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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 24, 2008/Vaisakha 4, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up Question Hour please.

- Q. 441. Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh—not present.
- Q. 442. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta—not present.
- Q. 443. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan—not present.
Shrimati Jayaprada—not present.
- Q. 444. Shri Adhir Chowdhury—not present.
Shri Mahavir Bhagora—not present.

I do not know what is to be done if there are no Questions to be taken up during the Questions Hour.

- Q. 445. Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari—not present.
Shri Giridhari Lal Bhargava—not present.

Shri Bhargava told me that he would not be present only yesterday.

- Q. 446. Shri Chandrabhan Singh—not present.
Shrimati Minati Sen—not present.

Very good—indiscriminately!

- Q. 447. Shri Rupchand Murmu—not present.
Shri Chhatar Singh Darbar—not present.
- Q. 448. Dr. M. Jagannath—not present.
- Q. 449. Shri Harishinh Chavda—not present.

I hope country takes notice of it.

Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—not present.

- Q. 450. Ch. Munawar Hassan—not present.

I am not a proud Speaker to preside over this state of affairs.

- Q. 451. Shri Udai Singh—not present.
Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao—not present.

- Q.452. Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh—not present.

Thank you very much. Shri Yerrannaidu may put Q. 453.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Double Taxation on Airline Tickets

*453. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the attention of the Government is drawn to the double taxation on airline tickets bought through travel agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation has been received from the travel agents in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(c) and (d): The Government has not received any information/representation from travel agents in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: In any event, I have to be liberal with this subject.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the answer given the hon. Minister for parts (a) and (b) is No, Sir;

for (c) and (d)-the Government has not received any information/representation from travel agents in this regard and for (e)-does not arise.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the word "double taxation on airline tickets bought through travel agents" in my Question. First, the Government levies service tax when the tickets are sold to the travel agents and then commissions charged by the travel agents are also taxed. This double taxation resulted in higher fares which ultimately affect the tourism industry. To avoid this, I request the Government to amend the concerned Section of Finance Act, 1994.

Here, I am asking one question. Is it not a burden on the passengers because of the double taxation? If so, what are the measures taken by the Government? By imposing this taxation the tourists are not coming to India. That is why, to avoid double taxation, what steps the Government will take?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as you may have just understood from the Question or the supplementary asked by the hon. Member, the issues of taxation do not fall under the purview of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. As far as we are concerned, our policy is very clear...*(Interruptions)* I am answering on the basis of what the hon. Member has asked.

MR. SPEAKER: You please do not answer to interruptions.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I feel that as far as we in the Ministry of Civil Aviation are concerned, we have taken a policy decision quite a few years ago that we do not regulate fares. Market determines fares. As far as tax is concerned, the Government only collects a passenger service fee of Rs. 200 primarily on account of looking after the safety and security of all our airports. It is the only tax that the Government, *per se*, is charging from the passenger.

The hon. Member also talked about service tax or tax coming on account of travel agent's commission. I do not think that the travel agent's commission comes within this purview. It is because that is given to the travel agent by the respective airlines, and it is not given by the passenger, *per se*, separately over and above the price of the ticket. If at all there is any issue with regard to double taxation, then I think that it will be better if the Minister of Finance were to be addressed this Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You want the airlines to avoid all taxes!

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the passengers are heavily burdened with the imposition of all these taxes. We are frequently reading in the newspapers about airport tax, passenger tax and other taxes. We should not leave it to the market forces to avoid all these taxes. The Government should also take control, and maintain good fares. Otherwise, the passengers will be troubled. What further steps is the Government going to take in the future?

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing it even though it is not wholly relevant. Today, there is no other Question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would appreciate all that the hon. Member is saying in the context of our Ministry in terms of determining airfares. We are not levying any taxes as the impression is being made out to be. Mostly, the surcharge on tickets is because of the rising prices of fuel. Therefore, the airlines are free to charge whatever they feel the market can absorb. It is a free-market dynamics that is in operation. We, as Government, do not regulate fares all. An amount of Rs. 200, as the passenger service fee, is the only tax that the Government has imposed on the traveling passengers.

The hon. Member also talked about new airports, user development fees and other issues. Right now, the Government has not fixed any user development fees on any new airport that is opened. The user development fees is only restricted to international passengers, and that too at a rate of approximately Rs. 1,000 and domestic passengers will not yet be paying any user development fees until we come to some reasonable understanding as to what would be in the interest of the travelling public.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Karnataka High Court has categorically stated that the old airports should be kept intact? Otherwise, the passengers are facing serious inconvenience because of the distance from the city to new airport.

MR. SPEAKER: How does it relate?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is the reaction of the Government on this issue?

MR. SPEAKER: Today, you are taking the liberty.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am waiting for Shri Radhakrishnan to ask his favourite question of a 'flight to the Middle-East'.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Actually, it would not be fair for me to go into the details of all this. But I can only say that the Karnataka High Court has not given any stay against either opening of new airport or closure of the old airport. I do not want to go into too many details as it is a judicial order.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a judicial observation.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: But it is an observation in the interest of the traveling public. Therefore, we may enter into a dialogue, which we are going to do in the near future.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: You can renegotiate the earlier one.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I do not think that is the order of the Karnataka High Court. As I said, it is an observation of the High Court, which has been rightly mentioned by the hon. Speaker also.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: The hon. Minister just now answered that he leaves the determination of fares to the market forces. I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister. It is all right as far as the commercially viable routes are concerned. But what about those routes where that much of consumers are not there as in areas like Ladakh and other difficult areas? The Government has the responsibility to operate airline services in those areas. Airfare to Ladakh was Rs. 8,650 one way till last year. Now, of course, with the operation of other airlines market forces have come into play and now we pay only Rs. 3,500 or even less. However, since Ladakh remains cut off from the rest of the country for six months in a year and the air travel is the only mode of transportation, what does the Government propose to do to regulate airfares in such sectors?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you are very knowledgeable and you can answer any question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I think the hon. Member himself has answered his question. he said that fares

were upwards of Rs. 8,000 when there was no competition and with the advent of competition the fares have come down to around Rs. 3,500. That itself shows that market forces are in operation. In fact that has been the endeavour of Government that more competition leads to better services, better fares and more choice to the consumer.

SHRI CHHEWANG THUPSTAN: I would say that fares to Ladakh are still on the higher side.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I appreciate the spirit of the question.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants some more competition.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: But the hon. Member has answered his own question in a way because he himself says that is getting more services which were very restricted only about a year ago.

[Translation]

DR. TUSHAR AMAR SINGH CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday when we go through newspapers and read advertisements we find that fare from Delhi to Mumbai is Rs. 599, from Delhi to Ahmedabad, it is Rs. 799 and Delhi to America Rs. 21,000. But when we actually purchase the tickets, including tax it costs us rupees two thousand or three thousand.

I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation is likely to impose some sort of restriction on those travel agents and airlines to check such misleading advertisements or not?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On a normal day I would have disallowed this. But the Minister seems to be ready to answer.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: This seems to be one of those days where all the ill luck has fallen on me!

Sir, fares are determined by the market forces and I am sure when consumers read the advertisement they find that there is always a rider attached to it, as in any marketing gimmick, that other fares and taxes are extra. I am sure people are not so ignorant. It is ultimately well-advertised that there is a tax component which is over and beyond this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, why has the Government of India not yet taken any initiatives to set up a new airport in my Bodoland area? It is a vital question and it has been long overdue. Sir, why are people in Bodoland being deprived of air travel services? Nothing has been done so far. It is a great discrimination against the people of the Bodoland area.

MR. SPEAKER: Did I allow you to put a question?

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I want to sincerely know through you, Sir, why has the Government of India not taken any initiative as yet to set up a new airport within the Bodoland area, particularly at Kokrajhar? I strongly demand of the government to take appropriate steps to set up a green air field at Kokrajhar at the earliest possible.

MR. SPEAKER: This has no relation to the main Question. You can say you are considering it.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I have met the hon. Member in the past. He is well aware that we have had a discussion. I would like to inform the hon. Member that this is also an issue of the North-Eastern region. There is a DONER Ministry which is looking into all these affairs. It would be better if these issues could be brought up by him in that appropriate forum. After coming from there, we would be in a better position to respond to his query.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, the Question is on double taxation on air charges. My question relates to taxation and surcharges. When we pay the total airfare, the invoice gives the details of various surcharges and other taxes. Especially with regard to the fare for journey between Middle-East destinations and destinations in India....

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is very specific. How far can you go from it?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I am asking a very specific question.

MR. SPEAKER: Your specific question is totally unrelated. Talk about double taxation.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is a long pending complaint from the passengers traveling to Middle-East destinations from India. The present airfares are irrational when compared to other international flight services.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question please.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: While going through the details of the invoice, we find a lot of surcharges, taxation, fuel surcharge, etc. This complaint is still pending. Hence, my relevant and specific question is this. Would Government reconsider rationalisation of air fare charges between Middle-East and India?

MR. SPEAKER: It is specific but irrelevant. Even then, I am allowing you. It is irrelevant to the Question.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Again, I also would like to tell hon. Member and all the Members from Kerala that in response to this kind of a repeated demand both inside the House and outside, that the national carrier floated a subsidiary called 'Air India Express', specifically with a view to offering cheaper fares to passengers going and working in the Gulf region. As a result, I can say with a sense of satisfaction and authority that there has been a good response to this kind of initiative where fares are very much lower than what they used to be in the past.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri R.S. Rao, a brief question.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: I would put a short one, Sir. Since the hon. Minister is very knowledgeable, though it is not connected with the Question, anyway, I would like to ask this question. I would like to state that user charges for the domestic flights are charged in Hyderabad. Secondly, it is reported that a lot of money has been spent on Begumpet Airport, which is now kept idle. Now, the new Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has been opened in Hyderabad recently. I would like to ask why can hon. Minister not allow the old airport for the purpose of domestic flights.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister has answered it too many times.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sh. Shailendra Kumar. Is your question about Kanpur airport?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is an airport in Allahabad.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sh. Yerrannaiduji had put up a very relevant question. I would like to thank hon'ble. Minister as has introduced an Air India flight from here on our request. It is a fact that if a passenger purchases ticket one-two months earlier, he gets the ticket at a reduced rate. If one has to travel in emergency, he pays double, triple the tax on a ticket. If one purchases ticket one or two months before his journey one gets ticket for two-three-four thousand rupees only...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no need to tell all this.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: If somebody purchases ticket immediately it costs eight thousand or eight and a half thousand rupees. The Minister has said in his reply that he has no check on travel agents. It is a matter of great regret. This is a sort of looting the passengers. This should be checked.

MR. SPEAKER: Travel by train.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think perhaps the hon. Member is thinking in a different way. Travel agent does not fix tax or air ticket fare. The fare is fixed by airlines. Travel agent is merely a service provider and airlines reimburse him.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this erodes the credibility of the department.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: If a ticket is bought in advance it costs less. This is a good thing. It did never happen earlier.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Hon. Minister has stated that the Department is not imposing any taxes on the passenger tickets. Even then, the surcharge and charges are being increased in many ways, especially, when the airports are being privatized. Now, the private companies are controlling the airports themselves. Sometimes, they are imposing charges over the passengers. Thus, passengers have to bear the cost of the tickets more than that of what the Government is levying.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have a free travel in air.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Is Government contemplating to regulate the private airport authorities to impose charges and surcharges over the passengers?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, I can say categorically that ever since new management have come into Mumbai and Delhi, no new additional charges have been levied by them because the Government has also an obligation to the traveling public. They are also under the purview of the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority Bill, which has just been cleared by the Standing Committee and has now been received by us which will, of course, come back to this House for consideration and passing. Then only will the charges be increased or in a way taken into consideration keeping in view especially the cost and the other factors so that no extra burden or unnecessary burden falls on the travelling people.

[Translation]

Action Plan for Modernisation of Rail Network

*454. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to formulate a high priority action plan for modernisation, development and infrastructural expansion of the rail network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the status of the said action plan?

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) An Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan (IRMP) had been formulated for 2005-2010 identifying activities with definite time frame for implementation. It has got 3 segments, the details of which are as under:

Passenger Business Segment includes increased induction of modern coaches in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi

trains, expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) across the country, Environment Friendly toilets in coaches, improved Safety features in coaches in terms of its crashworthiness and fire retarding features.

Freight Business Segment includes Introduction of Higher Axle Load, Double Stack Container and Roll-on-Roll-off wagons on the identified routes, Introduction of light weight and corrosion resistant steel and aluminum wagons, Extension of Freight Operations Management System to cover Terminal, Rake and Crew Management System, completion of works identified under National Rail Vikas Yojana (NRVY) along with some other Troughput Enhancement works, etc.

Other Modernisation Initiatives includes Track Modernisation and its maintenance practices, Modernisation of Bridge Management System, Singaling and Telecommunication System, Mechanical and Electrical System and the Disaster Management system.

Total Expenditure envisaged for execution of the identified items in the IRMP was about Rs. 24,000 Crores.

