etc. Government of India should keep Rs. 100 crore of each for chillies and for tobacco crop to intervene in the market, whenever market falls drastically. This will help the farmers from the distress sales.

I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to come forward to mitigate the sufferings of the rural people.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*[Translation]*

*SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE (Dhule): Sir, I have been elected from the Dhule (Maharashtra) scheduled caste constituency. 75 per cent area of my constituency consists of rural area and more than 50 per cent consists of Scheduled Tribes belt. I support this budget. This budget is a ray of hope for the poor living below the poverty line. Rs. 22682.26 crore have been provided for road development as is shown in the budget. There is a large number of agriculture laborers in India. Every morning they are beset with the anxiety of earning their livelihood, as we know anxiety leads a man near to this pyre i.e. death. Hon'ble Finance Minister has made a provision of Rs. 9000 crore in this budget under the Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana to provide succour to this category of people. On the other hand Rs. 3809.50 crc a have been provided for supply of rural drinking matter to lession the difficulties of the of the rural whom who have to fetch water on their leads from faraway places and thereby he has got the blessings of the rural women folk.

Besides, adequate attention has been paid to the elementary education, family welfare, child development and construction of rural roads. Thus, the Hon. Finance Minister has framed the way to realise the dream of Bharat Nirman.

I am concluding my speech after making some points. The Finance Minister has provided Rs. 721.01 crore under the Adivasi Sub Plan thereby tried to raise the educational, economic and social standard of the tribal community. But 9 per cent of the total population of Maharashtra belongs to sub plan area. That is why we demand 9 per cent provision be made in the Central budget on the lines of the budget of Maharashtra State. But the Planning Commission does not make provision beyond 4 or 5 per cent. As such the development of the tribal people as well as tribal areas gets hindered due to paucity of funds in the fields of health care education, electricity and construction of roads. A committee headed by Shri Sukhtan had recommended to provide 9 per cent funds out of the total budget in respect of Maharashtra but that much allocation has not been provided so far.

My another suggestion is as regards irrigation in Maharashtra, divisions namely the Krishna Khore, and Tapti Khore have been set up keeping in view the river basins. My area comes under the Tapti Khore Division. The construction work includes construction of bridge such Sudbade Prakasha and Sarankhera on the Tapti river and Punad medium project in taluka kadban in Nasik district and the work is under progress on the Akuphde, Badishewedi medium projects. A minimum of Rs. 500 crore needs to complete all these projects. I, therefore, request to provide funds for these projects by including them under the A.I.B.P. by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Indiscriminate, felling of trees and use of forest land for non-forest work are prohibited under the forest (conservation) and environments (Protection) Act, 1980. But I demand the legal ownership rights of the forest land on which the tribal have been cultivating crops before 1980 so that the tribals could dig wells on such forest land for irrigation purpose.

The Kolhapur, Wai, Pandharpur Pathain projects and Prakasha, Nawapur project in my constituency have been sent to Ministry of Environment and forests for approval. The Ministry may please accord approval to them and also provide funds to execute them.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, perhaps the Congress has forgotten about the poor. First they gave the slogan to remove poverty, but they are not doing so now. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: They are saying that they have covered 95.33 per cent of rural population under the drinking water scheme. Where do they get these figures from? We see that 75 per cent people in rural areas are not getting drinking water but they say that they have provided this facility to 95.33 per cent rural people. The Hon. Finance Minister has played a big joke with the poor. Perhaps, the Hon. Finance Minister does not understand Hindi. He says that the poor people want employment for their children, therefore, he is introducing food for work programme. Engaging their children in digging the soil, construction of roads or loading/unloading/carrying of stones, does not amount to providing proper employment. The children of the poor do not need employment, what they really need is education. As regards employment, you provide them jobs in factories or Government service. The Congress has played a big joke and they have been doing so far the last fifty years. The prices of Kerosene, Foodgrains, Sugar,

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Diesel, Petrol and Gas have gone up or for that matter prices of every commodity have increased. The people of the country are hard pressed due to soaring prices. There was a very good scheme for the medical treatment of the poor ...*(Interruptions)* let me speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the speech of Shri Rathore.

...*(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: There are a very good medical insurance scheme for the poor, but they are not showing interest in it. They are not interested in effecting some changes in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Every Member of Parliament should be given Rs. 5 crore under the MPLADS. I also demand that the Member of Parliament should be given a quota of allotting at least 200 houses under the Indira Awas Yojana.

Antyodaya Yojana is for BPL card holders, only 25 per cent are covered in this scheme, 75 per cent are deprived of its benefit. The poor are not getting benefited from the Antyoday Yojana. That is why Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had introduced the Annapurna Yojana but they have scrapped this scheme. 75 per cent people are deprived of it. They do not get foodgrains at the rate of rupees 2 or 3 per Kg. Even though they have BPL cards. Only 25 per cent is released from the Central Government. It should be done.

Regarding rural employment scheme, he has said that they are likely to launch the said scheme in Maharashtra. But the Finance Minister is a bit confused. He is mixing up the two schemes. On one hand he says that he is introducing a bill to provide for a hundred day's employment guarantee while on the other he is formulating 'food for works scheme' for 150 districts. He is likely to merge these two scheme later on. This cannot happen as these are two separate schemes. Today the Finance Minister should make it clear because he seems to be confused in presenting them. They have made a mockery of the issue of irrigation. The Government led by Shri Atal Bihar Vajpayee had a dream to provide adequate irrigation facilities for each and every acre of land. The minister has allocated only 2800 crore rupees for this purpose. This is not fair.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we always express out concern about the cotton growers who are committing suicide. There should be a 100 per cent increase on the duty levied on it and proper care of the cotton crop should be taken. People especially in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are dying. The National crop Insurance Scheme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, let me speak for one minute more. This will not make any difference. I will point out the issues related to the people within a minute. Agriculture Insurance Scheme has been introduced, premium of which is 2 or 3 per cent while the bank interest is 9 per cent. It is absolutely unjustified to charge 11 per cent premium. I would like to request the hon. Minister to reduce the same. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in such a vast country, a target of providing only 2 lakh 50 thousand Indira Awas has been fixed. The hon. Minister has stated that this is the upper limit of the target. I would like to ask as to how the target of providing 2 lakh 50 thousand Indira Awas can be the upper limit of the target. This is the demand for Maharashtra alone. You will have to provide 2 lakh 50 thousand Indira Awas in Maharashtra alone while you are talking about the entire country. You please go through these figures again. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you do not conclude, your speech will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, I am a representative of 15 crore people. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I have been elected for the first time, so please let me make my point. ...*(Interruptions)* The suggestion of constituting the Backward States Commission is very good. You are doing a good job in this connection. My demand is that you provide 5000 rupees every year to the deprived people like Tande, Nagale etc. We have done a lot for SCs and STs but we have not done anything for this section. My suggestion is that 5000 rupees should be allocated exclusively for these people. The Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had constituted a commission for the notified nomadic tribes which this government has disbanded. My suggestion is that you please do justice with them by constituting the said commission again.

*[English]*

*DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, at the very out set, I congratulate our Finance Minister on behalf of MDMK party headed Thiru Vaiko for presenting a pro-poor people budget.

**Sethu Samuthiram Canal Project**

The most needed mega project is Sethu Samuthiram Canal Project for Tamil Nadu which is being kept idle by some vested interests who are working against the implementation of the big project which will evolve much of job opportunities of Tamilian as well as improvement in business circle. The Government of Tamil Nadu is yet to give a green signal to this volumeness project. Herein I wish to bring in historical background of the project. Late Thiru. Arignar Annadurai Former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was very much interested in this project which was thought of by the English people about 130 years ago. Thiru Vaiko my leader on the stage of a rally in Madras organised on the occasion of Birthday of Thiru. C.N. Annadurai where former Prime Minister Thiru. A.B. Vajpayee was also present on 15th September 1998 on the personal request of my leader Thiru Vaiko as a true follower of the footsteps of great Anna. Former Prime Minister Thiru. A.B. Vajpayee announced that the project will be taken up and implemented.

**Inter-linking of Rivers**

To make a small note an expenditure on irrigation and flood control 355 crores real expenditure and 88.2 crores is envisaged.

My comment is that; on one side water is needed for irrigation purposes, No doubt, further a good amount is spared for flood situation in the country. Why not we plan the flood-ridden rivers to be diverted to the drought prone and dry areas of the country by digging long canals with a fore sight for the future agricultural development in the country.

To create a consensus of opinion and awareness about the Inter-linking of rivers my leader Thiru. Vaiko made a prestigious walk in our own State of Tamil Nadu from Tirunelveli to Chennai 1200 kms. and conducted Farmers and Farm Labourers Conference meetings at Palladam (Coimbatore). Vedasandur (Dindugal) and also made a purposeful visit to Kerala with a view of improving Water Resources for both the States.

This may be called also as Inter-linking of rivers from flood-ridden rivers into drought prone area as said above.

But I am disappointed that there is no mention about the linking of rivers in the budge.

**Agriculture**

Since our country is dependent on agriculture, the agriculturists have to be helped by extending minimum loans by adopting simplified procedures without insisting for collateral security at a comparatively cheaper rate of interest without any hurdles. The prospects of agriculture is purely dependent on the monsoon and if the monsoon fails, the agricultural activities comes to a standstill resulting in no revenue is earned, and under circumstances the agriculturists finding it very hard even to meet their daily livelihood. Since no revenue is earned, the agriculturists may not be in a position to repay the loans. Penal interest is a burden for the farmers. My appeal to the Government is that the whole principal amount and the interest thereon should be waived in the drought-hit areas.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

**Social Measures**

This budget welcomed by the rural folk because of the following Rural Infrastructure Project proposed:

1. Rural Housing (Indira Awas Yojana) wherein Rs. 250 crores increase in expenditure announced.
2. Universal Service Obligation with the objective of providing telephone facilities in rural areas Rs. 1200 crores.
3. Additional budgetary support to the tune of Rs. 1600 crore under PMGSY.
4. The expenditure on National Highways Development Projects Rs. 6,221.04 crores.
5. Rural electrification will cover 1.25 lakhs villages in five years Rs. 1100 provided, even though allocation of fund is awaited.
6. Agricultural Sector needs second thought about food security for the country as there is diversification of agricultural production to non-foodgrains especially horticultural production may be remunerative but there is fear about food security and production of foodgrains in a safe atmosphere.
7. Education is budgeted at Rs. 7538 crores it is worthwhile when we consider the status of our country's literacy average, comprising to developed countries. We stand at 106 stage. Each village shall have a computer-oriented multipurpose community centre to create awareness among the public.
8. The proposal to increase excise duty rate on cigarettes by about 10% and the imposition of surcharge on other tobacco products.
9. Gender budgetary allocation of women and children for:

(a) Elementary education for girl child

(b) Improving the working conditions of women labour

**Social Justice and Women Empowerment**

Allocation of fund in the Ministry of Social Justice and Women Empowerment, also SGSY and SGRY.

**Safety Matches**

Eight thousands Hand made matches industry units are there which are providing employment to 10 lakhs labours directly in four drought prone districts in Tamil Nadu. By reducing tax from 16% to 12% for the machine made matches the hand made match industry is struggling due to heavy competition from the machine made match industry. I request the Hand made match may be saved by allocating subsidised materials to Cooperative societies.

**Tax on cash withdrawal**

In this budget our Hon'ble Finance Minister proposed to levy a 0.01% tax on every withdrawal of Rs. 10,000 and above from the bank, it may be considered to raise the minimum level to Rs. 1,00,000 and above.

*SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I am opposing this Budget because it has brought very much unhappiness and no word has been put in this Budget about inter-linking of rivers project. The crores of farmers are looking towards this Budget because it not only solves the irrigation problems but also the water problems of the crores of people of this country. The Congress Party has ruled the country for nearly 46 years and they have not implemented this inter-linking of Rivers Project. It is an important matter nationally and this Project should be speeded up. In some areas, there is flood and in some other areas, there is drought. This uneven situation causes great problems to the people and this Project should be taken up very seriously and immediately on a war-footing basis. Sir, everybody says that the farmers are the backbone of the country but we are not giving importance to this Project of inter-linking of rivers. Many say that Green Revolution has been brought. I think, only with the inter-linking of the rivers project, Green Revolution will be brought.

I come to the most important point, that is the crop loan of the farmers. The crop loan, which is required by the farmers, exactly is not given by the banks. Only partial amount is given to the farmers. For example, Chilly irrigated the actual cost of cultivation per hectare is Rs. 40,000/- but the farmers get only Rs. 30,000/-, which means that the farmers cannot meet their crop requirements fully. For the rest of the amount, the farmers have to go for private money-lenders and the private money lenders charge interest of nearly 36 per cent, which the poor farmers facing great difficulties to repay

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri G. Karunakara Reddy]

the loan and the interest amount. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to give direction to the banks asking them to give full amount which is required by the farmers as the farmers are getting a part of it. Many States are affected due to drought during the last four years and the farmers are facing great difficulties in getting the return for their produce.

Then, I would come to the point that the interest rate and other charges being paid by the farmers for this crop loan. The farmers have to pay 20.2 per cent towards insurance premium for chilly-dry, 17.20 per cent towards insurance premium for chilly-irrigated; 11 per cent towards insurance premium for onion, 13.50 per cent towards insurance premium for cotton-dry and 9.65 per cent towards insurance premium for cotton-irrigated which is very much higher in percentage. Like this, they have to pay 10.25 per cent as interest cost for all products. I appreciate that the Minister has brought down the excise duty to nil to IT sector to encourage the IT industry, which is in the higher side. I urge upon the Finance Minister to apply the same formula for the poor farmers also by way of reducing the insurance premium at the rate of 2 per cent and the rate of interest to 5 per cent on all crop loans, so that the small farmers will be benefited greatly. I would also suggest that the cost of stamp duty for mortgage and other charges, which is now being charged at 2 per cent, should be removed at all.

Sir, Bellary District, which is also a backward district in Karnataka, is one of the worst-drought affected Districts in the State, especially for the last five years. The people are facing a lot of difficulties for their livelihood. I urge upon the Minister to include Bellary District under the National Food for Work Programme so that the people can earn little money for running their life.

Since Bellary District is also a backward district, it has to be included in the Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana for the Development of the District.

The Union Government is allocated Rs. 3645 for supplementing the States in their efforts to provide safe-drinking water to all rural habitations. I would like to mention that in Bellary, nearly 90 per cent fluoride contaminated water is being supplied, which causes great health problems to the people. I would suggest that a huge amount be allotted to Bellary District, Karnataka, for providing safe-drinking water to the people.

Sir, I am given to understand that under the Rural Sanitation Programme, an amount of Rs. 625 is being given per house for the people living below poverty line in Bellary District. It is very difficult to provide rural sanitation with this small amount. I urge upon the Minister that this amount should be increased to Rs. 4,000/- per house for the people living below the poverty line.

Sir, the Finance Minister has allocated a sum of Rs. 3010 crore for Mid-Day meal Programme, which I feel is very much low. In Bellary District, Karnataka, a sum of Rs. 1 is being given per student for this Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The students are not able to get proper healthy food because of this low amount. I suggest that this amount should be increased to Rs. 5 per student so that the students, who are the future younger generation, can get healthy food.

Sir, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, which is meant for development of education in the country, especially in rural areas, is a welcome step. I visited personally nearly 90 per cent of the schools in my Bellary Constituency. The classrooms in these schools are in a bad condition, and these classrooms should be repaired immediately. Many school students in Bellary Constituency, Karnataka are facing lot of difficulties due to non-availability of proper classrooms. The students of the class are increased to a great extent. Nearly 100 students are studying in a single class but no classrooms are available for occupying these students. Sir, the Central Government have not taken any step to provide proper classrooms to these students and the fund available for this purpose is very much shortage. There is an urgent need to construct at least 3 classrooms in each school. I urge upon the Minister to provide sufficient funds for construction of classrooms immediately.

In the month of October-November and March-April, there is a big water crisis in Karnataka, especially in Bellary District. The farmers are not getting proper water supply for their crops. The farmers are frequently agitating for not providing water to them. The storage capacity of the Tungabhadra Dam is drastically reduced nearly by 30 TMC because of silt formation in the Dam. There is an urgent need to construct 7 mini Dams of capacity of 13 TMC for which the Government of Karnataka has made survey and made estimates. An amount of Rs. 650 crore is needed for this purpose. I urge upon the Union Government to provide necessary financial assistance to the State Government of Karnataka for clearing this silt and to increase the storage capacity of the Tungabhadra Dam for the benefit of farmers.

The farmers in Karnataka, especially in Bellary, are facing great difficulties to lead their life as they are not able to produce crops due to drought for last more than

five years and in the absence of the canal system. In some drought affected/dry areas, farmers are getting small quantity of iron ore in agricultural land within 3 to 5 feet and they are doing it manually. But procedure for getting permission for this mining is very lengthy that they should get permission from the State Government and then from the Central Government. There is an urgent need to simplify of procedure so that farmers can earn little for their livelihood. Farmers are willing to pay any royalty fixed by the Government for this purpose. There is an urgent need to simplify of procedure for getting permission keeping in view of problems being faced by farmers.

Sir, we all know that farmers are facing great difficulties. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister to waive off the interest on loans borrowed by the farmers.

Sir, regarding health care, I would like to state that in several hospitals, especially in Bellary, Karnataka, no medicines are available and number of doctors are very much shortage in Primary Health Centres. The large numbers of patients are facing hardships because of this non-availability of medicines and doctors. The amount, which the Union Government has allocated for health care facilities are not sufficient and there is an urgent need to increase the funds for this purpose.

Sir, there is one Ayurvedic hospital functioning in Bellary, Karnataka and this is the only hospital functioning in this area. This hospital is functioning in an old building, and it requires a new building. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 5 crore is required. If this amount is released by the Central Government as grant, this hospital can develop is functioning, and it will be beneficial for patients also. Hence, I urge upon the Minister to release a sum of Rs. 5 crore towards grant for this hospital for the benefit of public at largest.

The Government is manufacturing landline telephone instruments and the cell phone instruments are being manufactured by the private manufacturers. The private manufacturers are charging heavy amount for these cell phone instruments, which causes great loss to the cell phone users. I urge upon the Union Government that the Government should also manufacture the cell phone instruments, and the instruments should be sold in normal prices. This would enable the people to purchase the cell phone instruments at cheaper rates.

*DR. RATAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Sir, I have gone through the entire budget very minutely. The people of Punjab who live in border areas have been badly cheated in this Budget. The border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepur have been totally neglected and ignored in this Budget. Whenever there is war against Pakistan as in 1965 and 1971, the people of border areas at as second line of defence along with our soldiers. But when these people need help the Central Government conveniently ignores them. I am sad to note these developments. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, earlier, when the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was in power, the farmers whose land fell beyond the barbed wire fence were granted compensation at the rate of Rs. 2500 per acre but this Government has stopped all compensation to such farmers. The present Central Government does not want to help the people of border areas. No package for any industry has been granted in this three border districts. In fact, there are no industries in these districts. In Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh the industries are not required to pay any taxes. So I would appeal to the Finance Minister that a special package for industries in the border areas should be granted so that these people should be bailed out. We, the people of the border areas, should be made to feel a part of India. We should be granted facilities as we are Indians. People of border areas are being ignored. It is the same story in the field of education. Schools are there in border areas. But no teachers are there in these schools. How can the poor children of these areas get education? The ten to fifteen kilometre border belt should be administered directly by Centre and special care should be taken regarding the needs of the people of border areas. For the last three years, about 750 acre land is in the possession of army. We have asked for compensation many times but no compensation has been granted. The poor farmers have lost their land to the army. So I would appeal to the hon. Minister that compensation should be granted for this land under the possession of army. Deputy Speaker Sir, we, the border area residents do not have any phone facility. When we demand telephones, security concerns are cited. So some such provision should be made whereby they too can avail phone facility and feel a part of India. So my appeal to you is that the Government should look into this matter. Education facilities should be provided to them. Sir, the BSF people do not allow the farmers to go and tend their land that falls beyond the barbed wire fence, for more hours. The farmers are forced to work at BSF post without being paid. Only then are they allowed to go to their land. No irrigation facilities are there. No lighting facilities are there. People are very poor. So I appeal to hon. Finance Minister that some provisions should be made for people of borders areas

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Ratan Singh Ajnala]

also, so that we too should feel part of this country and development of our area should also become a reality. We should not be ignored.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TEK LAL MAHATO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been elected from the Gridih constituency of Jharkhand. First of all, I would like to point out that when I was an MLA at that time also I used to get rupees 2 crore under the development scheme and even now as MP I am getting the same amount....*(Interruptions)* while there were only two blocks under the assembly constituency but now there are 17 blocks in my Parliamentary Constituency. Therefore, I would like to suggest that at least one crore rupees should be provided to us for each legislative assembly constituency falling under a Parliamentary Constituency otherwise the scheme should be wound up. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TEK LAL MAHATO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, otherwise this scheme should be wound up as it gets us a bad name. At least one crore rupees for each Vidhan Sabha Constituency should be provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

It will be better to wind up the scheme as it is getting us a bad name. How much money should be provide among the people, So either it should be increased or wound up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHATO: I am just concluding. I come from such a State which runs the entire India. People say that Jharkhand is a very prosperous State but the reality is that poor people live there. Everything there has been nationalised. The forests, coal, mica, copper and various other resources have been nationalised. But there is none to take care of the poor. Earlier the State used to get cess on coal which was utilised for developmental works. But the Govt. of India has discontinued it hence no developmental work are being done there. There is acute shortage of water due to coal mining. Even water from borings is not available at coal mining sites. The State Govt. is not able to provide even drinking water to the people. So drinking water should be provided at such places. Other works are secondary. So far as the issue of employment is concerned, not even a single factory out of those closed during the regime of the NDA Govt. has been re-opened while you had made such promise that you would re-open them on coming to power rather some other are closing down. You have promised 100 day's employment in a year but no funds have been provided to the State under this scheme. The State Govt. may get these funds in May and June but the most of the works for which these funds are meant, are being done by machines by the contractors. So the money goes to the rich. The work of road construction, digging of ponds and wells are being done by machines as a result of which we are not able to provide employment to the poor. Besides, the payment is not made on time. My request is that the payment should be made on time. Bribe is rampant there, be it D.C. or B.D.O. or C.O. or peon or other staff, all are out to make fast bricks. Unless you grease their palm, unless they get pagre your work will not be done. Though pagre is there on year head and on the head of Shri Manmohan Singh. My earnest request is, therefore, to stop the ongoing bribe regime there. Besides, the factories lying closed should be revived. The drinking water facility should be provided in our area.

There is acute shortage of water in Giridih, Baniadih, Budhiyad Khad, Gomia, Sada, Ghasir Hagari Panchayat in Girdih area. Tenu ghat dam is there from where water is supplied to Bokrao Steel Plant and Thermal Power Plant. But people living there are not getting water supply in Dhanbad area too, there is water crisis. Coal is extracted from there, but people do not get water. Therefore, drinking water supply should be made available to them. The first Prime Minister of India had laid the foundation stone of Bokrao Thermal Power Plant 'A'. But now it has been closed rendering people jobless. This plant was set up in the first five year plan, this plant should be immediately made operational so that name of Pt. Jawahar Lel Nehru keeps shining. H.E.C. Hatia Plant is also lying closed, it was also set up in the first five year plan at the cost of hundreds of crores of rupees. Its closure has also rendered thousands of workers jobless. Therefore, this plant as well as the Sindari Fertilizer Plant which supplies fertilizer to the farmers, should be revived so as to provide jobs to the people. These plants were closed down during N.D.A. regime. The UPA had declared if there government is formed, then, the closed plants would be made operational. Now UPA Government has been sworn in but these plants are still lying closed. Therefore, I would like to request you to kindly ensure that the plants are revived and unemployed people get the jobs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I am calling Shri P. Chidambaram ji, the hon'ble members, who have not delivered their speeches, may lay their speeches on the table of the House. All these speeches will be included in the proceedings.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no time now.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not form part of the record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav met hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Finance Minister and urged them to provide special economic package to Uttar Pradesh on the lines of the similar package provided to many other States. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with whose permission is the hon. Member speaking? *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Bihar has not got any package.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I have not named Bihar, *...(Interruptions)*. We welcome if the Government of India has helped the States.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Can I not raise the issues concerning my State? The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has repeatedly asked that Uttar Pradesh is a large State and we have presented a comparative document stating the States financial condition, the number of people living below the poverty line and in all a special economic package of Rs. 18230/- crores of rupees has been sought from the Government of India and this issue has been raised here in this House also. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has met the Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister in this regard. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether or not hon'ble Finance Minister would give special economic package to Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Shri Ramji Lal Suman's speech, not even a single word will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, the hon. Minister will start his reply.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the hon. Minister of Finance.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): If you cast a look at the present budget then it completely fails to take into account the ground realities. However, it does set out to achieve unattainable targets. Hon'ble Finance Minister has resorted to jugglery of figures and high sounding phrases. He has tried in vein to shift the blame on to the nature and the previous government and at the same time he has also attempted to put its trade mark on the achievements of the previous government. He has himself admitted that the Finance Minister of Vajpayee government was lucky enough to attain 8.5 annual growth rate during his tenure and now during the UPA regime, it has come down to mere 4 per cent. But he has blamed monsoon for the failure of his government. He has admitted that the hike in the growth rate during tenure of the previous government was mainly due to good production in the field of agriculture and other areas. The truth, however, is that the Congress governments have

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Chandramani Tripathi]

never concentrated on the agriculture sector which is the mainstay of Indians economy. Till five years after independence, contribution of agriculture in our G.D.P. was 50 per cent but today it has come down to less then one fourth. The area of our neighbour country China is of course double of India's but its agriculture land is less by 4 crore hectare than that of India. Yet its annual production of food grains is two and half times higher then that of India's. It is a big irony that despite vast network of rivers and canals in the country, more than half of our land is unirrigated even after 58 years of independence. So far irrigation facility has been provided for 40 per cent cultivable land. The main problem of agriculture is that of irrigation. In the present, budget very less amount has been provided for irrigation. Irrigation needs to be given priority in the basic infrastructure. The provisions NDA Government of Shri Vajpayee ji had launched a very ambitious project of interlinking of rivers which has been put into cold storage by this Government. I, therefore, urge the hon'ble Finance Minister to increase the Government's investment in the irrigation projects. On one had, our Finance Minister declares that the Government is going to disburse a sum of Rs. 108,500 crores against the declared target of Rs. 105,000 crores to fulfil the promise made last year to increase the agriculture loan by 30 per cent. On the other, the incidents of suicides by farmers are increasing. The main reason behind it is that the agriculture loan is not easily available to the needy farmers owing to various procedured hurdles and only certain big farmers are able to make use of it. The majority of small are being exploited at the hands of greedy moneylenders even today.

It has been announced in the current year's budget to provide atleast 100 days employment to one crore people in a year by spending Rs. 11000 crore under the National Employment Guarantee Scheme. But the fact is that more than double this amount will be needed to provide employment to so many people. The number of youths in the country has risen to 54 crore according to the latest census. According to a survey conducted by the Planning Commission 3.60 crore people in the country are totally unemployed and their number reaches 7.6 crore if other regions are added. The Government should pay attention towards creating employment opportunities if it is really serious to solving this problem.

This budget will lead to price rise and the common man will get into trouble. Only high and upper middle class will benefit from this budget. The rich will become more richer and the poor will be faced with the situation of starvation. With these words, I oppose the budget.

*SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Sir, the tax imposed on withdrawal of Rs. 10,000/- by the hon. Finance Minister has become a point of debate even among the villagers.. You have brought this proposal in the budget so that the poor people do not pay attention to the remaining shortcomings in the budget. And the rich people are already happy with the budget. I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to kindly increase the limit of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000.

The Government has announced to increase the amount to Rs. 7156 crore for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan but its report says that 81 lakh children in the country are not able to get primary education. How this allocation will be put to use, this in the biggest challenge.

Many schemes under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are unnecessary and remain under the control of the Mafia running NGO's. What are the norms for releasing money to the NGO's? You ought to know it better than me. Looting by the NGO's is not a recent phenomena, it's continuing from the past but I hope that you will rein in the loot by the NGO's.

The Government has announced to provide employment to one member of each family living below poverty line. But, the Government has not paid any attention towards the fact that the families living just a above the poverty line also need employment.

The Government had promised to give employment guarantee to the middle class in rural and urban areas in the Common Minimum Programme. But, no attention has been paid to it in the budget and in the proposed employment guarantee bill as well. The number of unemployed persons in the county has been estimated to be 12 crore. Names of 4 crore unemployed persons are registered in the employment exchanges.

Sir, I hail from the eastern part of Uttar Pradesh where wells are drying up due to drought. The paddy crop has been destroyed this year due to drought people are facing acute shortage of drinking water. The farmer is not able to sow crops due to lack of adequate irrigation facility. The eastern U.P. is a densely populated area. I demand from the Central Government to kindly give a special package to the U.P. Government for eastern U.P.

Sir, you know it very well that 65% members of the 13th Lok Sabha have not been able to be elected to the House again. The biggest reason for their defeat is the Members funds. The public wants development. But, the

*Speech was laid on the Table.

funds allocated to the Member in the name of development fund is like the proverbial "a drop in the ocean." I urge upon you to kindly raise the MP funds from Rs. 2 crore to Rs. 2 crore.

Incentives should be provided for opening of schools and colleges in order to make the SC/ST people educationally strong.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, the income level of the farmers should be increased by solving the major problems of the country like poverty and unemployment. New schemes for enhancing production capacity of the country have not been formulated. There are fewer schemes for increasing the income level.

The major part of our population lives in villages and most of them are farmers or the farm labourers. The interests of these villagers have not been taken into consideration, neither the issue of fixing prices of agricultural produces on the basis of cost input has been taken into consideration nor any scheme to decrease the agricultural cost input has been mentioned in this budget. There is no provision in the budget for encouraging new crops instead of the traditional ones keeping in view the open world market so that living standards of farmers may enhance. The lowest rate of interest should be charged on agricultural loans.

Petroleum production in the country is less than our requirement. We import petrol and diesel. We have to pay more than 1 lac 20 thousand rupees to foreign countries. Bi-diesel is produced from the crops grown by the farmers in the country and ethanol as a by product in sugar mills. The Central Government is not serious on this matter. Besides promoting the production of these petroleum crops it is necessary to provide cheaper machinery for ethanol based petrol. The Finance Minister should marke it excise duty free. This will benefit the farmers at the same time, our petroleum imports will come down. The country will save money which will pass on to the farmers. My submission is that it should be mandatory to mix ethanol with petrol. This will be a relief to the sugar mills also which produce ethanol of which 66 are in Maharashtra including 22 of cooperative sector. This will be beneficial for all the sugar mills in the country, this should be taken into consideration.

There are announcement for providing irrigation facilities for one crore hectare land has been made. This should cover all the States. All the States in the country should benefit from this. In a number of states, irrigation schemes are not feasible due to Forest (Conservation) Act. My constituency Gadchiroli Chandrapur is affected by the Forest Conservation Act. My constituency Gadchiroli Chandrapur is affected by the Forest Act, these areas should get maximum benefit from this irrigation scheme. There are approximately 8000 small land revenue ponds in Gadchiroli-Chandrapur-Bhandara and Gondia districts and funds should be provided for their repair and capacity enhancement. Then only all the states and areas will get benefit of this scheme. The schemes affected by the Forest Act in Gadchiroli and Chandrapur should be taken into consideration.

There is an announcement of electrifying 1 lac 25 thousand villages at a cost of rupees 1100 crore but this claim is weak as all the State Electricity Boards are unable to meet this promise. There is less power generation. First, we will have to improve our power generation. Electricity Boards do not get coal supply. We will have to improve coal production. Solar energy and hydro-electricity have to be promoted in the country. In view of geographical and weather conditions in the country, we often talk about promotion and protection of these non-conventional energy schemes but no provision has been made in the budget for this purpose. There is a need to utilise and promote these sources of non-conventional energy. There is a need to put in efforts or formulate programmes afresh for power generation on National Irrigation Schemes and other irrigation projects in the country.

I demand that the NHPC should be entrusted with the work of constructing a hydro-electric project on the Gausikhurd Irrigation Project pending in my constituency and funds should be made available for the same. Electricity and water should be made available to the farmers then only your power projects will be completed, this should be taken into consideration.

The provision of 11000 crore rupees for converting the food for work scheme into the employment guarantee scheme for providing employment to the rural unemployed is inadequate. This should be enhanced and made universal. At the same time, some scheme should be formulated to provide employment assurance to urban unemployed as well. Unemployment allowance should be provided. This is my demand.

We are doing injustice with certain parts of the country following the directions of the World Bank and in the name of the Forest Act. The condition of having 33

*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

per cent forest cover should be for all districts in all the states in the country. But this law is enforced only in those areas, states and districts where there is ample forest land and forest areas from where numerous rivers flow and which are rich in minerals. You must be aware of this. This Forest Act is an impediment to the allround development of these unfortunate areas and they are deprived of roads, industries, railways and irrigation. Industries are not being set up. Mining operations are not being carried out for minerals. For this reason, irrigation projects in my constituency Gadchiroli-Chandrapur are pending. High grade iron are in Surjagarh, high grade lime stone in Devalmari and copper and coal are available there in abundance. There are 68% and 44% forest areas respectively. This area should be taken out of the purview of the Forest Act. Necessary economic assistance should be provided in this budget for setting up new industries at these places. Poor tribals and non-tribals will get employment in these industries. Minerals and water resources of our country are not being utilised due to this Forest Act. This Act needs to be amended.

The number of beneficiaries under Antyodaya Yojana has been increased to 50 lac which is not adequate. 3.5 crore families should be covered under this scheme, this is a demand of the poor.

In my opinion, it is very necessary to promote medicine industry in the country. Production cost of medicines is very low in every country in the world including our country. We are a big exporter of medicines.

We export medicines to the world on cheaper rates. The reputed industries should take initiative to free this medicine industry from the blot of adulteration and increase production. Provisions for giving concessions should be made in the budget so that we can earn foreign currency like in the software industry. We can establish such industry in the country. Ayurveda is a heritage of the country and this system of medicine has to be made logical. This system of medicine has got recognition world wide. This land has a number of medicinal herbs, it should be promoted. Lest this heritage should be snatched from us, it should be taken care of. There is a need to provide more funds in the budget for the development of this system. We can earn foreign exchange from this channel also.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday I was very carefully listening to the statements given by the young M.P.S Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindhia during the discussion on budget yesterday. He was showering praises on UPA Government by presenting the distorted budgetary figures of the Government. I would like to present before the House the figures of expenditure done by the NDA Government during the last five years. Hon. Member had said that NDA Government continuously brought down the expenditure in core sector while the UPA Government has enhanced this figure within no time. I would like to apprise the House that during the regime of NDA an amount of Rs. 8729.4, 1011119.3, 104403, 126247.13 and 141765.8 respectively crore was spent between 1999-04 under the Central Plan which shows that the expenditure did not come down even for a single year rather it has gone on increasing.