The major items of works to be executed in the current financial year are as under:

1. Completion of Throughput Enhancement works.
2. Development of modern freight terminals.
3. Introduction of Double Stack Containers.
4. Ware-housing facilities near rail terminals.
5. Expansion of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS).
6. Track, Bridge and Single modernisation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Railways have considered the modernization of rail network very seriously. It is under the leadership of Shri Praful Patel Ji, the civil aviation and the network of airlines is working very well. There is also more privatisation. My question is whether there is any proposal for modernization of rail network? What efforts being made for the development of railways?

MR. SPEAKER: Everything has been stated in the reply.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, for modernization of the Indian Railways we have evolved an Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan for 2005-2010 which contemplates an investment of Rs. 24,000 crore. Passenger, freight and other segments are taken care of in this Plan. The specific question of modernization of railway stations etc. is an on-going process. For the information of the hon. Member I may tell that this year we have increased the allocation to Rs. 852 crore for the purpose of not only increasing the infrastructural facilities but also for modernization of the stations. I assure the hon. Member that there is no dearth of fund for modernization of rail network.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Ministry of Railways had announced that on the lines of Japan and Germany, there was a proposal to run bullet trains from Mumbai to Delhi, Delhi to Kolkata and Kolkata to Mumbai. By when it is going to be started.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the fare of this train in Japan, do you know?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: I have answered this question more than once in this august House. We have already said that the feasibility studies would be conducted in all the four regions, Southern, Northern, Eastern and Western. Only after conducting the feasibility studies, we are going to take up the matter with the cooperation of the interested State Governments. We have already initiated this from the last Budget onwards. With the feasibility studies being done, we will take up this programme as and when it is possible.

MR. SALIM: Sir, India is having a huge railway network. When we talk about modernization of the railway network, we make addition to this network to meet the modern day's demand. When we compare ourselves with China or other countries, the way the air or road traffic network is increasing, we find we have hardly made net addition in our network and that is why there are vast areas where still railway expansion has not taken place.

In his reply the hon. Minister has talked about three segment modernisation plan. My question is with regard to the third segment that is the modernization initiatives about track management, track renewal, track modernization, signaling and telecommunication modernization, which is more important in terms of speed, mobility and safety. In his reply the Minister has already promised that in the current financial year he will take care of this part.

So what amount have they earmarked for the modernisation of tracks, bridges, safety, signalling and telecommunication?

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to give too many details. If the details are there, you send it to him.

SHRI R. VELU: I would like to submit that under the special Railway Safety fund which we have created, we have spent about Rs. 17,000 crore for modernisation of various things like tracks, signalling, etc. As I mentioned earlier also, Rs. 24,000 crore was earmarked for these areas, of which Rs. 20,000 crore have already been spent. If he wants any further details on any item, I would be able to furnish it.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The job of inducting modernised coaches in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains is given importance in this scheme. But they have not been able to induct them in Rajdhani, Shatabdi and other trains in India. It is because whatever modernised coaches are manufactured, they are being exported. With the result, we are not able to induct such coaches in our country. I would like to know how many coaches will be modernised and in how many trains they would be inducting modernised coaches. I think if the export of modernised coaches is banned, it could be done very quickly.

Another question is regarding modernisation of bridge management work. In India, there are hundreds of RoBs which are very old. They should be identified and demolished. When will be identified and demolished? How many of them have been modernised in recent years in India, particularly in Tamil Nadu?

SHRI R. VELU: Regarding modernisation, out of 11 Rajdhani Expresses, five have already been provided with modernised coaches and rest of the six trains would be done in another two years' time. In four Shatabdi trains we have already done it and in seven, we will be

doing it. The number of coaches we have already added is about 266 and we require around 400 more. In the next two years, we would be able to cover all the Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains because these coaches are now being manufactured both by ICF as well as by RCF, Kapurthala and also by some public sector institutions.

As regards modernisation of bridges under the Railway Safety Fund, a considerable amount has been spent. More than 2300 bridges were identified and almost all have been completed and the balance of about 95 bridges or so are likely to be completed during this year.

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Sir, as per the assurance given by the Railway Minister, under the Action Plan for Modernisation, the Pathankot-Joginder Nagar Railway line which involves conversion of narrow gauge to broad gauge from Kullu Manali to Lahoul- Spiti and extension up to Leh and Ladhak border area of Jammu and Kashmir for the alternative route for military deployment. Is there any planning in the Railway Department to give priority to this sector keeping in mind that it is a strategic point of border area along with China border?

SHRI R. VELU: As of now, we have no plans for that. Since the hon. Member has made a point, we will get it examined and see what can be done.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: So far as the Integrated Railway Modernisation Plan is concerned, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Railway authorities have been contemplating to invite the private players in the field and whether the Standing Committee on Railways have against the induction of private sector in this field?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, for the first time, after this Government has taken over the charge, the concept of joint venture came up wherein the private people and private entrepreneurs are invited to invest their money. A number of programmes and initiatives have already been taken up. One of them is the project of world class stations under which 26 stations have already been identified including metro and sub-metro stations. In this programme, the private players can have a role to play. In a place like Rajasthan, we have said that the private players can lay track, maintain it and hand it over to the Railways. Likewise, the private players can also participate in the wagon schemes by owning wagons and they can operate it through Railways and for that they would be given some incentives.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 455.— Shri Mitrasen Yadav—
Not present.

Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil—Not Present.

Q. No. 456—Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy—Not present

He has sent me a letter.

Q. No. 457.— Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni— Not present.

[Translation]

Railway Freight Service

+
*458. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Zones are facing difficulties in catering to the existing demand of freight services; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide the adequate freight services in these Railway Zones?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Railway Zones have, by and large, catered to the existing demand of freight services satisfactorily. In fact, the Indian Railways have surpassed the initial budget targets of 785 million Tonnes (MT) for the year 2007-08 and the revised estimate targets of 790 MT by achieving a total freight loading of 794.21 MT. However, in certain sectors, there are some gaps between demand and supply due to seasonal fluctuations, operational constraints, limitations of terminals, etc. The Railways has a lot of ongoing works in the form of throughput enhancement works, traffic facility works, network capacity enhancement, development of freight terminals, etc. Which generate further capacity for handling of additional freight. The above steps along with increased production/acquisition of rolling stock should ensure provision of adequate freight services in the Railway Zones.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the statement given by the hon. Minister it is stated that zonal railways have satisfactorily met the current demand of goods services. However, by loading a total of 794.21 million tonnes of goods, the Indian Railways have crossed the preliminary budget target of 785 million tonnes for 2007-08 and the revised target of 790 million tonnes. Through you, I would like to clearly ask the hon'ble Minister about the details of zonal railways and whether all the zones are functional or there is any difficulty, in their working? The detail is not given. Through you, I would like to know the details thereof.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I do not know, but as the hon. Member would know that the growth rate of freight in percentage terms is 8.98, which is much more than the GDP growth rate in the country. All zones are functioning. There are more loading in certain zones. For example, in the East Coast zone, in the South Central zone, in the South Eastern zone, there are more loading. There is no problem in that. If the hon. Member feels that a certain zone is not functional in any respect, then I would be able to tell him.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Minister has himself admitted, the targets have been achieved. The Railway have earned more profits and carved a niche for themselves in the country. But the facts have been concealed in the questions. Through you, I would like to ask whether there is some problem in any railway zone or the progress of work is slow. The figures submitted by various zones clearly indicate that all zones are not working equally. What targets you have fixed for that zone and by when that zone will start working normally?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When will the work be done normally?

SHRI R. VELU: Again, I would like to repeat that all the zones are working. There may be zones where the demand may be more for movement; indenting may be pending, for example as it happens in the South Eastern Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may let him know in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with the growth of trade, demand for freight services in Indian Railway is increasing. The efforts being made by Railways are not meeting the increasing demand. People have to take the help of touts in freight booking and are constraint to adopt corrupt practices. If the freight services in railways are put in order, we can check inflation because if demand increases, the supply of goods in that particular field can immediately be made. When goods do not reach in time, consumers and traders face problems and the goods perish. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of any corrupt practice in freight services in Railways, if so, the details I this some for last 3 years?

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: We have a system to oversee loading and unloading. Any corrupt practice can be brought to our notice and those involved can be taken up or if it is done through touts, they can be removed. I think the touts are there not only in freight area but they are also functioning here and there on the passenger side. We are also having periodic checks, ambush checks, etc. to see that touts are eliminated.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Vedaranyam is one of the maximum salt producing areas in India. Lorries carrying salt from here disturb the road traffic a lot. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is having a proposal for freight service by installing new BG line there. If so, when will it be implemented?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the salt is produced in Vedaranyam which is known for Salt Satyagraha, for the kind information of the hon. Speaker and the hon. Members. Now this line is from Thiruvarur to Thiruthuraipoondi and from there, it goes to Agasthianpalli. It has been closed for a number of years now. The salt producers are not able to move their stocks. Earlier, salt was moved all the way to West Bengal, Bihar, UP and the Northern States. Now, because of the MG line, there is transshipment cost involved, the salt could not be moved. Now, realising the situation, I visited Vedaranyam last year and evaluated the problems there. In the last budget, we have sanctioned a broad

gauge for that line. In fact, once the gauge conversion is completed, I assure the hon. Member that salt will once again be moved not only within Tamil Nadu but also to other States so that old business will be restored.

SHRI SACHIN PILOT: Sir, as you know, the Railways have been making a lot of profit in the last four to five years and to my mind, the freight services have contributed immensely in turning around the railways.

You may also know that there has been a sharp increase in the prices of raw materials which has led to the increase of prices of all commodities including commodities meant for consumption. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Is there a thinking in the Railway Ministry, which has been also reflected in some media reports, to consider reducing some freight charges especially for things like iron and steel which will help in reducing the price rise that we are facing today?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, in spite of the price increase in fuel for four times, we have not increased the price either on the freight or on the passenger side. To streamline the freight rates, the number classes has been brought down so as to make it customer-friendly. The hon. Member has raised the issue of price and whether the Railways can contribute its might so that it can contain the price rise. For iron which is meant for exports, we have slightly increased it because when the man who is exporting, is realizing so much of margin and profit, why can he not share that profit with the railways so that we are able to cross subsidise about Rs. 5000 crore which is a loss incurred on the passenger traffic? So, the Member's request as to whether we can reduce the freight of iron and steel, we have to get it examined.

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister has stated in reply to the question that there is some difference between demand and supply owing to the shortage of terminals. I would like to tell the honourable Minister that there has been broad-gauge conversion of Railway track from Pipavav to Surendra Nagar—Ahmedabad in my area. A terminal has been installed there, however rake-point is not there because of which farmers are not getting fertilisers. I would like to ask the honourable Minister whether he is willing to do it in the area where rake point is likely to be provided.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about modernisation translation. You are talking of the terminal.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Sir, there is a terminal there.

[English]

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, there is a rake management system for freight. Of course, we admit that there may be maldistribution here and there. But once it is brought to our notice, we are correcting it and whatever is the rake requirement, we are obliging them.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, this is just to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that Gujarat is the largest producer of salt. There has been a consistent demand from the industry as well as from the people to transport salt by freight from that region to other parts of the country. There has been also a representation from the Chamber of Commerce and traders to make these wagons available to them.

I would just like to know from the hon. Minister whether this problem can be solved once and for all and not on an *ad hoc* basis. There should not be a situation where every year and every time the industry should come to the Ministry to seek this.

SHRI R. VELU: We will definitely help the State of Gujarat for movement of salt. We will see whether it is edible salt or non-edible industrial salt and accordingly we will prioritise and help the State.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of Railways has any proposal to modernise the Ponmalai Wagon Workshop at Triuchi, Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: To be considered by you?

SHRI R. VELU: Last year itself we allotted considerable amount for modernisation of Ponmalai Wagon Workshop. We will pursue it further. If any additional amount is required, there is no hesitation on the part of the Ministry of Railways to allot more funds.

SHRI ARUN KUMAR VUNDAVALLI: Sir, every year rice is transported to Kerala from East Godavari. The

hon. Minister is aware that there is a big problem of availability of wagons every year. All the rice growers and rice millers come here and give representation for wagons. It is known very well that if transport of rice is stopped from East Godavari, Kerala will be short of supply. This years the rate went up to Rs. 20. Then only we could make some arrangements for transport.

Is the Ministry thinking of bringing out any such rule in order to give first priority for transporting essential commodities? There should not be any stoppage of supply of wagons for transporting essential commodities.

SHRI R. VELU: The hon. Member is well aware that on his request I intervened personally and arranged rakes for transport of rice to Kerala. After this, they got a number of rakes.

His request is that whether there can be a permanent arrangement for moving these food articles. The Railways do give priority for movement of PD items. It is not only for PD items but also meant for transport of rice deficit areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 459—Shrimati Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi—not present.

Question 460.—Shri Tek Lal Mahto—not present.

For the first time we are going back. Q. 441.

[Translation]

Allocation of Fertilizers

*441. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise quota of fertilizers allocated to/to be allocated during current financial year separately;

(b) the criteria being adopted for allocation of chemical fertilizers; and

(c) the district-wise quantity of chemical fertilizer allocated to Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Statewise requirement of fertilizers is worked out by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) in consultation with the State Governments before commencement of each season i.e. Kharif and Rabi For Kharif 2008, the DAC have indicated the requirement of 137.11 LMT of Urea, 42.75 LMT of Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), 17.20 LMT of Muriate of Potash (MOP) and 48.97 LMT of Complex fertilizers. For Rabi 08-09, the DoF in consultation with DAC, has taken the requirement to be 10% more than the

requirement projected in Rabi 07-08. Based on this, the Statewise requirement of fertilizers in Kharif 2008 and Rabi 2008-09 (excluding Complexes) is at Annexure I and Annexure-II enclosed respectively.

(c) The State Governments make the district-wise distribution of fertilizers depending on their assessment of requirement. The district-wise requirement of fertilizers in Madhya Pradesh for Kharif '08 as communicated by the State Government is at Annexure-III. The district-wise requirement for Rabi 2008-09 will be made only towards August-September, 2008.

Annexure I*Requirement of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex for Kharif 2008*

State	Urea	DAP	MOP	Complex
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	1350000	425000	250000	1150000
Karnataka	800000	380000	230000	567000
Kerala	75000	20000	70000	98000
Tamil Nadu	435000	210000	200000	175000
Gujarat	925000	335000	90000	263500
Madhya Pradesh	625000	400000	70000	300000
Chhattisgarh	450000	135000	60000	99000
Maharashtra	1425000	475000	170000	965000
Rajasthan	560000	260000	15000	82000
Goa	3000	900	700	4450
Haryana	875000	200000	21000	24500
Punjab	1300000	260000	60000	31000
Uttar Pradesh	2500000	500000	100000	400000
Uttaranchal	125000	15000	8000	20000
Himachal Pradesh	37500	0	500	14000
Jammu & Kashmir	70000	40000	17000	0
Bihar	950000	150000	50000	165000

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	130000	70000	8000	20000
Orissa	375000	120000	80000	188201
West Bengal	500000	200000	150000	299000
Assam	120000	58000	56000	15000
Tripura	19400	1000	3500	0
Manipur	34000	6650	3350	0
Meghalaya	3200	2100	340	0
Nagaland	400	300	130	0
Arunachal Pradesh	565	79	50	0
Mizoram	1500	2000	900	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0
All India	13711330	4275837	1719993	4897691

Annexure-II*Requirement of Urea, DAP and MOP for Rabi 2008-09*

(In tonnes)

State	UREA	DAP	MOP
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1485000	440000	352000
Karnataka	550000	220000	220000
Kerala	71500	11000	77000
Tamil Nadu	605000	247500	286000
Gujarat	962500	330000	110000
Madhya Pradesh	990000	440000	66000
Chhattisgarh	121000	60500	22000
Maharashtra	957000	308000	198000
Rajasthan	1045000	357500	16500
Goa	1705	242	330
Haryana	1210000	440000	27500

1	2	3	4
Punjab	1375000	605000	38500
Uttar Pradesh	3300000	1155000	165000
Uttaranchal	110000	22000	11000
Himachal Pradesh	28600	220	5500
Jammu & Kashmir	66000	38500	13200
Bihar	1210000	275000	143000
Jharkhand	71500	33000	5500
Orissa	192500	55000	55000
West Bengal	852500	297000	275000
Assam	132000	49500	55000
Tripura	16500	1320	2915
Manipur	13750	1705	1155
Meghalaya	2805	902	468
Nagaland	330	352	83
Arunachal Pradesh	330	286	110
Mizoram	1650	2200	990
Sikkim	0	0	0
All India	15403025	5404575	2157122

Annexure II

Month-wise target of Urea, DAP, MOP, 12:32:16, 20:20:0, 10:26:26 for Kharif-2008

STATE: M.P.

District	Urea						Total
	APR.08	May.08	Jun.08	Jul.08	Aug.08	Sept.08	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Jabalpur	440	1232	2288	3520	2112	1408	11000
Katni	260	728	1352	2080	1248	832	6500
Mandla	280	784	1456	2240	1344	896	7000
DIndhori	80	224	416	640	384	256	2000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	760	2128	3952	6080	3648	2432	19000
Chhindwara	980	2744	5096	7840	4704	3136	24500
Seoni	360	1008	1872	2880	1728	1152	9000
Narsinghpur	340	952	1768	2720	1632	1088	8500
JABLAPUR DN.	3500	9800	18200	28000	16800	11200	87500
Sagar	140	392	728	1120	672	448	3500
Damoh	100	280	520	800	480	320	2500
Panna	60	168	312	480	288	192	1500
Chhatarpur	140	392	728	1120	672	448	3500
Tikamgarh	80	224	416	640	384	256	2000
SAGAR DN.	520	1456	2704	4160	2496	1664	13000
Rewa	460	1288	2392	3680	2208	1472	11500
Satna	420	1176	2184	3360	2016	1344	10500
Sidhi	280	784	1456	2240	1344	896	7000
Shahdol	120	336	624	960	576	384	3000
Anoppur	40	112	208	320	192	128	1000
Umaria	40	112	208	320	192	128	1000
REWA DN.	1360	3808	7072	10880	6528	4352	34000
Indore	980	2744	5096	7840	4704	3136	24500
Dhar	2340	6552	12168	18720	11232	7488	58500
Jhabua	1380	3864	7176	11040	6624	4416	34500
Khargone	2240	6272	11648	17920	10752	7168	58000
Badwani	1000	2800	5200	8000	4800	3200	25000
Khandwa	740	2072	3848	5920	3552	2368	18500
Burhanpur	580	1624	3016	4640	2784	1856	14500
IDNORE DN.	9260	25928	48152	74080	44448	29632	231500
Ujjain	680	1904	3536	5440	3264	2176	17000
Ratlam	1020	2856	5304	8160	4896	3264	25500
Mandsur	780	2184	4056	6240	3744	2496	19500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimuch	620	1736	3221	4960	2976	1984	15500
Dewas	760	2128	3952	6080	3648	2432	19000
Shajapur	440	1232	2288	3520	2112	1408	11000
UJJAIN DN.	4300	12040	22360	34400	20640	13760	107500
Gwalior	460	1288	2392	3680	2208	1472	11500
Shivpuri	200	560	1040	1600	960	640	5000
Guna	220	616	1144	1760	1056	704	5500
Ashok Nagar	100	280	520	800	480	320	2500
Datia	240	672	1248	1920	1152	768	6000
GWALIOR DN.	1220	3416	6344	9760	5856	3904	30500
Bhind	480	1344	2496	3840	2304	1536	12000
Morena	940	2632	4888	7520	4512	3008	23500
Sheopurkala	360	1008	1872	2880	1728	1152	9000
MORENA DN.	1780	4984	9256	14240	8544	5696	44500
Bhopal	124	347	645	992	595	397	31004
Sehore	460	1288	2392	3680	2208	1472	11500
Raisen	340	952,	1768	2720	1632	1088	8500
Vidisha	184	515	957	1472	883	589	4600
Betul	660	1848	3432	5280	3168	2112	165500
Rajarn	440	1232	2288	3520	2112	1408	11000
BHOPAL DN.	2208	6182	11482	17664	10598	7066	55200
Hoshangabad	612	1714	3182	4896	2938	1958	15300
Harda	240	672	1248	1920	1152	768	6000
H'Bad Dn.	852	2386	4430	6816	4090	2726	21300
M.P. State	25000	70000	130000	200000	120000	80000	625000
Jabalpur	1005	5025	4188	1675	1508	3350	16750
Katni	324	1620	1350	540	486	1080	5400
Mandla	234	1170	975	390	351	780	3900
Dindhori	114	570	475	390	351	780	3900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	894	4470	3725	1490	1341	2980	14900
Chhindwara	714	3570	2975	1190	1071	2380	11900
Seoni	534	2670	2225	890	801	1780	8900
Narsinghpur	294	1470	1225	490	441	980	4900
JABALPUR DN.	4113	20565	17138	6855	6170	13710	68550
Sagar	885	4425	3688	1475	1328	2950	14750
Damoh	444	2220	1850	740	666	1480	7400
Panna	264	1320	1100	440	396	880	4400
Chhatarpur	885	4425	3688	1475	1328	2950	14750
Tikamgarh	414	2070	1725	690	621	1380	6900
SAGAR DN.	2892	14460	12050	4820	4338	9640	48200
Rewa	474	2370	1975	790	711	1580	7900
Satna	945	4725	3938	1575	1418	3150	15750
Sidhi	228	1140	950	380	342	760	3800
Shadol	228	1140	950	380	342	760	3800
Anoppur	144	720	600	240	216	480	2400
Umaria	114	570	475	190	171	380	1900
REWA DN.	2133	10665	8888	3555	3200	7110	35550
Indore	654	3270	2725	1090	981	2180	10900
Dhar	1425	7125	5938	2375	2138	4750	23750
Jhabua	354	1770	1475	590	531	1180	5900
Khargone	1305	6525	5438	2175	1958	4350	21750
Badwani	474	2370	1975	790	711	1580	7900
Khandwa	834	4170	3475	1390	1251	2780	13900
Burhanpur	384	1920	1600	640	576	1280	6400
INDORE DN.	5430	27150	22625	9050	8145	18100	90500
Ujjain	1125	5625	4688	1875	1688	3750	18750
Ratlam	825	4125	3428	1375	1238	2750	13750
Mandsaur	534	2670	2225	890	801	1780	8900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimuch	384	1920	1600	640	576	1280	6400
Dewas	684	3420	2850	1140	1026	2280	11400
Shajapur	624	3120	2600	1040	936	2080	10400
UJJAIN DN.	4176	20880	17400	6960	6264	13920	69600
Gwalior	645	3225	2688	1075	968	2150	10750
Shivpuri	765	3825	3188	1275	1148	2550	12750
Guna	705	3525	2938	1175	1058	2350	11750
Ashok Nagar	495	2475	2063	825	743	1650	8250
Datia	375	1875	1563	625	563	1250	6250
GWALIOR DN.	2985	14925	12438	4975	4478	9950	49750
Bhind	795	3975	3313	1325	1193	2650	13250
Morena	885	4425	3688	1475	1328	2950	14750
Sheopurkala	444	2220	1850	740	666	1480	7400
MORENA DN.	2124	10620	8850	3540	3186	7080	35400
Bhopal	294	1470	1125	490	441	980	4900
Sehore	765	3825	3188	1275	1148	2550	12750
Raisen	975	4875	4063	1625	1463	3250	16250
Vidisha	1005	5025	4188	1675	1508	3350	16750
Betul	474	2370	1975	790	711	1580	7900
Rajgarh	795	3975	3313	1325	1193	2650	13250
BHOPAL DN.	4308	21540	17950	7180	6462	14360	71800
Hoshangabad	1125	5625	4688	1875	1688	3750	18750
Harda	714	3570	2975	1190	1071	2380	11900
H'BAD DN.	1839	9195	7663	3065	2759	6130	30650
M.P. State	30000	150000	125000	50000	45000	100000	500000
Jabalpur	86	643	429	107	86	150	1500
Katni	11	86	57	14	11	20	200
Mandla	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Dindhori	3	21	14	4	3	5	50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	86	643	429	107	86	150	1500
Chhindwara	183	1371	914	229	183	320	3200
Seoni	29	214	143	36	29	50	500
Narsinghpur	69	514	343	86	69	120	1200
JABALPUR DN.	471	3536	2357	589	471	825	8250
Sagar	9	64	43	11	9	15	150
Damoh	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
Panna	2	13	9	2	2	3	30
Chhatarpur	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
Tikamgarh	1	9	6	1	1	2	20
SAGAR DN.	17	129	86	21	17	30	300
Rewa	17	129	86	21	17	30	300
Satna	11	86	57	14	11	20	200
Sidhi	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Shadol	11	86	57	14	11	20	200
Anoppur	14	107	71	18	14	25	250
Umaria	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
REWA DN.	63	471	314	79	63	110	1100
Indore	114	857	571	143	114	200	2000
Dhar	286	2143	1429	357	286	500	5000
Jhabua	29	214	143	36	29	50	500
Khargone	686	5143	3429	857	686	1200	12000
Badwani	229	1714	1143	286	229	400	4000
Khandwa	343	2571	1714	429	343	600	6000
Burhanpur	571	4286	2857	714	571	1000	1000
INDORE DN.	2257	16929	11286	2821	2257	3950	39500
Ujjain	103	771	514	129	103	180	1800
Ratlam	229	1714	1143	286	229	400	4000
Mandsaur	11	86	57	14	11	20	200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimuch	17	129	86	21	17	30	300
Dewas	229	1714	1143	286	229	400	4000
Shajapur	29	214	143	36	29	50	500
Ujjain Dn.	617	4629	3086	771	617	1080	10800
Gwalior	17	129	86	21	17	30	300
Shivpuri	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
Guna	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Ashok Nagar	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
Datia	3	21	14	4	3	5	50
Gwalior Dn.	31	236	157	39	31	55	550
Bhind	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Morena	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Sheopurkala	6	43	29	7	6	10	100
Morena Dn.	17	129	86	21	17	30	300
Bhopal	57	429	286	71	57	00	1000
Shore	86	643	429	107	86	150	1500
Raisen	114	857	571	143	114	200	2000
Vidisha	11	86	57	14	11	20	200
Betul	86	643	429	107	86	150	1500
Rajgarh	29	214	143	36	29	50	500
Bhopal D.N.	383	2871	1914	479	383	670	6700
Hoshangabad	86	643	429	107	86	150	1500
Harda	57	429	286	71	57	100	1000
H'Bad Dn.	143	1071	714	179	143	250	2500
M.P. State	4000	30000	20000	5000	4000	7000	70000
Jabalpur	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
Katni	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
Mandla	6	14	34	23	6	17	100
Dindhori	6	14	34	23	6	17	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	200	500	1200	800	200	600	3500
Chhindwara	286	714	1741	1143	286	857	5000
Seoni	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
Narsinghpur	40	100	240	160	40	120	700
JABALPUR DN.	709	1771	4251	2834	709	2126	12400
Sagar	86	214	514	343	86	257	1500
Damoh	34	86	206	137	34	103	600
Panna	29	71	171	114	29	86	500
Chhatarpur	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
Tikamgarh	17	43	103	69	17	51	300
SAGAR DN.	223	557	1337	891	223	669	3900
Rewa	34	86	206	137	34	103	600
Satna	34	86	206	137	34	103	600
Sidhi	29	71	171	114	29	86	500
Shadol	26	64	154	103	26	77	450
Anoppur	6	14	34	23	6	17	100
Umaria	6	14	34	23	6	17	100
REWA DN.	134	336	806	537	134	403	2350
Indore	800	2000	4800	3200	800	2400	14000
Dhar	514	1286	3086	2057	514	1543	9000
Jhabua	200	500	1200	800	200	600	3500
Khargone	857	2143	5143	3429	857	2571	15000
Badwani	286	714	1714	1143	286	857	5000
Khandwa	200	500	1200	800	200	600	3500
Burhanpur	420	1050	2520	1680	420	1260	7350
INDORE DN.	3277	8193	19663	13108	3277	9832	57350
Ujjain	686	1714	4114	2743	686	2057	12000
Rattam	543	1357	3257	2171	543	1629	9500
Mandsaur	514	1286	3086	2057	514	1543	9000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimuch	514	1286	3086	2057	514	1543	9000
Dewas	571	1429	3429	2286	571	1714	10000
Shajapur	486	1214	2914	1943	486	1457	8500
UJJAIN DN.	3314	8286	19886	13257	3314	9943	58000
Gwalior	86	214	514	343	86	257	1500
Shivpuri	229	571	1371	914	229	686	4000
Guna	171	429	1029	686	171	514	3000
Ashok Nagar	86	214	514	343	86	257	1500
Datia	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
GWALIOR DN.	629	1571	3771	2514	629	1886	11000
Bhind	171	429	1029	686	171	514	3000
Morena	143	357	857	571	143	429	2500
Sheopurkala	86	214	514	343	86	257	1500
MORENA DN.	400	1000	2400	1600	400	1200	7000
Bhopal	57	143	343	229	57	171	1000
Sehore	229	571	1371	914	229	686	4000
Raisen	86	214	514	343	86	257	1500
Vidisha	143	357	857	571	143	429	2500
Betul	171	429	1029	686	171	514	3000
Rajgarh	229	571	1371	914	229	686	4000
BHOPAL DN.	914	2286	5486	3657	914	2743	16000
Hoshangabad	229	571	1371	914	229	686	4000
Harda	171	428	1028	686	171	514	3000
H'Bad Dn.	400	999	2399	1600	400	1200	7000
M.P. State	10000	25000	60000	40000	10000	30000	175000
Jabalapur	100	600	740	300	100	160	2000
Katni	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Mandla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dindhori	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Chhindwara	10	60	74	30	10	16	200
Seoni	10	60	74	30	10	16	200
Narsinghpur	5	30	37	15	5	8	100
JABALPUR DN.	225	1350	1665	675	225	360	4500
Sagar	150	900	1110	450	150	240	3000
Damoh	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Panna	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Chhatarpur	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Tikamgarh	5	30	37	15	5	8	100
SAGAR DN.	335	2130	2627	1065	355	568	7100
Rewa	60	360	444	180	60	96	1200
Satna	150	900	1110	450	150	240	3000
Sidhi	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Shadol	60	360	444	180	60	96	1200
Anoppur	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Umaria	25	150	185	75	25	40	500
REWA DN.	395	2370	2923	1185	395	632	7900
Indore	400	2400	2960	1200	400	640	8000
Dhar	350	2100	2590	1050	350	560	7000
Jhabua	150	900	1110	450	150	240	3000
Khargone	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Badwani	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Khandwa	100	600	740	300	100	160	2000
Burhanpur	10	60	74	30	10	16	200
INDORE DN.	1160	6960	8584	3480	1160	1856	23200
Ujjain	200	1200	1480	600	200	320	4000
Ratlam	150	900	1110	450	150	240	3000
Mandsaur	200	1200	1480	600	200	320	4000