If we have a look at the expenditure of State Plan, an amount of Rs. 70027, 72428.6, 76837, 78430.23 and 95701.73 crore respectively were spent during the above mentioned period.

Same is the case with the actual expenditure for education, health and housing. I would also present the figures of agriculture, agriculture credit and irrigation that make the entire situation clear.

Through these figures I would like to make explicit as how the budgetary allocation and expenditure in the above mentioned sectors has increased after the arrival of NDA Government in power. No previous Government had paid any attention towards agriculture, rural development, irrigation, housing, education and health during the last fifty years of our independence while the NDA Government accorded top priority to the above mentioned sectors, especially towards the 70% of the rural population of the country which is dependent on agriculture for their survival.

Hon. Minister of Finance has made an announcement for bringing one crore hectare land under the irrigation and constructing 60 lakh houses under the "Bharat Nirman Scheme" during the next five years but not even 15% budgetary allocation has been made under this head. I would like to know as to how he would be able to reach his target during the next five years.

Today there is a need to create rural infrastructure that includes irrigation facilities, making available loans to the farmers at cheaper rates, remunerative prices for agriculture produce agro-processing, value addition, storage, transportation, marketing and export facilities, availability of inputs like fertilizers, hybrid seeds and water linkage and no budgetary allocation has been made for

strengthening these areas. Today farmer needs water but there is no adequate water available for irrigation. The Government claims to find a solution for the problem of water. Watershed Development Scheme has been in vogue for number of years which is needed to be implemented at village level under which the measures like well recharging through the rain water, deepening of water bodies, construction of check dams, water tanks and water harvesting would be taken to raise the ground water level. These measures would ensure that the water is available not only for the rabi crop but also during the summer season. Besides, it would also resolve the problem of drinking water. This experiment has proved very successful in Gujarat where the participation of farmers, labourers, social organisations, etc. with the Government for the purpose of water harvesting was undertaken. It has resulted in increased production, resolution of the problem of drinking water and has opened the door of prosperity. Today the farmer is thinking about his future. There is a need to make enhanced allocation of funds for drip irrigation and installing sprinkler system. Merely allocating rupees 100 to 500 crore will not do. Inter-linking of rivers project is a distant goal. There is a need to work on it but watershed development is the only time tested solution that would yield quick results in this regard and the Government should consider making budgetary allocation for it. There is a need to divert farmers towards undertaking organic farming in view of the increasing cost of agriculture inputs fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipments, etc. There is also a need to provide loan at cheaper rates to the farmers. It is the only area where banks can provide maximum credits and loans at the minimum risk of it turning into NPAs. There is also a need to make crop insurance scheme popular among the farmers. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is concerned about it and making efforts in this regard but he is yet to realise about their needs and requirements. This problem can only be resolved by providing maximum assistance to the farmer pushed to the brink of committing suicide. It is the age of secularism. By helping the farmers the Hon. Minister would get the blessings and good wishes of farmers and he would be able to..... I would like to request that a scheme should be formulated and announced in this regard at the earliest. Agro-processing and agro-based industries are linked with agriculture. A separate agro-processing department was setup during the regime of Vajpayee Government, similarly, a separate department was setup to promote agro and rural industries. There is a need to formulate a separate scheme covering all the aspects like entreprenuership, storage, transportation, value addition, processing, packaging and exports in view of the potential offered by this sector. This can change the picture of the entire country in the next five years. It would increase the GDP of the country besides, increasing employment opportunities and exports. Farmers use diesel engines for the purpose of water drainage and irrigation and it carries excise burden of 16% on it. Minister of Finance has abolished excise duty on tractors, similarly he should announce the abolition of 16% excise duty on 20 HP engines.

Sir, the Government has announced that criteria in respect of permanent physical disability has been changed to 40 per cent from the previous set norm of 50 per cent disability, they will be benefited by this. But in the department of IT the old criteria still holds good. It should be fixed at 40%. As a result of the provisions made in the budget, the brass industry of Gujarat will be closed totally. I would like to request to solve their problems. My predecessors have expressed their views on branded jewellery which has been brought under service tax. You know that there are small craftsmen in the country who after purchasing goods, resell them to big traders. Many people make jewellery on contract. I request that branded jewellery be exempted from service tax.

Sir, hon. Minister of Finance has imposed 16% excise duty on the MRP of pharmaceutical products. Large quantity of drugs are manufactured in Gujarat and as a result of this excise duty goes up to 30 to 36%. Incentives being given in Uttaranchal, Himachal, are affecting this industry here. Pharama industry should also be given relief from such excise duties. The small scale industries of our country contribute a lot in rural employment and GDP. Due to globalisation and liberalisation these industries are in danger. Due to corporate field proper attention is not being paid to small scale industries. Banks too, do not accord priority to them for loan credit. Apart from this, small scale industries are in unorganised sector. Out of which only 2.4 entrepreneurs get loans. There is a provision to provide 0.5% subsidy and 0.8% loan on machinery. In fact, 96% units to not get help. Small scale industries are our backbone. So the only way to save small scale industries is to provide a package for them. There is a need to think over it. I hope hon. Minister of finance will pay attention to my views and contemplate appropriate measures.

At last to solve the problem of black money provision of tax on the withdrawal of Rs. 10000, is not a proper provision. People are jeering at us. There is a need to prepare an appropriate scheme to bring out black money. This announcement is being laughed at. Please cancel such announcement.

*DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho):

"Jinhe roti ki jaroorat thi, roti na mili.
Jinhe boti ki jaroorat thi boti na mili
Tumhari siywasi takriron ko chaten,
Nange ko langoti na mili."

Sir, the situation is that there is nothing for the poor, the farmers and the unemployed youth in this budget of the year 2005-2006. Under the pressure of the World Bank and Multi National Companies the interest of the country has been grossly neglected. Tax on the provident fund of the employees, tax on the withdrawal of the common men's money deposited in the banks. This is an indication of Government's ill will. You are fined for withdrawing your money from the banks, this has happened for the first time in history.

There is a provision of increasing loans to the farmers but nothing has been said regarding lowering the rate of interest on loans. Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had reduced the rate of interest on Kisan Credit Cards and agricultural loan of banks from 13-16% to 9%.

The construction of rural godowns, the good work of connecting villages through Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana had been carried out for the first time in history by the NDA Government. There is a need to continue them alike. The work of connecting the rivers of north, south, east and west so as to deal with the problem of flood and drought, has not even been mentioned in this budget.

Crop insurance scheme was implemented for the crops likely to be destroyed in natural disasters, there is a need to make provision in respect of compensation by considering fields as a unit. There is no such provision in this budget for providing remunerative price to farmers for their produce., There is a need of irrigation resources. In my Parliamentary Constituency Khajuraho, Ken and Orchha projects are lying pending as a result of which most of the villages of Khajuraho region are deprived of irrigation facilities. If the Government starts these projects electricity will also be generated by them.

World famous Khajuraho, Ram Rajya Ka Karbar and Orchha are tourists places. There is great potential of tourism in these places. But roads and means of communication are not in good condition. National Highway is in a dilapidated condition. There is a need to repair them immediately. Though Khajuraho has been declared an international airport, it is not yet operationed. it is being neglected. Not only this the flight of Indian Airlines has been discontinued which is causing hardship to the native tourists and tourists from abroad. Hence, air service should again be started there and flight from Kolkata to Mumbai should be *via* Khajuraho. As a result of this transportation of tourist will increase at Kharjuraho and revenue of the Government will get a boost.

Sir, crops of the farmers of both the districts, namely Chhatarpur and Tikamgarh of my constituency Kharjuraho has been destroyed by a hailstorm. Due to lack of rains during this year drought like condition emerged there. Where there were some crops, they also got destroyed in the hailstorm. Famine like condition is prevailing there. In such a situation I request to the hon. Minister of Finance to provide compensation to the farmers under a special package. Along with this, construction and development work be started to provide relief to the people.

The districts of Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and Bundelkhand are backward. To include them in the main-stream of development a special package should be provided. People are migrating from there due to lack of health facilities, drinking water and means of livelihood. People are migrating from the villages enmass. Poor people are in distress due to soaring prices farmers are being looted and unemployed youth are in trouble. The situation has become explosive. Unless the problem is addressed. Jor aur Julm ke hone se shuru hoti hai, kisi garib ke rone se shuru hoti hai, bhasm hoti hain takhte taus, jab aag kisi kone se shuru hoti hai'.

There are some suggestions which can change the face and fortune of Budelkhand. Sugar factory be opened at Tikamgarh. Orchha and Ken projects be started. Tourism should be encouraged. Opportunities of employment be provided to the unemployed. Agriculture, horticulture animal husbandry should be encouraged implementation of above suggestion will for sure bring about a total change.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for this wide-ranging debate spread over nearly 15 or 16 hours. The debate was initiated by my hon. friend Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra from the Opposition Benches and my young friend Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia from the Treasury Benches.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Mr. Malhotra, I thought, was rather despondent, pessimistic and cynic. Jyotir on the other hand was confident, optimistic and proud to be able to support this budget. I think it was a function only of their respective ages. But, I think it was a function only of their respective ages. But, I think, it is a function of where they sit and what they see.

Last year, I did not have an opportunity nor did you have an opportunity to debate the Budget. We have made considerable progress this year, at least the Budget is being debated and discussed today. But, from what we all heard, there are no major issues. It was a muted debate.

In fact, by and large, the only complaint I heard was 'you were trying to please everyone' as if pleasing everyone or every section of the people is a crime. In fact, a Government must make an attempt to address the concerns of every section of the people and if you said from the Opposition that 'I pleased everyone', I think, that is a measure of success of the Budget rather than a measure of failure of the Budget. In fact, when I read the Budget Speech for 1 hour 45 minutes until my friend Shri Harin Pathak rose as if a tsunami had hit him, everybody was quite happy to listen to the announcements made, to the vision that was being projected, to the allocations made and to the ideas that were being articulated. I think, the same sense prevailed over the last three days and I am truly grateful to all sections of the House for the broad support that they have extended to the Budget.

Sir, I do not intend to make a long speech. The Budget Speech is there. There is an Action Taken Report. I just want to draw your attention to the Action Taken Report. This is an innovation which the NDA Government started, and I compliment them for that, but it is a practice that we have continued. I think, if hon. Members will take a few minutes tonight or tomorrow morning to read this Report carefully, they will find that all but two or three announcements made in the last Budget have been implemented and even those one or two are under implementation. There are some administrative problems, but I am confident that even they will be implemented before 31st March, 2005. So, when I write a Budget Speech, when I read a Budget Speech, I have to be very conscious that next year I will have to come back and place before you another Report showing what we have done, how much we have accomplished, and therefore, there is no scope for making tall promises any more.

In fact, I am happy that a certain realism has come to play a big part in making Budgets, in supporting Budgets and in criticising Budgets. We can no longer afford to make tall promises. This country has great capacity and potential, but this capacity and potential can be realised only if we subscribe to some fundamental principles of economics and economic growth. As I said in my Budget Speech, what permeate through this Budget are the principles of growth, stability and equity. Why do I put growth first? If this economy had not grown by 6.9 per cent or 7 per cent this year, there would simply be no money to provide for what we want to do next year. That I thought is so fundamental, but it bears repetition that without growth, there can be very little equity. It is, therefore, very important that all of us focus our attention on growth.

If the economy grows by 7 per cent, you will have so much more money for whatever you want to do; if the economy grows by 8 per cent, you will have even more money for what you want to do; but if growth dips to 5 per cent or 5.5 per cent or growth is uneven like it was between 1999 and 2002, you will not have the funds, you will not have the money to do all that has to be done. Growth must be stable and sustainable. We cannot spend our way to growth. We cannot borrow our way to growth. Growth must be sustainable. It is, therefore, very important that we strike a right balance between taxes and borrowing, a right balance between taxes and savings, a right balance between lending rates and borrowing rates, a right balance between Plan expenditure and Non-Plan expenditure and a right balance between capital expenditure and revenue expenditure.

**19.00 hrs.**

If we emphasise on one and ignore the other, then you might have growth on the short run, but it will be an unstable and unsustainable growth. The primary emphasis in this Budget is on growth, but it must be a stable and sustainable growth. Believe me, if we can assure five years of stable and sustainable growth, then you will find that at the end of five years of stable and sustainable growth, then you will find that at the end of five years for more equity is achieved in this country than ever before, and so much more money will be available for all the projects that are so dear to our hearts.

I believe, I have not strayed from the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). In fact, even those who feared that I might stray from the NCMP, now grudgingly conceded that I have adhered pretty close to the NCMP.

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I have given these figures in the Budget speech. We have increased the allocation for the NCMP alone by Rs. 25,000 crore, that is, from Rs. 50,000 crore to Rs. 75,000 crore. This would not have been possible unless the UPA Government was firmly committed to the NCMP, and was willing to make any sacrifice in order to achieve the NCMP objectives. I assure you that if we have high growth this year, then again next year, that is, in 2006-2007, you will find that even more funds are allocated to the NCMP, so that we get nearer to our goals.

Sir, there was some criticism or some suggestion that investment is not taking place. Now, how do you make that statement? In fact, every commentator has noted that after an investment famine, perhaps famine is too strong a word, investment drought of about two years or two and a half years, it was in 2005-2005 that investment has sharply picked-up.

We all get our numbers from the same sources. The NDA also got the numbers from the same source when it was in office. These are Reserve Bank figures, and figures of the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO). The best measure for investment is the non-food credit. Non-food credit in February 2004 was Rs. 7,75,697 crore. I have got figures for March, but I do not have comparable figures for March. Hence, I am reading February figures. In February 2005, this has increased to Rs. 10,07,801 crore, which means new investment of Rs. 2,32,104 crore has taken place in a period of 12 months.

Another measure is with regard to the bank credit. The bank credit during the same period has increased by Rs. 2,39,784 crore. I would urge the hon. Members to please visit the Parliament Library and read the RBI's bulletin, which tells you where this money is going. This money is going into manufacturing; this money is going into infrastructure; this money is going into services; and this money is going into trade. For the first time, after many many months, we today have a sharp spurt in investment. I am not claiming the credit for it. All I am saying is that we have a good situation. We have a situation where the industry, trade, services are confident that they can invest, and earn a return on their investment. Let us not do anything, which will spoil this atmosphere. Let us encourage them to invest because it is investment alone, which will bring growth to this country, and growth alone will lead to greater equity.

Sir, I have also other figures of investment. For example, these are think-tanks, which monitor investment sector-wise. For the first time you will find—if you look at the figures from October to October—that by October 2004, trends in total investment met by industry has risen over the year from October 2003 to October 2004 from Rs. 14,13,698 crore to Rs. 17,93,979 crore, which broadly supports the RBI figures.

Today, we are on the rising curve of investment. I believe, if we are able to manage the macro economic situation, well, without allowing for any hiccups or any disturbances, the year that will begin a few days from today, the 1st of April, 2005 (2005-2006) promises to be another good year. I am confident the UPA Government will be able to deliver another year of growth of more than seven per cent.

Sir, we are going to watch very carefully investment that takes place in agriculture, in irrigation and in water resources. We are going to monitor both public investment and private investment. We are carefully monitoring investment in manufacturing. There is a National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council; there is an Investment Commission; both of them will look closely at the investments in manufacturing, industry-wise and sector-wise. We will also look at investment in infrastructure. Here, of course, the leading role has to be played by the State. In power, in telecom, in roads, in airports, in seaports, the leading role will be played by the State sector; the supporting role will, indeed, be played by the private sector. But we are going to monitor very carefully the investment that takes place in infrastructure. Finally, we are going to monitor very carefully the investment that takes place in education and healthcare where the major role again will be by the State.

Sir, in agriculture, I think, our young friend here said and many others said the key is credit. We recognised this in the very first month of our Government. The Government came into office in May, 2004; on the 18th of June, we announced a Credit Policy. Now, I know, you might want to criticise it for the sake of form. But many hon. Members on the other side have privately told me that the best thing that has happened is the flow of credit to agriculture. This year, we set a target of Rs. 1,05,000 crore. I am confident, by 31st of March, we will achieve that target. We will, in fact, exceed that target; we will be able to extend credit of Rs. 1,08,000 crore. For next year, as I have said, we have set an ambitious target of Rs. 1,40,000 crore. but I need your support for that. I need hon. Members to help me. You must go around your constituencies and find out whether the banks are lending to the deserving farmers. I have visited Orissa; I have visited Karnataka; and I have travelled in Tamil

Nadu. I intend to travel in Maharashtra and Bihar as soon as the Budget Session is over. But the point is unless all hon. Members join together and ensure....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must also go to Punjab.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Punjab is in a position to give us food.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: But you must help me. You must travel in your constituency during the Inter-Session period and find out which banks are lending to farmers and which banks are not lending to farmers; and which branches are lending to farmers. If all of us are so passionately committed to agriculture. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: But stop then who take percentage.

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Can we not take out two or three days from our schedule, travel in our respective constituencies, and come back and report which bank is doing a good job and which bank is not doing a good job?

Sir, some erroneous figures were given about rural development. Please remember that rural development expenditure is spread over several departments and you have to read the Budget papers carefully. You have to look at comparable figures. Let me just give you an idea of what we want to spend next year. Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana—Rs. 4,000 crore. National Food for Work Programme (Cash Component)—Rs. 6,000 crore. There is also the food grain component. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana—Rs. 958 crore. Rural. Housing—Rs. 2,769 crore. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana—Rs. 4,232 crore. In every case it is much higher allocation than the current year; the current year was a higher allocation than last year. These numbers are large numbers. If these numbers are utilised, if these funds are spent. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: These are not facts.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am confident about my numbers; you can tell me about your numbers; and the people will judge.

If this money is spent, you will find that there is a major difference in rural India.

Sir, I do not intend to discuss the Finance Bill now; there will be another debate. I just want to make a statement of your tax must be so carefully designed that it raises revenues but it also promotes savings. If you tax too much, savings will be affected. If you tax too little, the State will have little revenue in order to spend for its proposals. My approach to taxation, the UPA's approach to taxation, is—as NCMP says: "Tax rates will be moderate and stable." When we said that in May, it is because we believed that the tax rates in the earlier regime were not moderate. Otherwise, why should we use the word moderate? That is the reason why we have moderated tax rates in order to promote savings. When I discuss Finance Bill in the end of April and May I will explain how we are promoting savings. There has been some criticism; we will deal with that later.

The idea is to raise revenues; at the same time to promote savings. I believe, in a country like India aspiration drives consumption; consumption drives production. Large number of people in this country aspire to possess basic material goods. We have wage goods but we have a little more than wage goods. I think they should have, everybody should have, shoes, slippers, books. Everybody should have all the things that we take for granted. It is that kind of aspiration which will drive consumption, and it is consumption which will drive production.

The way we have designed our taxes, it will leave more money in the pockets of everyone. I have said—they thought I was saying it in a lighter vein—and I say it with all seriousness, those who have money must spend 60 per cent of that money and must save 40 per cent of that money. If everything is saved and there is no spending, there will be no production. If everything is spent and there is no saving, there will be no investment. So, I would urge housewives, I would urge family heads, I would urge households, now that there is more money

*Not recorded.

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in your pocket, please spend a part of that money, please save a part of that money. This is the only way in which. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: What about the price rise?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me. Your problem is you do not listen, Harin.

Inflation today is one per cent lower than what it was last year. ...*(Interruptions)* The fact is, inflation is a full one per cent lower than what it was last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Price rise is higher than previous year.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me. You are wrong there. ...*(Interruptions)* You are completely wrong there. Please listen to me.

Inflation is one per cent, full one per cent, less than last year. Last year you said: "This Government is incompetent; it cannot control inflation." I said: "Please be patient; we will control inflation." We have brought down inflation to below five per cent. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: What about price rise?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think I will have to send you a primer on economics to understand what inflation is and what is its impact on prices.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I know.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I have already disclosed to you the allocation. For NCMP schemes, that is Rs. 75,000 crore, compared to last year's ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What about the senior citizens, women, common men? They will have to pay much more.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will come to that. Please listen. I will use my order. I do not have to reply in your order. ...*(Interruptions)* I will reply in my order, not in your order Mr. Malhotra. I will reply in my order.

Rs. 75,000 crores have been allocated to the programmes of NCMP as against about Rs. 50,000 crore in the current year. It is a sharp increase. But what is important is not outlays but outcomes. I think the most important passage in the Budget speech is paragraph 100. In the past, we have all been fascinated and carried away by outlays. Outlays are there but they must be translated to outcomes. So, what we have done is we are asking every Ministry to convert these outlays into outcomes. I am happy to report to you that the Prime Minister has written a letter to all Ministries and all Ministers requesting them that at the end of this month, we must convert outlays to outcomes and report to him. I am confident that some time during this Session, we will place before this House not the financial outlays which are there in the Budget but the fiscal outcomes. We intend to monitor through the year not how much a Ministry or the Department has spent but for that spending; what is the outcome in terms of the length of roads; in terms of amount of power generated; in terms of amount of houses constructed, in terms of number of villages electrified; and in terms of number of drinking water schemes completed. Parliament has to exercise its oversight authority not on outlays but on outcomes at the end of the year. Hon. Members must be able to stand up and ask the Minister not how much he spent. We know how much he spent. The Revised Estimate will tell you. But the spending that amount how much did you achieve? Hon. Members must be accountable to Parliament for that. I urge the hon. Members to wait until I place before this House a detailed statement on the outcome that we will achieve by the end of the year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not disturb. Not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we are all one in rejecting jobless growths. Jobless growth, I think, will do great harm to this country. We all agree on that. So, in the Budget speech I had identified the sectors that are likely to throw up the highest number of jobs. I think all of us can agree on those sectors also. What we intend to do in the course of the year, working with the Ministry concerned—the Ministry of Textiles, the Ministry of Biotechnology, the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the Ministry of Mining, the Ministry of Tourism. What we intend to do during the course of the year is to closely monitor the investments that are taking place in that sector and the jobs that are being created in that sector.

*Not recorded.

Now that we have identified the sectors which have the highest job creating potential, you will find that through the year, Ministries and Departments are actively interacting with the stakeholders in that sector, investors in that sector to ensure that not only investments take place but investments translate to jobs.

There is a lot more to be done. On this I want to take about two or three minutes. There are at least half a dozen areas where Parliament as a body and Members of Parliament have to exercise great oversight. Otherwise, we fail. What are these? These are the Food for Work Programme, which during the course of this year, will become, when the Bill is passed, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. Hon. Members said, we are confusing one for the other. We are not. At the moment, it is the Food for Work Programme. When the Bill is passed and becomes a law, it will become the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. But this programme will succeed only if design is correct and if the implementation is correct. Otherwise, it will be pouring money into a bottomless pit.