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nimuch	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Dewas	60	360	444	180	60	96	1200
Shajapur	125	750	925	375	125	200	2500
UJJAIN DN.	810	4860	5994	2430	810	1296	16200
Gwallor	375	2250	2775	1125	375	600	7500
Shivpuri	60	360	444	180	60	96	1200
Guna	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Ashok Nagar	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Datia	200	1200	1480	600	200	320	4000
GWALIOR DN.	760	4560	5624	2280	760	1216	15200
Bhind	200	1200	1480	600	200	320	4000
Morena	275	1650	2035	825	275	440	5500
Sheopurkala	25	150	185	75	25	40	500
MORENA DN.	500	3000	3700	1500	500	800	10000
Bhopal	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
Sehore	125	750	925	375	125	200	2500
Raisen	75	450	555	225	75	120	1500
Vidisha	275	1650	2035	825	275	440	5500
Betul	30	180	222	90	30	48	600
Rajgarh	150	900	1110	450	150	240	3000
BHOPAL DN.	705	4230	5217	2115	705	1128	14100
Hoshangabad	40	240	296	120	40	64	800
Harda	50	300	370	150	50	80	1000
H'BAD DN.	90	540	666	270	90	144	1800
M.P. State	5000	30000	37000	15000	5000	8000	100000
Jabalpur	20	140	160	80	40	60	500
Katni	24	168	192	96	48	72	600
Mandla	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dindhori	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Balaghat	12	84	96	48	24	36	300
Chhindwara	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
Seoni	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
Narsinghpur	6	42	48	24	12	18	150
Jabalpur Dn.	70	490	560	280	140	210	1750
Sagar	12	84	96	48	24	36	300
Damoh	8	56	64	32	16	24	200
Panna	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Chhatarpur	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Tikamgarh	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Sagar Dn.	34	241	275	138	69	103	860
Rewa	2	17	19	10	5	7	60
Satna	28	196	224	112	56	84	700
Sidhi	2	17	19	10	5	7	60
Shadol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anoppur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Umaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
REWA DN.	33	230	262	131	66	98	820
Indore	320	2240	2560	1280	640	960	8000
Dhar	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
Jhabua	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Khargone	72	504	576	288	144	216	1800
Badwani	2	17	19	10	5	7	60
Khandwa	20	140	160	80	40	60	500
Burhanpur	120	840	960	480	240	360	3000
INDORE DN.	538	3769	4307	2154	1077	1615	13460
Ujjain	100	700	800	400	200	300	2500

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ratlam	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
Mandsaur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nimuch	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Dewas	120	840	960	480	240	360	3000
Shajapur	48	336	384	192	96	144	1200
UJJAIN DN.	277	1938	2214	1107	554	830	6920
Gwalior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shivpuri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Guna	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Ashok Nagar	8	56	64	32	16	24	200
Datia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GWALIOR DN.	13	90	102	51	26	38	320
Bhind	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morena	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheopurkala	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MORENA DN.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bhopal	2	14	16	8	4	6	50
Sehore	2	17	19	10	5	7	60
Raisen	2	11	13	6	3	5	40
Vidisha	5	34	38	19	10	14	120
Betul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rajgarh	20	140	160	80	40	60	500
BHOPAL DN.	31	216	246	123	62	92	770
Hoshangabad	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
Harda	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H'BAD DN.	4	28	32	16	8	12	100
M.P.State	1000	7000	8000	4000	2000	3000	25000

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had asked the Government to know the chemicals and fertilizers allocated to different states separately and particularly to Madhya Pradesh. In reply it has been stated that Urea-6 lakh 25 thousand, DAP...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Don't go into details. Please ask your question.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise this issue in the House. The way farmers have been subjected to harassment due to the shortage of manure/fertilizers, it has led to the loss of crops. They didn't get its yield and they suffered heavy losses. Despite repeated requests by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh the Central Government didn't make allocation of fertilizers in a satisfactory manner. Besides, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason, mode of allocation and the criterion thereof.

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is not for making Comments, but for eliciting information.

(Translation)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What the hon'ble Member has said is not correct. I have complete data with me. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been supplied more fertiliser than its demand, but sale has been less than that. Sales falls below the availability. Honourable Member is saying that Madhya Pradesh, Government has lodged complaint for supply of fertilizers. This is also not correct. I can say in the House with full responsibility that the M.P. Chief Minister has thanked me, not for once or twice, three times for making fertilizers available in a satisfactory manner.

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps he is not aware of it.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister is saying that the hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has expressed thanks to him. However, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister to please state the months and dates on which allocation of fertilizers was made:

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: How can he give it now?

...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, If...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not enter into controversy. It is your bad habit. You are always challenging the speaker.

...*(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I can't tell you that much but can only assert that we have fulfilled the demand made by the State Government in the month of April. I have got the list upto 21.04.2008. The Government of Madhya Pradesh had made a demand of 25 thousand tonnes of urea and they were given as much as 81 thousand tonnes of urea. Out of this only 2089 thousand tonnes of urea was sold. Thereafter, the State Government made a demand of 30 thousand tonnes of DAP and as much as 30.47 thousand tonnes were supplied to them of which only 0.81 thousand tonnes were sold. Subsequently, they demanded 4 thousand tonnes of M.O.P. against which as much as 12 thousand tonnes were supplied and the sale was 2.65 thousand tonnes.

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Why do the farmers need fertilizers in April...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, Sorry! Please leave it. No, this is not the way to put a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister has furnished details of the likely requirement of fertilizers for Rabi Crop. Concern is being expressed for is being expressed for the required quantum of DAP as the same can't be supplied this year. Besides it may witness further declining trend by the time of sowing of Rabi Crops. Large quantity of DAP is required, particularly, in the State of Haryana at time of sowing of Rabi crops. Therefore, I would like the Minister to give us an assurance for complete and safe supply of DAP.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government assure that DAP will be supplied in full.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is the way answers should be given.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Sir, thank you very much for providing me this opportunity.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you what is the expansion scheme worked out by the Ministry for FACT, Kerala as part of the rehabilitation, process during the 11th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, FACT is incurring loss but the Government have assured that it will not be allowed to be closed down. An amount of Rs. 200 crore has been released for its revival. Unless there is availability of GAS it can't make profit. Till there is availability of Gas, the Government will not only take measures to meet the deficit but will also compensate its loss and will not allow its closure.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious issue like fertilizers has come up for debate today. I am not at all aware as to from where the facts and statistics are made available by the honourable Minister. It could be that the figures were provided to the Minister by the concerned officers, of his department but it is a fact that the news-items published in the newspaper across the country particularly in the State of Uttar Pradesh that farmers were beaten up and had to be up all through the night in the queue can't be ignored, and we too were busy in giving away fertilizers on the spot. Even sowing couldn't be completed owing to non-availability of fertilizers to a number of farmers. The farmers were not provided with sowing inputs nor did they get proper power or water supply, nor even fertilizers. I wonder how come the hon'ble Minister has managed to present such figures. I would like to know whether the reports of farmers' sufferings are right or wrong. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to direct the officials concerned not to misguide the nation with dubious figures. It is not good *...(Interruptions)* Vijendrajee, at some point or the other, you will have to repent as the farmer who is subjected to troubles will ask you also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important issue. You may please ask question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a breach of privilege? Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my pointed question is that what steps the Government is going take to provide adequate quantity of fertilizers to farmers at the time of sowing?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, as the House is aware of the *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat and keep quiet

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, out of total allotment we make fifty percent allotment of urea...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Member put the question, but he is talking with others while I am replying. I was saying that fifty percent allotment is made of urea. DAP and MOP-all are decontrolled but we monitor them.

Hon'ble Member asked me as to where do I collect the data from? I would like to tell him that I collect them from him only. I grant subsidy to a State only when the concerned State Government confirms the arrival of particular quantity of fertilizers in it. So far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, I have the data pertaining to Uttar Pradesh also. Till April, Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)* I have such details in respect of all the States namely-Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh about the information the hon. Member has sought to know, the requirement for urea till April was one lac fifty six thousand tonnes while a quantity of four lac forty one thousand tonnes of it was provided and only twenty one thousand tonnes urea were sold. Likewise, the demand for DAP was one lac tonnes and fifty six thousand fourteen tonnes of it were provided while only six thousand tonnes DAP could be sold. Similarly, the demand for MOP was ten thousand tonnes, and only thirty tow thousand of it was provided...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you are giving wrong figures. In April... *(Interruptions)* You are misleading the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair. Nothing more will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Not even one word is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Brajesh ji, it's a matter of great regret.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, I will ask you to go out.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Pease leave it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Sir, I have the figures for the whole year also. I shall lay them on the Table of the House if you ask me to do so; provide them to him if asked to do so. If there happens to be a shortage in demand and supply, I have with me the details of mont-wise requirement, availability and sale of DAP during 2007-08 for the Rabi crop. The requirement of Rabi crop during the month of October in Uttar Pradesh was three lac thirty thousand tonnes, three lac fifty two thousand tonnes were provided, I am talking of the entire season, while only one lac ninety three thousand tonnes were sold. ...*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me first.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is all this? Do not record even one word. It is very improper.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the hon. Minister may lay it on the Table of the house.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record one word.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. You put a question. You have no patience to hear him. Not one word will be recorded. I am sorry.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pathak, I totally condemn your behaviour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, it is the responsibility of the State Government to see to it as where, how and by which mode it would be distributed...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please ask him to listen to me or ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I will have to ask you to go out.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: If you speak one word, I warn you.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very improper. Shri Pathak, I would ask you to take your seat. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask you to go out.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are deliberately creating the problem for the house. Shri Pathak, I must strongly denounce the way you have conducted yourself today.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not right. We can't think in this way for the farmers.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you speak one word, I will ask you to go out now. This is disgusting behaviour. It is shameful.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow it. I strongly denounce your behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not take your seat, I will take action against you, Mr. Pathak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You please take your seat. It is not a place for fun.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Sir, It is not a fun... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a fun

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: No fun at all. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is given speak for the question you asked.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is disgusting.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: The country is not to move forward with fake figures.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I want your protection ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, do you want to ask any question? You may ask question to the hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You asked question and the hon'ble Minister is replying the same, but you don't have the patience to hear the reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to put a question, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I totally condemn you behaviour, Mr. Pathak. I will take action against you. Anybody rising without my permission will face the consequences. You will face the consequences, I tell you. Do not take it as an empty threat. I will take action against you, also, Mr. Thummar. Enough is enough. it is not a place for fun

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: I am very serious on the issue of farmers... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am also concerned about the farmers.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV. You please ask question. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please note down those names.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know it from the hon'ble Minister that.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Ram Kripalji, I totally denounce you for your comments. Please remove me from this Chair. I would not allow to do so.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The names of the hon'ble Members shouting slogans may be written down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Monitoring of Welfare Programmes for the Disabled Persons

442. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee/task force has been constituted to monitor the progress of social welfare programmes grants to mentally retarded and physically handicapped, permanently cured leprosy patients' rehabilitation etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Union Government ensures effective implementation of these centrally sponsored programmes in the States?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, provides for a Central Coordination Committee to, *inter alia*, monitor "Programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of persons with disabilities" and a Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to *inter alia*, "monitor the utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government".

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Committee on ATC Modernisation

443. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the large scale movement of aeroplanes of private and the public sector airlines in the airports of metro cities has caused heavy pressure on Air Traffic Control (ATC);

(b) if so, the details of the problems arising out of this situation;

(c) whether the Government has constituted any Committee headed by Shri Ajay Prasad on ATC modernisation;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The unprecedented growth in traffic and consequent increase in aircraft movements has raised issues concerning airport infrastructure, including Air Traffic Control (ATC).

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted its report on 25.3.2008, which is under examination.

The Committee has made various recommendations on Futuristic Air Navigation Master plan based on Near

Term/Immediate, Medium and Long Term Plans. The vision that the Committee has adopted is that India would have to accommodate increasing amount of traffic and that this has to be achieved efficiently with no compromise on safety.

[English]

Accidents of Civilian Planes

444. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of civil plane accidents occurred in the country during the last three years;

(b) the number of passengers killed and injured as a result thereof alongwith loss of properties, accident-wise;

(c) the compensation/relief paid to the next kin of the victims;

(d) whether the Government has appointed any Committee to examine the exact cause of such accidents;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government to avert such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There were 12 accidents to Indian Civil Register aircraft during the last three years. There were no fatal injuries in nine of these accidents. One fatal injury occurred in one accident to the aircraft operated by M/s. Prabhatam Aviation Pvt. Ltd. on 21.05.2007. Four fatalities each occurred in two accidents involving aircraft operated by Government of Chhattisgarh on 14.07.2007 and by M/s. Joy Alukkas Traders (India) Pvt. Ltd. on 08.09.2007. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) does not maintain record of compensation paid by the airline operators to families of the victims. As regards loss of property, the main damage occurs to the aircraft. In the above accidents, there was minor damage to the aircraft in one accident, substantial damage occurred in

nine accidents and the aircraft was destroyed in two accidents.

(d) and (e) These accidents were investigated by the Inspector of Accidents appointed as per Rule 71 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(f) To avoid air accidents, various accident prevention programmes have been initiated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Safety audits, surveillance inspection etc. are carried out to find out hazards in the operations/engineering departments of the operator. Corrective action is taken to eliminate or reduce the hazards. Safety management system is being introduced with all service providers. Safety Recommendations emanating from the investigations are followed by Directorate General of Civil Aviation for implementation by the concerned units to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

[Translation]

Cargo Handling Facilities

445. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of airports in the country having the facility of cargo handling;

(b) the details of cargo handled by these airports during each of the last three years and till date, year-wise and airport-wise;

(c) the names of airports where the Government proposes to provide cargo handling facilities during the 11th Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up cargo airports in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Presently, 23 airports, namely Kolkata, Chennai, Nagpur, Guwahati, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Mumbai, Delhi, Amritsar, Indore, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Varansi,

Pune, Calicut, Srinagar, Visakhapatnam, Goa, Bhubaneswar, Trivandrum and Cochin have cargo handling facilities.

(b) Cargo handled by the above airports during the last three years, i.e. 2004-05, 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Feb. '08) is enclosed as statement.

(c) During the 11th Five Year Plan, Airports Authority of India has proposed to provide/upgrade the cargo

handling facilities at its airports at Kolkata, Chennai, Lucknow, Coimbatore, Guwahati, Indore, Ahmedabad and Patna. World class Cargo facilities at the greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore have been provided. Upgraded cargo facilities would be set up at CSI airport, Mumbai and IGI Airport, Delhi by 2010.

(d) and (e) Government would encourage setting up of cargo airports/hubs in the country.

Statement

Freight Traffic Trends at the Airports having cargo handling/supply facility: 2004-05 to 2007-08'

(In tonnes)

Sl.No.	Airports	International				Domestic				Total			
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Mumbai	273265	288960	328022	338553	129450	142361	152159	148564	402715	431321	480181	485117
2.	Delhi	237923	273410	273463	273783	106578	109642	116027	119271	344501	383052	389490	393054
3.	Chennai	146443	167853	195195	205759	39427	38118	43130	39285	185870	205971	238325	245054
4.	Bangalore	64433	81991	99392	98244	46143	50186	64374	63606	110576	132177	163766	161850
5.	Kolkata	30529	32164	36379	37303	39099	42335	47144	45691	69628	74499	83523	82994
6.	Hyderabad	13924	16949	21715	21811	20083	19572	22952	24894	34007	36521	44667	48505
7.	Cochin (Cial)	18210	16206	15589	17124	3965	5031	5820	5589	22175	22713	21389	22713
8.	Ahmedabad	2535	3614	4240	5957	14157	13284	16194	15601	16692	16878	20389	21558
9.	Goa	1233	1356	964	707	3623	3812	3934	3860	4856	5188	4898	4567
10.	Trivandrum	22287	23280	30465	27773	1368	1300	1442	1314	23655	24580	31907	29087
11.	Pune	0	0	7	2	8791	8666	13036	9088	8791	8666	13043	9090
12.	Calicut	9411	9193	10691	7818	1178	1437	770	572	10589	10630	11461	8390
13.	Guwahati	2	140	50	6	4308	4460	3648	1908	4310	4600	3698	1914
14.	Coimbatore	965	1949	1612	1035	3720	3272	3645	3359	4885	5221	5257	4394
15.	Jaipur	240	509	728	386	1531	1853	1940	2228	1771	2382	2668	2614
16.	Srinagar	0	0	0	0	2172	2865	2145	1780	2172	2665	2145	1760
17.	Nagpur	0	0	1	0	2780	3180	3357	3751	2780	3180	3358	3751

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18.	Lucknow	626	552	158	129	1962	2040	1743	1502	2588	2592	1901	1631
19.	Amritsar	1278	1331	1744	1119	34	68	98	90	1312	1399	1842	1209
20.	Indore	0	0	0	0	2925	2349	3657	4538	2925	2349	3657	4538
21.	Bhubaneswar	0	0	0	0	945	875	1018	1131	945	875	1018	1131
22.	Varanasi	0	0	0	11	627	574	384	325	627	574	384	336
23.	Visakhapatnam	0	0	0	0	670	504	541	423	670	504	541	423
Total		823304	919457	1020395	1037520	435536	457564	509113	496130	1258840	1377021	1529508	1533650

Eradication of Beggary

446. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

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

(a) whether the Central Government provides funds to the State Governments to eradicate beggary;

(b) the details of centrally sponsored schemes for welfare of beggars; and

(c) the funds provided provided by the Union Government to each State/UT under these schemes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The Central Government is not providing funds to State Governments for eradicating beggary. However, it is implementing certain schemes to assist sections like old persons, women, children and disabled persons who may be vulnerable to being drawn towards beggary.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Mega Food Parks

447. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:

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

(a) the details of the plans for setting up mega food parks across the country in the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the funds allocated/to be allocated on these food park-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has developed a scheme for providing financial assistance for establishment of Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite backward and forward linkages. The ownership and management of the Mega Food Park would vest with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in which organized retailers, processors, service providers, farmers etc. may be the equity holders or there may be an anchor investor along with its ancillaries, associated companies and others stakeholders. The Government agencies may also be shareholders in SPV upto a maximum of 49%.

The scheme is project oriented. The locations of the Mega Food Parks have to be selected on a demand driven cluster-based approach with delineated supply chain and well supported by pre-feasibility studies. Mega

Food Parks can vegetables, dairy, meat and poultry etc. or it can also have been a combination of fruits and vegetables, dairy meat and poultry etc. the decision on which will be taken by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

The Scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid upto 50% of the project cost in general areas and up to 75% of the project cost in special category states subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 Crores or the cost of approved facilities, whichever is lower, for all implementing agencies including private sector. The scheme provides for establishment of 30 Mega Food Parks with MFPI financial assistance of Rs. 1500 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan. The scheme is awaiting final approval.

Employment of Manual Scavengers

448. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new Self Employment Scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise funds spent so far for implementation of this scheme alongwith the number of manual scavengers benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government of India launched a Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers in January, 2007. The scheme has provisions of training, concessional loan and capital subsidy to provide assistance for self employment to manual scavengers and their dependents.

(c) Statewise details of funds released so far for implementation of the Scheme alongwith the number of manual scavengers and their dependents benefited are given below:

S.No.	State/UT	Funds	Beneficiaries Released (Rs. in lakh)	covered through
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam	260.33	1375	6
2.	Bihar	207.285	115	Nil
3.	Delhi	Nil	39	Nil
4.	Gujarat	200.00	Nil	Nil
5.	Himachal Pradesh	170.157	322	455
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	13.22	Nil	Nil
7.	Jharkhand	279.75	Nil	Nil
8.	Karnataka	311.66	Nil	Nil
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1353.665	3849	1000
10.	Maharashtra	413.81	1033	456
11.	Orissa	994.28	29	3155
12.	Pudduchery	24.15	30	Nil
13.	Rajasthan	174.02	225	59

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Tamil Nadu	55.90	Nil	Nil
15.	Uttar Pradesh	82.5	Nil	Nil
16.	West Bengal	143.545	63	Nil
Total		4684.272	7080	5131

[*Translation*]

Cold Storages

449. SHRI HARISINGH CHAVDA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the total number of cold storages in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether each district in the country does not have adequate facility of cold storage and exorbitant charges are taken from farmers for using the cold storage;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the funds allocated to each State for setting up cold storages during last three years and the funds utilized, State-wise;

(e) whether no rules exist for levying charges for keeping items in cold storage;

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

(g) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (g) As per the information available with Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.12.2006 is 5101. State-wise and capacity-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Government is aware of inadequacy of cold chain infrastructure available for food processing industries in

the country. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), under its Plan Schemes, had been providing financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. Since financial assistance schemes are project oriented, no funds have been allocated State-wise. The budget allocation utilized by the Ministry on infrastructure development including cold storages during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was Rs. 15.65 crore, Rs. 13.21 crore and Rs. 14.80 crore respectively.