Similarly, the National Rural Health Mission will be launched on the 1st of April. The focus is on Government and community health system. An hon. Member asked: "Are you abdicating the responsibility? Far from it. What we are doing is, while the State will bear the responsibility for the financial outlay, the community will have to own the system. The community will have to accept ownership of the system so that the system is accountable to the community. Today, the hospital and dispensary systems are accountable to no one. Some Director, Medical Services is sitting at some State Capital.

Now take the ICDS Programme. How will the ICDS succeed unless we can physically count by the end of the year 1,88,168 Anganwadis I know in some places, Anganwadis are simply ghost centres. But we cannot delude ourselves by saying that we have provided the money and Anganwadi is there. But there is neither an Anganwadi nor a mentor, nor children. We should be, physically at the end of the year, able to say that we have actually set up 1,88,168 Anganwadis.

Now, I will come to Mid-day Meal Scheme. Hon. Member has said that ration is rather small. I will look into it. But over the years, in Tamil Nadu, the Mid-day Meal Scheme is a remarkable success. We have to make it a success. It is the largest feeding programme in the history of mankind. At no time in human history has 11 crore children been fed. We are making an attempt. There are shortfalls. There are deficiencies. I am not denying that. People have to set up kitchens; they will have to ensure the logistics; they will have to ensure supply of rice or wheat or oil or vegetables. It will take time. Kamraj took almost five to six years to build Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Therefore, States have a great responsibility. But when they succeed, believe me, this will be the largest feeding programme ever, 11 crore children will be given a meal.

Then, take the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. What is plaguing the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*? What is plaguing the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is absenteeism. There are reports which show that absenteeism of teachers in *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the education system is as much as 20 to 25 per cent. Even when teachers attend schools, the teaching hours are not more than two to three hours. Then the backward regions need funds. We are putting aside Rs. 5,000 crore every year and we will do so for five years in order to ensure that the backward regions of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, some parts of Andhra Pradesh and some other States which are listed—170 districts have been identified by the Planning Commission—will get more funds. But all this will succeed only if the design of the programme is good, if the implementation is in good hands and we are able to measure outcomes at the end of the year. These are ambitious programmes. These are programmes of which we can be truly proud of, if at the end of the year, we can say that we have achieved substantially what we set out to achieve in the beginning of the year.

There were some questions raised about Bharat Nirman. Bharat Nirman is not a pipe dream. Bharat Nirman is a business plan, and we are approaching it in a business like manner. I have listed what Bharat Nirman said. We have also set the goals, we have set for ourselves a four year business plan. I am confident that we will achieve, if I may paraphrase Jawaharlal Nehru's words, if not fully, at least substantially, what we set out to achieve. The aim of the Bharat Nirman is to bring additional one crore hectare under assured irrigation. Irrigation is a subject which falls within the States' jurisdiction, but we are providing money. States also provide money from their Budget. At the rate of about Rs. 75,000 per hectare for major and medium irrigation and Rs. 50,000 per hectare for minor irrigation, we would require about Rs. 67,500 crore. In 2003-04, State Governments with their own funds as well as funds provided by the Central Government have incurred a capital expenditure of about Rs. 12,000 crore on irrigation. At this level of spending, it is safe to assume that

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Rs. 50,000 crore is available. Now we will have to find another Rs. 17,500 crore. It is not difficult, it is not impossible. We can find this money, and I am confident that over a period of four years, we will substantially achieve the target we have set for ourselves in irrigation.

The next goal is to connect all villages with a population of 1,000 with a road.

Now, this programme requires an average of about Rs. 8,000 crore per year. There is a resource gap if you look at only the Central funds. But if we add the State funds, and the States are also spending on roads and bridges, my calculation shows that it is possible between the State funds and the Central funds to find this money of Rs. 8,000 crore per year in order to connect all villages with the population of 1,000.

The third goal is under Indira Awas Yojana—60 lakh additional houses. This, in fact, is eminently achievable. We are in a position to build 15 lakh houses a year, and in four years, there is enough money to build 60 lakh houses, and, we will achieve this goal.

The fourth goal is to provide drinking water supply to the remaining 74,000 habitations. Now, the uncovered habitations require Rs. 15,300 crore. Then, there is a problem of water quality, which requires additional money in the eastern part of India. The programme requires an average of about Rs. 6,560 crore. If you take the Central Government's allocations of about Rs. 4,050 crore and add to it what the States are spending—going by last year's figures—there is enough money available to achieve this target also.

The fifth goal is telephone connectivity. This is eminently achievable. For, 66,822 villages, there is a universal service obligation. There is a very resurgent private sector. In fact, of all the six targets, the one that is most likely to be achieved ahead of the target is telephone connectivity. The one that is of problem is the rural electrification. There is a resource gap there, and I admit it. But that just does not mean we cannot set a target. We have set a target. There is a resource gap. We will be able to find the resources. I will make efforts to find the resources.

So, Bharat Nirman, if you approach, it is business plan. If States join with us and implement it as a business plan, I believe, Sir, that we can achieve substantially what we have set for ourselves in the four years, and, I am confident that the UPA Government's report, at the end of five years, will show that Bharat Nirman has been substantially achieved.

Sir, let me just list new initiatives which were not mentioned in the debate. NHDP-I and NHDP-II were started by the NDA Government. But the NHAI goes back even before the NDA Government; I will come to that in a moment. But the NHDP-II is a new initiative of this Government. The Rs. 10,000 crore Special Purpose Vehicle for infrastructure is a very innovative idea of this Government. The National Urban Renewal Mission for the seven mega cities and all major towns is another major initiative, and my pet dream that we must have a world class university in India, and one of them, at least, must be by world class, is a new idea of this Government. I am confident that this year we will make a beginning, and we will show that we have made progress in these new initiatives.

Sir, I just want to say one or two words about some special points mentioned. But first, I want to deal with NHAI. There was some criticism that we have abandoned something about which Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was very passionately committed to. Not at all. In fact, our commitment to roads goes even before the NDA came into office. The NHAI, I believe and if you recall, was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1988.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But nothing was done.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Just listen to me. It was set up in 1988. Now, during the period 12.12.2000 to 21.05.2004—I am sure, you remember the date, 21.05.2005, it is a very important date for all of you there—you built four-laning 2,342 kilometres, and the average was 1.86 kilometres a day.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: No, Sir. It was 11 kilometres per day. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Just listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, listen to the hon. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me. It was 2,342 kilometres under NHDP phase-I over a period of 1,257 days. If you divide 2,342 by 1,257—whether I divide it or you divide it—the result is 1.86 kilometres per day.

As far as four-laning is concerned, under our Government, from 22.05.04 to 31.01.05, in a matter of 255 days, we have done 1,921 kms., an average of 7.53

kms. a day. Why do you say that we are not committed? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are a very intelligent man! ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: You are manipulating with the figures. I will prove how we have done 11 kms. a day. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)* All that you must know is this.

Sir, during 2003-04, the target fixed by the Government, according to the records given to me, was Rs. 2,195 crore to be spent. They actually spent only Rs. 1,340 crore. In 2004-05, we are going to spend Rs. 2,155 crore. All that I am saying is that while you did start NHDP in the manner in which it is now being implemented, for which I compliment you, please acknowledge that this Government is continuing it with even much greater vigour than the previous Government. That is the point that I am trying to say.

There were some comments about how much did I recover in arrears of taxes. I do not want to take your time. I will deal with that when we deal with the Finance Bill. Just take it from me that the figures are there; we have recovered more as arrears of taxes in the current year than in any year before. I will give you the figures later.

There were some questions about jute. I may not have mentioned jute, especially in my Budget speech, but I believe it is a part of the textile sector. We have before us, a very detailed proposal on jute. I want to assure the jute-growing States that these proposals are under our active consideration, and when we take decisions, I will report to Parliament. Jute is not far from our mind. In fact, it is very central to us in terms of number of people employed, the number of secondary jobs created, the number of workers involved and the number of farmers involved there. I have a detailed note on jute. We are looking into the matter, and we will come back and tell you what we intend to do in jute.

On small-scale industries again, there is a popular misconception that the small-scale industries are dying. I concede that some SSI units may close down. But on the other hand, SSI units also have been opened. SSI units are also thriving. Let us look at the figures. These figures are complimentary both to you and me; there is no reason to apportion blame or share glory.

In 2000-01, there was a total of 101 lakh SSI units; in 2004-05, the number has increased to 118 lakh SSI units; the production has increased from Rs. 2,61,289 crore to Rs. 3,99,020 crore. The employment has increased from 239 lakhs to 282 lakhs. Exports have grown. I have only figures for three years, up to 2002-03. From Rs. 69,797 crore it has grown to Rs. 86,013 crore.

I am not saying that SSIs do not face problems. I know that SSIs face problems. But SSI is a thriving sector. We have announced initiatives in the Budget. In the last Budget, I had announced initiatives. We have a Bill which will be coming on small and medium enterprises. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Bill is coming in this Session. When that Bill is debated, the Minister would explain; if there is a chance, some of us will intervene and explain to you what we are doing in SSI.

But let me once again tell all those who are engaged in SSI, those who are listening to the speech now—the entrepreneurs, promoters and workers—that this Government understands the key place of SSi units in India. We want them to become small and medium enterprises. There is a huge job creating potential in small and medium enterprises. The UPA Government will strain every nerve to make the small and medium enterprises sector a thriving sector.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What about de-reservation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: De-reservation is an on-going process year after year after year. Every year, 'X' number of items are being taken out of the Reservation List, because imports of that is taking place. It happened during the NDA Government also.

It happened during the NDA Government also. When we import a same item and if a multinational can produce the same item and export 50 per cent, reservation unless there is a huge SSI in that sector, makes no sense. Therefore, dereservation is taking place year after year after year. All I would urge you is, go back and read

*Not recorded.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Shri Yashwant Sinha's speeches or Shri Jaswant Singh's speeches.

Sir, I want to conclude by appealing to all Members please pay attention to half a dozen areas where I want the States to act. The Government of India is largely a provider of funds, a provider of ideas. But implementation must be in the States. This Budget, as any other Budget, will succeed or fail only if the States cooperate, and I want, Sir to appeal to the States, through you and through this House, first States must improve governance. Governance standards fall in the States, all the well-laid plans of men and mice will come to an end. Governance standards must improve in the States. When money is allocated to any particular programme, States must spend the money for the programme and not divert to any other programme. What we find is money is allocated to one programme, it is diverted to some other programme. We give it to Indira Aawas Yojana, it goes to something else. We give it for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojana, it goes to something else. We give it for rural health care, it goes to something else. This happens in every State. I think States must spend the money for programmes for which they are allocated.

Thirdly, I appeal to all States, please honour the promise made by their Chief Ministers, honour the promise made by their Finance Ministers and implement VAT. It is good for India. Sir, 113 countries are implementing VAT. Implement VAT. It will make Indian taxation system at State level a modern and efficient taxation system.

Fourthly, amend your APMC Acts. APMC Acts are completely outdated Acts. We have today announced a programme, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Conditions upon that APMC Acts would be amended. Half a dozen States have amended the Acts. We are now living in the year 2005. The farmer today is not the farmer of 40 years ago. APMC Acts are outdated Acts. I would appeal to the States to amend their APMC Acts and take the benefit of the new schemes floated by the Ministry of Agriculture.

You work with the Government in implementing the Vaidyanathan Committee Report. The entire cooperative credit structure is in a shambles today. The Vaidyanathan Committee has recommended a huge amount of money to be outplayed and spent to revitalise cooperative institution. I am confident I can persuade the Prime Minister. I can persuade the Cabinet to give us the money and I can come back to you and ask you to vote for the money. Unless governance improves in the cooperative institutions, unless the legal structure is proper, unless cooperative institutions, what is the point of spending Rs. 15,000 crore? When we call a meeting of the State. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: RBI should do something.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: RBI is one which initiated this. When we call a meeting of the State Governments to implement the Vaidyanathan Committee Report, I would urge hon. Members to prevail upon their State Governments to work with us so that we can revive and save this cooperative institution which has done yeoman service in the past.