Considering the need for large investment in creating rural infrastructure such as pack houses, primary processing centers, efficient supply chain to develop backward and forward linkages, etc. so as to add value and reduce level to wastages, MFPI has developed a proposal on Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme for 11th Five Year Plan for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels—farm level primary processing center—cum—cold chain, collection/aggregation centres and Strategic Distribution Centres to provide complete cold chain facilities without any break from the farm gate to the consumer, including pre-cooling facilities at production sites, refer vans and mobile cooling units. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition centres with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, meat, poultry, etc. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for the difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective scheme.

Government does not regulate the charges being levied for utilization of cold storages which are generally

market driven and dependent upon various factors including volume of storage material, power supply, fuel cost, labour charges, etc.

Statement

Distribution of Cold Storages

Sl.No.	State/UT	As on 31.12.2006	
		Total No	Total Capacity in MTs
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)	02	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh	276	820808
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000
4.	Assam	23	70916
5.	Bihar	238	910582
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	55	268022
8.	Delhi	93	126091
9.	Gujarat	374	973768
10.	Goa	28	7105
11.	Haryana	243	392121
12.	Himachal Pradesh	17	18375
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	25	80625
15.	Kerala	177	47298
16.	Karnataka	138	253168
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	01	15
18.	Maharashtra	437	510854
19.	Madhya Pradesh	179	762802
20.	Manipur	00	00
21.	Meghalaya	03	3200
22.	Mizoram	00	00

1	2	3	4
23.	Nagaland	02	6150
24.	Orissa	90	216420
25.	Pondicherry (UT)	03	85
26.	Punjab	420	1377517
27.	Rajasthan	106	312130
28.	Sikkim	00	00
29.	Tamil Nadu	136	227229
30.	Tripura	08	18450
31.	U.P. & Uttarakhand	1567	8931918
32.	West Bengal	434	5340042
Total		5101	21693986

[English]

Reduction in the Prices of Drugs

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

(a) whether majority of 886 medicines for which the companies had agreed to reduce prices are either obsolete or are not being manufactured;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments/UTs have informed the Union Government that prices of these medicines were not reduced;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (e) Pharma companies had agreed to voluntarily restrict the trade margins for generic medicines to 15% for wholesalers and 35% for retailers. A compilation of the list of 886 such medicines, whose prices were to be voluntarily reduced by 11 companies as a result of this cap on trade margins has been

brought out and is available on this Department website *www.chemicals.gov.in*. Copies of the list have been placed in the Parliament Library. It covers formulations in dosage forms such as tablets, capsules and syrups, etc. which find usage in the treatment of large number of diseases. The medicines covered are anti diabetics, antibiotics, cough syrups, painkillers as well as those used during the surgical operations, for the cure of the infectious diseases and for the treatment of hypertension etc. The voluntary reduction in prices of these medicines ranges between 0.26% and 74.53%.

The revised prices were to be implemented by the companies on packs manufactured after 2nd October/ 2nd November, 2006. A survey of the prices of these medicines was got done through a pharma PSU recently (The report was submitted to this Department on 15.4.2008) and feedback was also received from some of the companies. As per the findings of this survey, 154 medicines out of 886 have been discontinued by some of the pharmaceutical companies. Out of the remaining 732 medicines, 563 medicines are available in Delhi Market at reduced prices. Some State Governments have informed that a few of these products are availability varies from State to State.

This reduction in trade margins has been effected by industry only on medicines promoted by trade (commonly called generic-generic or branded- generic drugs) where these margins are high as compared to the Scheduled formulation packs and non-Scheduled branded formulation packs. This segment forms only a small portion of the total pharma market in the country.

It is proposed to streamline the system of trade margins through the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006, which proposes to cap the trade margins. Based on the reduction in the trade margins, there is a likelihood of reduction in prices of generic medicines. This Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007. It was decided that matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held three meetings so far. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

Oil Recovery Scheme of ONGC

451. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) have identified 14 of its major oil and gas fields for augmentation of production under the oil recovery scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for decline in oil and gas production in these major oil gas fields;

(c) scheme chalked out for their revialal; and

(d) the investment proposed to be made in these major oil and gas fields?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Yes, Sir, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has identified 14 of its major oil and gas fields which contribute nearly 80% of the total production, for implementing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) and Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes to augment oil and gas production in Mumbai High, Heera, Neelam Gandhar, Kalol, Sanand, North Kadi, Santhal, Balol, Jotana, Sobhasan, Lakwa, Geleki and Rudra Sagar fields.

(b) The reasons for shortfall in production are as follows:

- (i) Ageing and natural decline in some of oil fields.
- (ii) Shortfall in ONGC's North-Gujarat field was due to evacuation constraints.
- (iii) Poor availability of offshore rigs resulting in less than envisaged side track well in Mumbai Offshore.
- (iv) Requirement of work over of wells.
- (v) Consequential effects of unfortunate fire accident at Bombay High North (BHN) Platform in July, 2005 especially w.r.t. well fluid handling capacities in Mumbai High North (MHN)

(c) ONGC is implementing proven new technologies under Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) projects such as various well techniques like drilling of horizontal and multilateral wells by side-track in old wells, work over, hydro-fracturing, acidisation etc. to augment oil production.

(d) The total approved cost of the Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)-Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes of ONGC is of the order of Rs. 14060.25 crore ONGC

has made investment of Rs. 13434 crore upto March, 2008.

World Class Railway Stations

452. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received encouraging response from international bidders to develop major stations as world class stations/localities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have been taken a decision to develop stations through Public Private Partnership (PPP); and

(d) if so, the present status of each project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (d) It has been decided to develop identified railway stations in metro and mini metros and important centers into world class stations through Public Private Partnership by leveraging the surplus land and air-space in and around the station.

The stations now identified are: Agra, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bangalore, Bhopal (Habibganj), Bhubaneswar, Bijwasan (Delhi), Carnac Bunder (Mumbai CST), Chandigarh, Chennai Central, Gaya, Guwahati, Howrah, Jaipur, Kanpur Central, Lucknow, Mathura, Nagpur, New Delhi, Patna, Pune, Secunderabad, Thiruvananthapuram Central, Tirupati and Varanasi.

Action to take up the development of above named stations in staggered phases has been initiated. In the first instance four stations namely; New Delhi, Patna, Carnac Bunder (Mumbai CST) and Secunderabad have been taken up. The Architect and Technical Consultant, Financial Consultant and Legal Adviser have been appointed for New Delhi Station. The process for pre-qualification of bidders for development of new Delhi Railway Station has been initiated through a global bidding process.

Architect and technical Consultant has been appointed for Patna Station. The process for appointment of Architect and Technical Consultant for Carnac Bunder

(Mumbai CST) Station and Secunderabad Station has been initiated.

In the light of the above facts, it is premature to comment on the response of bidders before the bidding process is completed.

[Translation]

Maintenance of Historical Monuments

455. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has entrusted the responsibility of maintenance of some historical heritages to the private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of historical heritage sites in the country being maintained by ASI at present, State-wise;

(d) whether ASI has been entrusted with the responsibility to maintain some historical heritages abroad also;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether at present ASI is facing shortage of funds; and

(g) if not, the total amount spent by ASI for maintenance of historical heritages during fiscal year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not entrusted any centrally protected monument for maintenance to the private companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of monuments/sites declared protected and maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India is 3667. The State-wise list is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) ASI has not been entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining any historical heritage buildings abroad. However, conservation of Ta Prohm Temple in Cambodia has been entrusted to ASI by the Ministry of External Affairs under the ITEC Programme.

(f) and (g) Availability of funds has improved over the past 3 years due to higher budgetary allocation. The details of expenditure incurred during the last three years for conservation, restoration, maintenance and environment development are as under.

Sl.No.	Year	Amount (Rs. In Crores)
1.	2005-06	101.95
2.	2006-07	108.17
3.	2007-08	128.86

Statement

*No. of Centrally protected monuments under
Archaeological Survey of India (State/Union
Territory-wise)*

Sl.No	Name of State/ Union Territory	Number of Monuments/Sites
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	Assam	53
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
4.	Bihar	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	N.C.T. of Delhi	175
7.	Daman & Diu	12
8.	Goa	21
9.	Gujarat	202
10.	Haryana	90
11.	Himachal Pradesh	40
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	69
13.	Jharkhand	12
14.	Kerala	26

1	2	3
15.	Karnataka	507
16.	Maharashtra	286
17.	Madhya Pradesh	286
18.	Manipur	1
19.	Meghalaya	8
20.	Nagaland	4
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Punjab	31
23.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	7
24.	Rajasthan	161
25.	Sikkim	3
26.	Tamil Nadu	413
27.	Tripura	5
28.	Uttar Pradesh	743
29.	Uttaranchal	42
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3667

[English]

Promotion of Research and Development

456. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote Research and Development (R &D) in the Drugs and Pharmaceutical Sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the investments made for R & D during 2007-08 in the sector;

(c) the details of R&D programme drawn up for 2008-09; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase R&D in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of investments made by the Government Departments for Research and Development during 2007-08 is as under:-

(i)	Department of Science & Technology	Rs. 118.0 crores;
(ii)	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR)	Rs. 2.3 crores;
(iii)	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	Rs. 59.91 crores;
(iv)	Department of Biotechnology (DBT)	Rs. 38.18 crores;
(v)	Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (Through National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, (NIPER Mohali)	Rs. 8.61 crores.

(c) During 2008-09, the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals will assist National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Mohali to carry out R &D for New Drug Discovery Programmes for Diabetes, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Leishmaniasis etc.

Department of Science and Technology (DST) will continue to provide soft loans to industry for collaborative projects under Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme (DPRP) for which a budget of Rs. 100.00 crores has been provided in 2008-09.

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) will continue to carryout new drug development in parasitic and microbial diseases, anti-cancer, diabetes, asthma etc.

Department of Biotechnology will promote research in biotechnology including biotechnological drugs including vaccine development.

(d) Government is providing various fiscal measures such as weighted tax deduction @ 150% under section 35 (2AB) of Income Tax Act, 1961 and promoting outsourcing research by providing a proposed weighted deduction of 125% to companies engaged in Research and development. Various non-fiscal measures are being provided by Department of Science and Technology through Drugs and Pharmaceutical Research Programme of Department of Science and Technology and Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) of Department of Biotechnology for promoting Research and Development in Pharmaceutical Sector.

Healthcare Tourism

457. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Task Force has been constituted for promoting healthcare tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan prepared by the Task Force; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) A Task Force headed by Secretary (Health & Family Welfare) with Senior Officials of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Tourism and experts in the medical field has been constituted for promoting healthcare tourism in the country. Following measures have been taken to promote medical and Health Tourism:

(i) Brochure, CDs and other publicity materials on Medical and Health Tourism including the traditional system of medicine, have been produced and widely circulated through its India tourism offices abroad for publicity in potential markets.

(ii) A new category of 'Medical Visa' has been introduced by Ministry of Home Affairs for patients and their attendants coming to India for medical treatment.

Committee of Experts on Classical Languages

459. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee of Experts to look into the issue on conferring "classical" status to some languages particularly Telugu and Kannada;

(b) if so, the details of the meetings of the Committee held so far;

(c) the issues deliberated in these meetings and outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which the committee is likely to submit its final report?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The Government has, on 1.11.2004, constituted a Committee of Linguistic Experts of consider the future demands for categorization of languages as classical languages.

Representations received from several quarters for conferring classical status on Telugu and Kannada languages have been forwarded to the said Committee. The Committee has held two meetings on 13.01.2005 and 04.05.2005. In these meetings, the Committee mainly discussed the criteria for classifying a language as classical language and sought certain clarifications from the Government which have since been provided to the Committee.

The representations received in this regard are required to be thoroughly studied, scientifically cross-checked by the experts and their opinion is awaited. As the whole process is elaborate, no deadline can be fixed for this purpose.

[Translation]

Training Programme for Employment in Food Processing Industries

460. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is running training programmes in the country in various States to provide employment to unskilled and employment to unskilled

and unemployed youths in various food processing industries;

(b) if so, the State-wise/district-wise details thereof and the total amount allocated during the current financial year; and

(c) the details regarding the persons benefited during the last three years year-wise/month-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) To ensure adequate availability of skilled, trained workers and managerial manpower in the Food Processing Sector for development of Food Processing Industries in the country, the Ministry under the Human Resource Development Scheme provides assistance for the following four activities.

- (i) Creation of infrastructure facilities for running Degree/Diploma Courses in Food Processing Technology wherein assistance up to Rs. 75.00 lakhs is provided as a grant for equipments purchase to universities/colleges etc.
- (ii) To conduct Entrepreneurship Development Programmes under which grant of Rs. 2.00 lakhs is given to Central/State Govt. Organizations, R&D Institutes for Entrepreneurship Development, State Consultancy Organizations, Industry Organizations/Associations, State Nodal Agencies for Food Processing Industries, Reputed Non-Government Organizations etc.
- (iii) Training Programme in National level institutions like CFTRI etc. are also sponsored by the Ministry of Food Processing for training of Trainers and also for upgradation of the skills of existing entrepreneurs. Quantum of assistance as grant in aid is Rs. 1.00 lakh maximum subject to conditions regarding number of trainees and duration of training etc.
- (iv) The Government is also assisting Central/State Government Organizations, Educational and Training Institutions, Non-Government Organizations and Co-operatives etc. for establishing Food Processing Training Centres (FPTC) for running training programmes in the country for skill upgradation of unskilled and unemployed in Food Processing Industries. Ministry does not run on its own any training programme under the above schemes.