Finally, States must reduce the cost of lending by cooperative banks. Public sector banks are being urged to reduce their lending rates. It was 9 per cent during NDA Government; 8.5 per cent in the current year and I intend to take steps to see that those interest rates are brought down to the extent possible. For, on the one hand public sector banks are lending at 8.5 per cent, cooperative banks are lending at 12 per cent. There are good exceptions. There are half a dozen States where the State is bearing a part of the subsidy and lending it about six or six and a half per cent. But States must improve the management of cooperative banks, reduce the spread so that lending to farmers by cooperative institutions comes to an acceptable lending rates.

Finally, I would appeal to the States on this point. One of the most important initiatives, which irrespective of Government, has gathered pace and strength is a Self-Help Group. We have a major initiative for Self-Help Group for micro finance institutions. We will have a regulator for micro finance institutions. Self-Help Groups have taken wings now. In fact, women are doing a remarkable job. We have Women Self-Help Groups where the rate of recovery is 99 per cent which shows that when the women of India organise themselves and borrow money, place honour and pride not only in borrowing but in repaying the loan.

We are going to give a big bcost to Self-Help Groups. We are going to give a big boost to micro finance institutions so that credit is available even for small and tiny enterprises. This will create jobs and income. So, I believe the philosophy of the Budget is based on the investment, growth, stability and equity. I think I have done justice to as many sections as possible but there are some sections which are left out. We shall certainly attend to that. We have addressed the concerns of the

Scheduled Castes; we have addressed the concerns of the Scheduled Tribes, we have addressed the concerns of minorities, we have addressed the concerns of women; we have addressed the concerns of farmers, and we have addressed the concerns of small scale industry.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Great injustice is done to the people belonging to scheduled castes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go in records.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is some reference to the funding of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation. Now, annual grants are given by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The funding programme for the current year, *i.e.* 2004-05 was Rs. 71.75 crore and in the next year, *i.e.*, 2005-06, the Ministry will fund the Foundation Rs. 100.48 crore which is an increase of about Rs. 29 crore. But if the Maulana Azad Education Foundation comes up with more programmes and requires more funds, I assure the House, we will give the money through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to it.

As regards the Central Wakf Council, the allocation has been enhanced from Rs. 12.20 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 19.17 crore in 2005-06. But even this, I admit, is inadequate. Therefore, what I intend to do is, by the time we come back to vote the Appropriation Bill, I will provide more funds to the Central Wakf Council so that its activities are not in any way hampered. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have not dealt with any aspects of the Finance Bill. But that does not mean I am not sensitive to the concerns that you have expressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I will deal with this in greater detail when we discuss the Finance Bill. Please believe me no tax has been imposed. A tax has been proposed and you will dispose it of. So, you should not worry. I will deal with it. But when the Prime Minister asked me, "Why was there an uproar when I mentioned the Withdrawal Tax?" I said, "Sir, I was applying your and my austere standards but apparently times have changed". I am sensitive to your concerns and I am also sensitive to what my hon. friends have mentioned about savings account. You will get a good news when we would discuss the Finance Bill.

About Mr. Malhotraji's point regarding pensioners and women, I will deal with it in greater detail. The assumptions made in the various newspaper reports are questionable assumptions. I will give you the figures. But even after that if there are any wrinkles which have to be ironed out, believe me, we are here and we will iron out those wrinkles. Women and senior citizens are our constituency not yours.

With these words, I commend this Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

**19.46 hrs.**

*(Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav and some other Hon. Members then left the House)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, since issues concerning Bodoland have not been addressed, I am walking out in protest. ...*(Interruptions)*

**19.47 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary left the House.)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2005-06 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2006 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 34, 36, 37, 39 to 63, 65 to 73, 75, 76, 78 to 105."

*The motion was adopted.*

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*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

*Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2004-2005 submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha*

| No. & Name of Demand | Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on July 21, 2004 | | Amount of Demands for Grants Voted by the House | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| **Ministry of Agriculture** | | | | |
| 1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | 1489,86,00,000 | 43,48,00,000 | 1292,91,00,000 | 51,25,00,000 |
| 2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education | 876,66,00,000 | - | 876,65,00,000 | - |
| 3. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 412,91,00,000 | 6,96,00,000 | 299,86,00,000 | 6,95,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries** | | | | |
| 4. Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | 380,01,00,000 | 81,00,000 | 480,01,00,000 | 80,00,000 |
| **Department of Atomic Energy** | | | | |
| 5. Atomic Energy | 905,70,00,000 | 751,66,00,000 | 905,69,00,000 | 779,52,00,000 |
| 6. Nuclear Power Schemes | 656,51,00,000 | 1128,81,00,000 | 656,50,00,000 | 1128,81,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers** | | | | |
| 7. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals | 42,68,00,000 | 24,17,00,000 | 40,04,00,000 | 17,50,00,000 |
| 8. Department of Fertilisers | 9655,92,00,000 | 65,99,00,000 | 3506,27,00,000 | 65,98,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Civil Aviation** | | | | |
| 9. Ministry of Civil Aviation | 187,72,00,000 | 22,53,00,000 | 54,37,00,000 | 22,52,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Coal and Mines** | | | | |
| 10. Department of Coal | 159,91,00,000 | 64,25,00,000 | 159,91,00,000 | 64,25,00,000 |
| 11. Department of Mines | 270,82,00,000 | 72,14,00,000 | 205,81,00,000 | 13,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** | | | | |
| 12. Department of Commerce | 906,46,00,000 | 263,00,00,000 | 906,47,00,000 | 263,00,00,000 |
| 13. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion | 291,88,00,000 | 9,55,00,000 | 289,42,00,000 | 9,55,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology** | | | | |
| 14. Department of Posts | 3115,05,00,000 | 124,30,00,000 | 2915,30,00,000 | 54,44,00,000 |
| 15. Department of Telecommunications | 1165,62,00,000 | 50,00,000 | 1165,62,00,000 | 508,50,00,000 |

| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | Department of Information Technology | 368,00,00,000 | 24,75,00,000 | 369,00,00,000 | 24,75,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Company Affairs** | | | | | |
| 17. | Ministry of Company Affairs | 27,25,00,000 | 1,50,00,000 | 27,25,00,000 | 1,50,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** | | | | | |
| 18. | Department of Consumer Affairs | 20,67,00,000 | 4,96,00,000 | 20,67,00,000 | 4,50,00,000 |
| 19. | Department of Food and Public Distribution | 13307,75,00,000 | 236,11,00,000 | 13320,84,00,000 | 236,11,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Culture** | | | | | |
| 20. | Ministry of Culture | 333,17,00,000 | 22,75,00,000 | 334,16,00,000 | 22,75,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Defence** | | | | | |
| 21. | Ministry of Defence | 3981,86,00,000 | 271,91,00,000 | 1630,42,00,000 | 217,91,00,000 |
| 22. | Defence Pensions | 5624,87,00,000 | - | 5624,87,00,000 | - |
| 23. | Defence Services-Army | 14314,53,00,000 | - | 14314,53,00,000 | - |
| 24. | Defence Services-Navy | 2687,60,00,000 | - | 2687,60,00,000 | - |
| 25. | Defence Services-Air Force | 4322,79,00,000 | - | 4322,78,00,000 | - |
| 26. | Defence Ordnance-Factories | 943,54,00,000 | - | - | - |
| 27. | Defence Services Research and Development | 1176,47,00,000 | - | 1176,47,00,000 | - |
| 28. | Capital Outlay on Defence Services | - | 16736,50,00,000 | - | 16736,49,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** | | | | | |
| 29. | Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region | 519,28,00,000 | 28,96,00,000 | 519,28,00,000 | 28,68,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Environment and Forests** | | | | | |
| 30. | Ministry of Environment and Forests | 642,23,00,000 | 8,38,00,000 | 642,23,00,000 | 8,37,00,000 |
| **Ministry of External Affairs** | | | | | |
| 31. | Ministry of External Affairs | 1823,54,00,000 | 261,32,00,000 | 1440,49,00,000 | 115,31,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Finance** | | | | | |
| 32. | Department of Economic Affairs | 1280,58,00,000 | 771,38,00,000 | 1280,58,00,000 | 771,38,00,000 |
| 33. | Currency, Coinage and Stamps | 466,91,00,000 | 245,75,00,000 | 446,91,00,000 | 245,75,00,000 |
| 34. | Payments to Financial Institutions | 1757,71,00,000 | 4604,57,00,000 | 1757,70,00,000 | 4604,56,00,000 |

| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36. | Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments | 13404,78,00,000 | – | 13404,77,00,000 | – |
| 37. | Loans to Government Servants, etc. | – | 300,00,00,000 | – | 300,00,00,000 |
| 39. | Department of Expenditure | 13,31,00,000 | – | 13,31,00,000 | – |
| 40. | Pensions | 2348,98,00,000 | – | 2348,98,00,000 | – |
| 41. | Indian Audit and Accounts Department | 552,27,00,000 | 5,50,00,000 | 506,27,00,000 | 5,50,00,000 |
| 42. | Department of Revenue | 270,80,00,000 | 2,53,00,000 | 120,82,00,000 | 2,52,00,000 |
| 43. | Direct Taxes | 572,98,00,000 | 51,00,00,000 | 572,98,00,000 | 51,00,00,000 |
| 44. | Indirect Taxes | 630,80,00,000 | 99,42,00,000 | 631,30,00,000 | 99,41,00,000 |
| 45. | Department of Disinvestment | 55,00,00,000 | – | – | – |
| **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** | | | | | |
| 46. | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | 57,84,00,000 | – | 57,84,00,000 | – |
| **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** | | | | | |
| 47. | Department of Health | 1535,64,00,000 | 177,85,00,000 | 1211,78,00,000 | 177,85,00,000 |
| 48. | Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) | 112,61,00,000 | 26,00,000 | 112,61,00,000 | 25,00,000 |
| 49. | Department of Family Welfare | 3348,19,00,000 | – | 3348,18,00,000 | – |
| **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** | | | | | |
| 50. | Department of Heavy Industry | 79,94,00,000 | 235,57,00,000 | 79,93,00,000 | 235,56,00,000 |
| 51. | Department of Public Enterprises | 16,33,00,000 | – | 16,32,00,000 | – |
| **Ministry of Home Affairs** | | | | | |
| 52. | Ministry of Home Affairs | 353,61,00,000 | 14,03,00,000 | 353,60,00,000 | 14,02,00,000 |
| 53. | Cabinet | 81,52,00,000 | 50,00,000 | 81,52,00,000 | 50,00,000 |
| 54. | Police | 5454,20,00,000 | 750,98,00,000 | 5454,20,00,000 | 750,97,00,000 |
| 55. | Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs | 378,19,00,000 | – | 378,19,00,000 | – |
| 56. | Transfers to Union Territory Governments | 303,52,00,000 | 204,49,00,000 | 303,51,00,000 | 204,48,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Human Resource Development** | | | | | |
| 57. | Department of Elementary Education and Literacy | 5237,30,00,000 | – | 767,38,00,000 | – |
| 58. | Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education | 2528,69,00,000 | 1,00,000 | 2528,69,00,000 | – |
| 59. | Department of Women and Child Development | 1480,64,00,000 | – | 973,55,00,000 | – |

| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** | | | | | |
| 60. | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | 631,68,00,000 | 125,43,00,000 | 631,67,00,000 | 125,43,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Labour and Employment** | | | | | |
| 61. | Ministry of Labour and Employment | 522,86,00,000 | 3,00,000 | 522,85,00,000 | 3,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Law and Justice** | | | | | |
| 62. | Election Commission | 5,75,00,000 | - | 5,75,00,000 | - |
| 63. | Law and Justice | 1255,85,00,000 | 51,00,000 | 105,85,00,000 | 51,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources** | | | | | |
| 65. | Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | 254,62,00,000 | 48,02,00,000 | 254,61,00,000 | 48,02,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Non Resident Indians Affairs** | | | | | |
| 66. | Ministry of Non Resident Indians Affairs | 3,00,00,000 | 50,00,000 | 3,00,00,000 | 50,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** | | | | | |
| 67. | Ministry of Panchayati Raj | 15,52,00,000 | - | 15,52,00,000 | - |
| **Department of Ocean Development** | | | | | |
| 68. | Department of Ocean Development | 114,54,00,000 | 50,00,000 | 114,54,00,000 | 50,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** | | | | | |
| 69. | Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs | 2,95,00,000 | - | 2,94,00,000 | - |
| **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** | | | | | |
| 70. | Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | 125,86,00,000 | 3,58,00,000 | 125,86,00,000 | 3,57,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** | | | | | |
| 71. | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | 1786,71,00,000 | - | 1786,71,00,000 | - |
| **Ministry of Planning** | | | | | |
| 72. | Ministry of Planning | 3223,44,00,000 | 911,50,00,000 | 3223,44,00,000 | 911,50,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Power** | | | | | |
| 73. | Ministry of Power | 1051,94,00,000 | 1318,80,00,000 | 1051,93,00,000 | 1318,80,00,000 |
| **The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President** | | | | | |
| 75. | Lok Sabha | 101,40,00,000 | - | 101,40,00,000 | - |
| 76. | Rajya Sabha | 44,96,00,000 | - | 44,95,00,000 | - |
| 78. | Secretariat of the Vice-President | 1,56,00,000 | - | 1,55,00,000 | - |

| 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** | | | | |
| 79. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | 2687,88,00,000 | 3616,48,00,000 | 2687,87,00,000 | 3616,47,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Rural Development** | | | | |
| 80. Department of Rural Development | 7549,48,00,000 | 2,50,00,000 | 6049,48,00,000 | 2,50,00,000 |
| 81. Department of Land Resources | 632,24,00,000 | - | 632,24,00,000 | - |
| 82. Department of Drinking Water Supply | 1650,70,00,000 | - | 1650,69,00,000 | - |
| **Ministry of Science and Technology** | | | | |
| 83. Department of Science and Technology | 609,76,00,000 | 35,35,00,000 | 609,75,00,000 | 35,35,00,000 |
| 84. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research | 647,95,00,000 | 2,05,00,000 | 647,95,00,000 | 2,05,00,000 |
| 85. Department of Biotechnology | 161,73,00,000 | — | 161,72,00,000 | — |
| **Ministry of Shipping** | | | | |
| 86. Ministry of Shipping | 273,04,00,000 | 153,82,00,000 | 297,51,00,000 | 153,81,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Small Scale Industries** | | | | |
| 87. Ministry of Small Scale Industries | 199,70,00,000 | 7,50,00,000 | 199,70,00,000 | 7,50,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** | | | | |
| 88. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | 685,71,00,000 | 89,88,00,000 | 691,55,00,000 | 89,87,00,000 |
| **Department of Space** | | | | |
| 89. Department of Space | 1055,97,00,000 | 274,67,00,000 | 1110,97,00,000 | 289,67,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** | | | | |
| 90. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | 882,69,00,000 | 10,42,00,000 | 952,18,00,000 | 10,42,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Steel** | | | | |
| 91. Ministry of Steel | 74,16,00,000 | 44,45,00,000 | 17,49,00,000 | 44,44,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Textiles** | | | | |
| 92. Ministry of Textiles | 662,97,00,000 | 227,34,00,000 | 662,96,00,000 | 227,34,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Tourism** | | | | |
| 93. Ministry of Tourism | 113,62,00,000 | 147,25,00,000 | 113,62,00,000 | 167,25,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** | | | | |
| 94. Ministry of Tribal Affairs | 68,91,00,000 | 21,63,00,000 | 69,41,00,000 | 28,63,00,000 |
| **Union Territories (Without Legislature)** | | | | |
| 95. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 453,49,00,000 | 104,16,00,000 | 453,49,00,000 | 104,16,00,000 |
| 96. Chandigarh | 451,22,00,000 | 76,18,00,000 | 451,21,00,000 | 76,17,00,000 |
| 97. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 226,91,00,000 | 17,75,00,000 | 226,91,00,000 | 17,74,00,000 |
| 98. Daman and Diu | 123,75,00,000 | 14,90,00,000 | 123,75,00,000 | 14,90,00,000 |
| 99. Lakshadweep | 109,33,00,000 | 19,02,00,000 | 109,33,00,000 | 19,01,00,000 |

| 1 | | 2 | | 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ministry of Urban Development** | | | | | |
| 100. | Department of Urban Development | 477,18,00,000 | 657,96,00,000 | 477,17,00,000 | 177,96,00,000 |
| 101. | Public Works | 344,20,00,000 | 120,25,00,000 | 344,20,00,000 | 120,24,00,000 |
| 102. | Stationery and Printing | 73,53,00,000 | 10,00,000 | 73,52,00,000 | 10,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation** | | | | | |
| 103. | Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation | 225,57,00,000 | 155,78,00,000 | 304,56,00,000 | 155,77,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Water Resources** | | | | | |
| 104. | Ministry of Water Resources | 396,69,00,000 | 28,74,00,000 | 396,69,00,000 | 28,74,00,000 |
| **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** | | | | | |
| 105. | Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports | 225,88,00,000 | 7,12,00,000 | 225,88,00,000 | 7,12,00,000 |
| TOTAL REVENUE/CAPITAL | | 143140,51,00,000 | 35829,30,00,000 | 124690,71,00,000 | 35639,39,00,0000 |

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2004-05 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demand Nos. 1 to 4, 8 to 10, 12 to 16, 18, 20 to 23, 25 to 27, 29 to 32, 34, 36, 40 to 44, 46 to 50, 52 to 58, 60, 61, 63, 65, 68, 70, 71, 79, 80, 83, 84, 86, 88, 90 to 92, 95 to 100, 104 and 105."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Supplementary Demands for Grants—Second Batch (General) for 2004-2005 to be submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

| No. & Title of Demand | | Amount of Demand for Grant Voted by the House | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 2 | |
| | | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| 1. | Department of Agriculture and Cooperation | 3,00,000 | 20,91,00,000 |
| 2. | Department of Agricultural Research and Education | 1,00,000 | - |
| 3. | Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying | 1,00,000 | - |

| | 1 | | 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries | 1,00,000 | – |
| 8. | Department of Fertilisers | 2996,36,00,000 | – |
| 9. | Ministry of Civil Aviation | 89,90,00,000 | – |
| 10. | Department of Coal | 1,00,000 | – |
| 12. | Department of Commerce | 1,00,000 | 25,20,00,000 |
| 13. | Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion | 1,00,000 | – |
| 14. | Department of Posts | 10,78,00,000 | 1,00,000 |
| 15. | Department of Telecommunications | 2082,50,00,000 | 407,10,00,000 |
| 16. | Department of Information Technology | 1,00,000 | – |
| 18. | Department of Consumer Affairs | 38,07,00,000 | – |
| 20. | Ministry of Culture | 2,00,000 | – |
| 21. | Ministry of Defence | 959,10,00,000 | – |
| 22. | Defence of Pensions | 672,00,00,000 | – |
| 23. | Defence Services-Army | 1334,41,00,000 | – |
| 25. | Defence Services-Air Force | 30,00,00,000 | – |
| 26. | Defence Ordnance-Factories | 75,45,00,000 | – |
| 27. | Defence Services-Research and Development | 66,91,00,000 | – |
| 29. | Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region | – | 2,62,00,000 |
| 30. | Ministry of Environment and Forests | 2,00,000 | – |
| 31. | Ministry of External Affairs | 253,30,00,000 | – |
| 32. | Department of Economic Affairs | 1,00,000 | – |
| 34. | Payments to Financial Institutions | 6,00,000 | 1,03,00,000 |
| 36. | Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments | 316,62,00,000 | – |
| 40. | Pensions | 213,00,00,000 | – |
| 41. | Indian Audit and Accounts Department | 83,31,00,000 | 2,96,00,000 |
| 42. | Department of Revenue. | 11,94,00,000 | – |
| 43. | Direct Taxes | 23,95,00,000 | – |

| | 1 | 2 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 44. | Indirect Taxes | 53,47,00,000 | - |
| 46. | Ministry of Food Processing Industries | 1,00,000 | - |
| 47. | Department of Health | 3,00,000 | - |
| 48. | Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) | 3,60,00,000 | - |
| 49. | Department of Family Welfare | 1,00,000 | - |
| 50. | Department of Heavy Industry | - | 1,00,000 |
| 52. | Ministry of Home Affairs | 8,87,00,000 | - |
| 53. | Cabinet | 62,45,00,000 | - |
| 54. | Police | 434,80,00,000 | 6,00,00,000 |
| 55. | Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs | 135,00,00,000 | - |
| 56. | Transfers to Union territory Governments | 147,66,00,000 | 4,00,00,000 |
| 57. | Department of Elementary Education and Literacy | 1,00,000 | - |
| 58. | Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education | 167,17,00,000 | - |
| 60. | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting | 18,52,00,000 | - |
| 61. | Ministry of Labour and Employment | 91,45,00,000 | - |
| 63. | Law and Justice | 2,00,000 | - |
| 65. | Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources | 1,00,000 | - |
| 68. | Department of Ocean Development | 1,00,00,000 | - |
| 70. | Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions | 1,00,000 | - |
| 71. | Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas | - | 2,00,00,000 |
| 79. | Ministry of Road Transport and Highways | 82,45,00,000 | 1,00,000 |
| 80. | Department of Rural Development | 46,00,000 | - |
| 83. | Department of Science and Technology | 1,00,000 | 1,00,000 |
| 84. | Department of Scientific and Industrial Research | 2,00,000 | - |
| 86. | Ministry of Shipping | 29,00,00,000 | - |
| 88. | Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment | 1,00,000 | - |
| 90. | Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation | 64,00,000 | - |
| 91. | Ministry of Steel | 23,67,00,000 | 1,00,00,000 |

| 1 | | 2 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 92. | Ministry of Textiles | 3,00,000 | – |
| 95. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 111,66,00,000 | – |
| 96. | Chandigarh | 60,41,00,000 | 3,95,00,000 |
| 97. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1,00,000 | 1,81,00,000 |
| 98. | Daman and Diu | 1,00,000 | 7,66,00,000 |
| 99. | Lakshadweep | 2,09,00,000 | 35,00,000 |
| 100. | Department of Urban Development | 8,01,00,000 | 300,01,00,000 |
| 104. | Ministry of Water Resources | – | 6,50,00,000 |
| 105. | Ministry of Youth Affairs | 2,00,000 | – |
| | Grand Total | 10700,40,00,000 | 793,14,00,000 |

**19.48 hrs.**

## APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL*, 2005

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up item no. 19—Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-06.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-06."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-06, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-06, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House would now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.3.2005.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

---

## APPROPRIATION BILL*, 2005

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2004-05.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2004-2005."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for the consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move**:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund for India for the services of the financial year 2004-2005, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: the question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2004-2005, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

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**19.53 hrs.**

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Ninth Report**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with your permission, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 18th March, 2005.

**19.54 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 18, 2005/Phalguna 27, 1926 (Saka).*

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*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.3.2005.

**Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

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