The Ministry provides grant-in-aid of Rs. 4.00 lakhs for purchase of machinery & equipments and Rs. 2.00 lakh as revolving seed capital for setting up of single product line FPTC. For multi product line FPTC Ministry provides grant-in-aid of Rs. 11.00 lakhs for purchase of

machinery & equipment and Rs. 4.00 lakhs assistances as revolving seed capital.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed statement-I

(c) Details are given in the enclosed statement-II

Statement-I

State-wise/District-wise details of Food Processing Training Centres, Entrepreneurship Development Programme and HRD Institution during 2007-08.

(Rs. in lakhs)

SLNo.	Name of the State	FPTC			EDP			HRD Institutions assisted	
		Districts	Amount sanctioned	No. of FPTC assisted	Distt.	No. of EDP	Amount Sanctioned	Distt.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Assam	—	—	—	Diphu, Guwahati	2	2.61	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Anantapur, Hyderabad	13.50	4	Belangar	1	0.58	—	—
3.	Delhi	—	—	—	Delhi	3	2.02	—	—
4.	Gujarat	—	—	—	10 EDPs each in the State of J & K, Haryana H.P. Punjab, U.P, Uttarkhand, Gujarat, Maharashtra Bihar, Jharkhand	2 trainers training Programme and 100 EDPs (3rd instalment)	25.00	—	—
5.	Haryana	Rohtak	1.994	1	Faridabad, Bhiwani, Karnal, Panipat, Yamunagar, Hissar, Ambala	7	6.557	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	Solan, Shimla	9.30	2	Shimla	15	14.95	—	—
7.	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh	1.60	1				—	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—			2.64	Jammu	25.00
9.	Kerala	Pathanamthitta	7.00	1	Thiruvananthapuram,	1	0.835	Malappuram	25.00
10.	Karnataka	Suttur	7.204	1					
11.	Maharashtra	Prabhani, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Prabhani, Nagpur	10.00	5	Parbhani, Akole, New Mumbai, Satara, Kolapur, Sangli, Sindhudurg, Nagpur, Wardha, Ahmednagar, Pune	14	7.88	Kolhapur	25.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Morena, Bhopal, Betul, Aahok, Nagar, Harda, Shajapur, Datia, Gwalior, Tikamgarh, Bhind, Guna, Morena	21.607	12	Vidisha, Bhopal	2	1.305		
13.	Mizoram	Aizawl	7.50	1					
14.	Orissa	Kalahandi	2.00	1	Balasore, Jagatsinghpur, Kandhamala	3	5.65		
15.	Sikkim	—	—	—	Singtam, Jorethang	2	1.35		
16.	Punjab	Ropar	1.624	1	Abhor, Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, Moga, Bhatinda	10	7.388		
17.	Tripura	—	—	—	Agriata	1	0.48		
18.	Tamil Nadu	Tirunelveli, Madurai	3.686	2	Dindigul, Virudhunagar	2	8.563	Coimbatore	25.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Jaunpur, Allahabad, Faizabad, Koehambhi, Mathras, Bareilly	22.755	7	Kanpur, Varanasi, Pratapgarh, Allahabad, Ballia, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Meerut, Mathras, Muzaffarnagar	11	5.928		
20.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	Almora, Champawat, Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital, Pauri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar, Roorkee, Nainital, Almora, Mohali	25	16.50		
21.	West Bengal	Paschim Medinipur, South 24 Parganas Kolkata	4.00	2	24 South Parganas, Barrackpore, Kamdebpur, Nadia, Kolkata, Birbhum, Uluberia, Medinipur, Siliguri, Howrah	14	11.19	Purba medinip	25.00
Total		113.77	41		113	121.206	5	125.00	

Statement-II

Details regarding the persons benefited during 2005-06 to 2007-08.

Sl.No.	Year	No. of persons benefited		
		FPTC	EDP	HRD-Institution
1.	2005-06	400	4300	450
2.	2006-07	2300	4300	850
3.	2007-08	4100	2825	250

[English]

Development of Tourism in Karnataka

4338. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether to encourage investment in the tourism sector, the Karnataka Government in its draft tourism policy has proposed a speedy conversion of land acquired for tourism projects to non-agricultural land including waiving off conversion fees;

(b) if so, whether the Tourism Department has planned a number of other initiatives to promote investment in the tourism sector;

(c) whether the Tourism Department has decided to obtain clearances in six months time;

(d) if so, what are the main features of the scheme;

(e) whether the Centre has agreed to provide help and assistance in implementing these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has prepared a draft Tourism Policy for the period 2007-2012 for the purpose of overall development of tourism in the State.

(e) and (f) Development and promotion of places of tourist interest is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including the State of Karnataka. However, Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance every year for the Product/Infrastructure development of tourist destinations/circuits..

Large Revenue Generating projects, Fairs/festivals/events and IT projects to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

Project proposals which are compete as per guidelines, are appraised on the basis of inter-se-priority and funds released, subject to availability under the respective head during the concerned year, During the 10th Plan, projects worth Rs. 9002.72 lakh have been sanctioned to the State of Karnataka. For the year 2007-08, Rs. 2004.71 lakh have been sanctioned for development of tourism in Karnataka.

Monuments in Andhra Pradesh

4339. SHRI G. NIZAMUDDIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Cultural Heritage as reflected in temples and Stupas built by the Kakatiya Kings in Warangal, Nalgonda, Khammam and Karim Nagar Districts of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to protect these temples and monuments by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) There are 137 monuments/sites declared as of national importance in Andhra Pradesh which include three monuments in Warangal District belonging to the Kakatiya period. These monuments are in good state of preservation. The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes preservation, conservation and maintenance of these monuments/sites by way of structural repairs, chemical preservation and environmental development as per archaeological norms subject to availability of resources. In addition to regular watch & ward staff of Archaeological Survey of India, private security personnel have also been deployed for the safety and security of these monuments/sites.

The monuments/sites declared as protected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh include monuments of the Kakatiya period in the Districts of Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Warangal, and Khammam. It is the responsibility the Government of Andhra Pradesh to conserve State protected monuments.

[Translation]

Lease of Chiria Iron-Ore Mine

4340. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate quantity of iron-ores available in Chiria mine;

(b) whether the Government proposes to transfer the lease of some parts of the Chiria mine to Mittal Steels; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) The approximate quantity of iron ore available at Chiria is about 1850 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The six mining leases at Chiria were originally allotted to the erstwhile Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) and after its merger with the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) these leases have passed on to SAIL. Out of the six leases, three are under deemed extension. The renewal applications for the remaining three leases under deemed extension. The renewal applications for the remaining three leases were submitted on time to the State Government of Jharkhand by SAIL, but were rejected in 2004-05. As per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR), the authority to renew mining leases lies with the State Government. This matter is now pending with the courts and the Ministry of Steel has also been attempting to have this matter resolved out of court.

There is no proposal to transfer the lease of some parts of the Chiria mine to Mittal Steel. SAIL is not in a position to share the resources of Chiria Mines as the iron ore resources with SAIL are not sufficient to meet its own long term requirements.

[English]

Central Grants to NGOs

4341. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) the number of proposals received, State-wise from the various States including Karnataka for Central Grants to NGOs in the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending with the Ministry at present;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of the pending proposals; and

(d) the time by which a final decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The number of proposals received from various States for central assistance to NGOs under various schemes during last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Sanction of grant-in-aid is a continuous process and each proposal is decided on merits, as per the prescribed procedure.

Statement

State-wise total number of proposals received under various scheme during last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total Number of proposals received
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1505
3.	Bihar	242
4.	Chandigarh	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	102
6.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3
7.	Daman & Diu	4
8.	Delhi	638
9.	Goa	36
10.	Gujarat	330
11.	Haryana	195
12.	Himachal Pradesh	84

1	2	3
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	50
14.	Jharkhand	25
15.	Karnatka	1088
16.	Kerala	531
17.	Lakshadweep	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	570
19.	Maharashtra	726
20.	Orissa	905
21.	Pondicherry	11
22.	Punjab	146
23.	Rajasthan	614
24.	Tamil Nadu	728
25.	Uttar Pradesh	1066
26.	Uttarkhand	126
27.	West Bengal	782
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	17
29.	Assam	411
30.	Manipur	526
31.	Meghalaya	36
32.	Mizoram	56
33.	Nagaland	56
34.	Sikkim	50
35.	Tripura	45
Total		11665

[Translation]

**Work Decreasing In The Railway Wagon Repair/
Crane Manufacturing Factory**

4342. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work in the railway wagon repair/crane manufacturing factory of North-Eastern Railway situated at Bareilly is continuously getting decreased and the number of workers is also going down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain other works are proposed at this place; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a small reduction in strength of workforce.

(b) Like in other railway units, due to change in product mix handled by the Railways, rationalization of activities and reduction in workload related to Metre Gauge rolling stock some reduction of staff (about 7.6 per cent during the last 5 years) has taken place in Izatnagar workshop in Bareilly District.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A work costing Rs. 58 crore has been sanctioned for creation of Broad Gauge coach periodic overhauling facility at Izatnagar workshop to keep with changing rolling stock Periodic Overhauling requirement of the railway.

[English]

Regional National School of Drama

4343. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up five Regional National Schools of Drama (NSDs) including one in the North-East;

(b) if so, the location of the contemplated Regional National Schools of Drama; and

(c) the steps so far being taken to set up the Regional National Schools of Drama in North-Eastern Region and the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI. AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) On the basis of the recommendations of the Broad Based

Committee of the National School of Drama, opening of 5 regional Schools has been proposed during XIth plan as under:-

(i) upgradation of the existing Regional Resource Centre of NSD at Bangalore into a full fledged regional School; (ii) Kolkata; (iii) Jammu & Kashmir; (iv) Maharashtra/Goa; and (v) Regional Training Centre in the North East.

National School of Drama has constituted a study group for the required survey and framing of the module and necessary guidelines for the setting up of these regional Drama schools including Regional Training Centre in the North East.

Restructuring of Pharma Sector

4344. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has made a study or assessed the impact of Patent Laws on the restructuring of pharma sector in the country which was introduced three years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether such restructuring had caused the closure of some units;

(e) if so, the extent of unemployment due to closure of units; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to absorb the skilled manpower of the closed units, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) India is a signatory to the agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation. The WTO Agreement, *inter-alia*, contains an agreement on IPR, namely, the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of IPR (TRIPS). The TRIPS Agreement requires member countries to align their legislations on intellectual property

in conformity with their obligations under the TRIPS Agreement. In respect of patents, the TRIPS Agreement prescribed introduction of product patents from 1.1.2005, for pharmaceutical, food and agrochemical inventions. Accordingly, product patent protection has been provided by amending Indian Patents Act 1970.

While considering the amendments to the Indian Patents Act, 1970 elaborate consultations were carried out with all the concerned Departments of the Government of India and also with the various concerned organisations and industry associations including the prominent associations of the pharmaceutical industry. The concerns and apprehensions projected by the pharmaceutical industry, including the impact on the pharmaceutical sector as a whole, have been by and large given consideration and adequate safeguards to ensure the continued availability of medicines at reasonable prices have been incorporated in the law while finalising the amendments.

It is estimated that over 95 percent of the drugs being produced in India are off-patent and would not be affected by the introduction of product patent. Similarly the medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 are also off-patent and would not be affected by the product patent regime. The small number of drugs (less than 5 percent) which are likely to be covered under product patent and were under production in India on the date of introduction of new patent regime would continue to be produced in the country without any interruptions. This has been ensured under the latest amendment in the Indian Patents Act, 1970. A reasonable royalty on the production of such drugs would become payable to the patent-holder company.

Since production of the existing drugs being produced in India would not be affected by the introduction of product patent regime there is no likelihood of closure of some of the units due to this reason. As such there is no question of unemployment in the pharma Industry taking place in India due to introduction of production of production patent regime.

Production Units Awarded with ISO Certification

4345. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the production units of the Railways have been awarded with ISO certification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have been taken any steps to get the ISO certification for more production units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the six production units of Indian Railways namely Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala, Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi, Rail Wheel Factory, Yeikhana, Bangalore; Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Chittaranjan and Diesel Loco Modernisation Works, Patiala have been awarded with ISO certification i.e. 9001 for Quality Management System and with ISO 14001 for Environmental Management System.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Flight Training at Affordable Cost

4346. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a huge shortage of the Institutions offering flight training in the country;

(b) if so, whether the young Indians aspiring to become Commercial Pilots are forced to opt for costly Global Schools for Training;

(c) if so, the steps taken to establish sufficient number of such Institutes in the country; and

(d) the steps being undertaken for imparting flight training to those who are unable to meet the huge expenses for joining overseas institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) At present 27 flying training institutes are operational in the country. However, training in India or abroad is a matter of individual choice of the trainee. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received 54 applications for setting up new flying training institutes in various

parts of the country. The existing flying training institutes in India are expanding capacity to meet the increasing demand of pilots in the industry. To further ease the situation, the Government has taken various steps. These include approval to new schools, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity and reduce training period, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through the Directorate General of Civil Aviation/Aero Club of India.

[English]

Public-Private Partnership in the Drug Industry

4347. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of firms as on date in the country operating on the principle of public private partnership;

(b) whether this principle is harmful to the drug industry;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to control the domination of the private sector in the drug industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No such information is being maintained by this Department.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government is engaged in strengthening Pharma CPSUs for manufacture of Drugs.

[Translation]

General Class Coach

4348. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways had announced to increase the number of general class coaches in various express/mail/superfast passenger trains; and

(b) if so, the number of new general coaches, sleeper coach, chair cars, III AC, II AC, I AC coaches added/provided during the last three years?

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

(b) the number of coaches added/provided during the last three years is as under:-

General Coaches- 638, Sleeper Coach- 862, Chair Cars- 64, II AC- 351, II AC-59 and I AC-19.

[English]

IT Park in Cochin

4349. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin International Airport Limited proposed to build an IT Park adjoining to the CIAL Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given its approval for the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL) has informed that it has drawn a plan for the development of an Aerotropolis (Airport City) in the cityside land available with the airport. IT Park is a component of the proposed Aerotropolis. An area of about 35 acres of land is earmarked for this purpose. The total built up area of the proposed IT Park will be 4 million sq.ft. to be developed in a phased manner.

(c) Government has not yet received the proposal from CIAL.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

INDO-Japan Dedicated Freight Corridor

4350. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some differences have been arisen between India and Japan over the dedicated freight corridors (DFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have taken any steps to solve the issue amicably;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Rajdhani Express Between New Delhi to Mau

4351. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the requests to extend the trains like Howrah Rajdhani/Guwahati Rajdhani/Shivganga Express up to Mau has been looked into;

(b) the time by which a Rajdhani Express train is likely to be introduced between New Delhi and Mau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VALU): (a) and (b) Extension of trains like Howrah Rajdhani/Guwahati Rajdhani/Shivganga Express up to Mau has been examined but not found feasible.

(c) There is no proposal for introduction of a Rajdhani Express train between New Delhi and Mau.

Monuments In Orissa

4352. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of several historical monuments of Orissa is very pathetic and there is illegal possession on them;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) There are seventy-eight monuments/sites in Orissa that are declared as of national importance. The monuments are in a good state of preservation. The following three monuments have been partially encroached upon:

1. Barabati Fort, Cuttack
2. Sisupalgarh, Bhubaneswar
3. Udaigiri and Khandagiri Caves, Bhubaneswar

In order to contain encroachment, the Archaeological Survey of India has issued notices under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 & Rules, 1959. The matter has also been taken up with the district authorities for eviction of encroachers.

[English]

Exploration in Offshore Area of Kerala

4353. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has finalized the Project of Oil and Natural Gas exploration in the offshore area of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time by which exploration work will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Government of India has awarded 17 exploration blocks to various Exploration and Production (E &P) companies in offshore areas of Kerala-Konkan basin under the six rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) held so far.

About 1,14,2007 Line Kilometre (LKM) of 2D seismic and 5,702 square kilometre of 3D seismic data has been acquired and 11 prospects (4 in deepwater) have been drilled by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

(b) Exploration activities have already commenced. 3395 LKM of 2D seismic, 9201 square kilometre of 3D

seismic and 3 exploratory wells have been drilled so far in the 17 exploration blocks awarded under NELP.

Production of Major Bulk Drugs

4354. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of production of about 300 important major bulk drugs produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the different fiscal and non-fiscal incentives provided by the Union Government and States for setting up of manufacturing units in the selected areas/regions; and

(c) the impact thereof on production, quality and cost competitiveness in the long run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUÉ): (a) A large number of units manufacturing drugs and related items, both in the organized sector and in the small scale sector are operating in the country. Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there-under, the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs is vested primarily with the State Governments.

(b) The Central as well as the State Governments are providing various fiscal and non fiscal incentives for setting up of manufacturing units in selected areas/regions. In the States of Uttarakhand & Himachal Pradesh, new units or units undertaking substantial expansion are fully exempt from excise duty, while such units in the North East, Jammu & Kashmir are entitled for refund of duty payable on the value addition undertaken in the manufacture of the goods at the rate prescribed by the Government. A similar exemption is also available to units set up on or after 31.07.2001 and before 31.12.2005 in the Kutch district of Gujarat.

(c) There has been a substantial impact on pharma sector in terms of production, quality and cost competitiveness due to the various fiscal & non fiscal measures/incentives adopted from time to time by the Government. This has resulted in the fresh investments for manufacture of bulk drugs & formulations, setting up of facilities for R & D work, enhanced quality as per the

global regulations & more importantly increased domestic production and exports to large number of destinations around the world in a cost competitive manner.

Availability of Medicines

4355. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Public Sector Undertaking in the Pharmaceutical Sector on the Research and Development work as compared to Private Sector during the last three years;

(b) whether some of the Pharmaceutical Public

Sector Undertakings have been declared sick and have been closed down;

(c) if so, the whether the medicines produced by the these PSUs are now being imported by spending foreign exchanges; and

(d) if not, the alternative arrangements made by the Government for availability of medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) During the last three years, pharma CPSUs have been incurred expenditure on Research & Development work, as follows:-

Sl.No.	Name of CPSU	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited	12.16	12.59*	15.18*
2.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited	110.46	112.24	123.46*
3.	Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited	17.90	31.87	34.00*

*Provisional

The information in respect of expenditure incurred by Private Sector on Research & Development is not maintained.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Pharmaceutical sector in India has grown substantially over the years and medicines for most therapeutic categories are being produced indigenously by the private sector. This includes most of the medicines produced by the pharma public sector undertakings.

[Translation]

Pipeline from Hazira to Marathwada

4356. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Marathwada Development Corporation

has sent the proposal for laying the Gas Pipe line from Hazira to Marathwada; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No such proposal has been received from M/s Marathwada Development Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway Passenger Facilities

4357. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway passenger facilities and services introduced in Ratlam-Bhopal, Ratlam-Chittorgarh sections of Western Railway and Kota-Nagda railway section of West Central Railway from the years 2004-05 to 2007-08; and

(b) the details of the railway passenger facilities and services proposed for the year 2008-09 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Details of railway passenger facilities and services introduced in Ratlam-Bhopal, Ratlam-Chittorgarh sections of Western Railway and Kota-Nagda section of West Central Railway during the years 2004-05 to 2007-08 are given in the enclosed statement I

(b) Details of the railway passenger facilities and services proposed during 2008-09, State-wise are given in enclosed statement II.

Statement

The details of railway passenger facilities and services introduced on Ratlam-Bhopal Section and Ratlam-Chittorgarh Section of Western Railway and Kota-Nagda Section of West Central Railway during the years from 2004-05 to 2007-08 are as under:

Ratlam-Bhopal Section

Sl.No.	Description of completed work
1	2
1.	Ratlam-Improvement to triangulated area at Platform No. 4
2.	Ratlam-Extension of cover shed at circulating area cycle/scooter stand.
3.	Ratlam-Improvement to circulating area and shifting of cycle stand.
4.	Ratlam—Construction of separate entry to station.
5.	Ratlam—Provisions of passenger amenities.
6.	Ratlam—Construction of steel benches at Platform nos. 1, 2 & 3 and provision of iron grill on drains at platform nos. 5 & 6
7.	Nagda—Construction of foot over bridge from platform no. 3/4 to 5 in lieu of existing dilapidated.
8.	Ujjain—Improvement of Garden for Display of NG Locomotive towards Dewas Gate side.

1	2
9.	Ujjain—improvement of cycle stand at Freegunj side.
10.	Ujjain—Construction of Pay & Use toilet near parcel office, 4 urinals on Platform No. 2 and 50 benches on Platform No. 4 & 5.
11.	Ujjain—Conversion of parcel office into Waiting hall.
12.	Ujjain—Construction Parcel office and path way.
13.	Ujjain—Kota stone Flooring at Bhopal end.
14.	Maksi—Extension of Platform nos.1, 2 & 3 to accommodate 24 coaches.
15.	Berchha—Extension of Platform nos. 1 & 2 to accommodate 24 coaches.
16.	Shujalpur—Raising Platform from Rail level to High level.
17.	Shujalpur—Extension of platform nos. 1, 2 & 3 to accommodate 24 coaches.
18.	Shujalpur—Improvement to circulating area.
19.	Shujalpur-Additional and Alteration in station building for Public Reservation System.
20.	Sehore-Construction of Public Reservation System office.
21.	Bairagarh-Extension of platform nos. 1 & 2 to accommodate 24 coaches.
22.	Bairagarh—Repairs to waiting hall, booking window, GI pipe line, water fountain and seats of Platform Nos. 1 & 2 and circulating area.
Ratlam-Chittorgarh Section	
1.	Neemuch—Improvement to circulating area.
2.	Neemuch—Replacement of AC Sheet covering shed and Valley-gutter by providing Aluminum sheet and Valley-gutter of MG Platform. (1643 Sqm.)
3.	Nimbahera-Extension of covering shed at BG/MG platform, extension of Foot over bridge and development of circulating area.
4.	Chittorgarh-Construction of 200 MM dia bore well with pile line and electric pump.

1	2
5.	Chittorgarh: Construction of cycle stand and car parking.
6.	Chittorgarh-Improvement of BG Platform surface at Platform Nos. 5 & 6 and improvement to circulating area.

Kota-Nagda section

1.	Dakania Talav: Repairing of platform flooring on platform Nos. 1 & 2.
2.	Repair of RL Platform at Kuralasi, Pach phar, Dhuskheri, Kewalapura, Alaniya.
3.	Jhalawar: Repair to Foot Over Bridge.
4.	Jhalawar: Providing Cover over Platform.
5.	Ramganjmandi, Morak, Dakania Talav, Provision of chequered tiles on Platform.
6.	Shamgarh: Improvement of Platform. Surface Nos. 2 & 3.
7.	Garoth-Rohalkhurdh: Providing chequered tiles in Garoth, Vikramgarh Alot, and Mahidpur stations.
8.	Garoth-Rohalkhurdh: Repairs to broken coping & Surface of station Platform.
9.	Extension of platforms for accommodating 24/26 coach trains at Dakania Talav, Suvasara, Morak, Vikramgarh Alot, Garoth & Mahidpur railway stations.
10.	Bhawanimandi- (1) Improvement of booking office, (2) Resurfacing of Platform Nos. 1 & 2 and provisions of chequered tiles & Kota stone.
11.	Dakania Talav: -Cover over Platform work on platform Nos. 1 & 2.
12.	Dakania Talav:- Providing PRS/UTS, water booth, pay & use toilet.
13.	Ramaganjmandi: Cover over Platform on platform Nos. 1 & 2, pay and use toilet, improvement to booking office and circulation area etc.

1	2
14.	Shamgarh:- Improvement of Platform Nos. 2 & 3 provision of Cover over Platform, pay and use toilet, water booth-
15.	Vikramgarh Alot- Providing water fountain, pay and use toilet and improvement of circulating area, Cover over Platform work and Resurfacing of Platform No. 2.

Information regarding introduction of train services on Ratlam-Bhopal, Ratlam-Chittaurgarh Section of Western Railway and Kota-Nagda Section of West Central Railway from year-2004-05 to 2007-08 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement-II

The details of railway passenger facilities and services proposed during 2008-09 on Ratlam-Bhopal Section and Ratlam-Chittorgarh Section of Western Railway and Kota-Nagda Section of West Central Railway are as under:

Madhya Pradesh**Ratlam-Bhopal Section**

Sl.No.	Name of work
1	2
1.	Ratlam-Construction of Foot over Bridge between new Platform Nos. 7 & 5/6.
2.	Ratlam-Provision of passenger amenities on second entry side (Waiting hall, Pay & Use toilets and entry road)
3.	Khachrod-Improvement to circulating area and construction of covering shed.
4.	Nagda-Construction of cover shed on platform No. 1
5.	Nagda-Ujjain Section: Raising of platform surface & coping from rail level to high level at Piploda Bagla & Unhel Stations.
6.	Ratlam Division—Improvement to retiring room at Ujjain, Ratlam & Nagda stations.

1	2
7.	Maksi-Bhopal Section. Improvement to circulating area at Maksi, Berchha, Kalisindh & Kalapipal stations.
8.	Ujjain-Bhopal Section: Construction of RCC overhead tank capacity 150000 liters at Maksi & Shujalpur stations.
9.	Ujjain-Bhopal Section-Construction of foot over bridge at Kalisindh station. (High Level platform) & platform shelter on Platform Nos. 1 & 2.
10.	Shujipur-Improvement to circulating area, waiting hall, Booking office and other passenger amenities.
11.	Shujalpur-Extension of foot over bridge, Construction of Pay & Use toilets and improvement to Platform surface.
12.	Sehore—Construction of concourse cum waiting hall, covering shed and improvement to other passenger amenities.
13.	Sehore-Improvement to circulating area, platform surface and drains.
14.	Bairgarh: Raising of extended Rail level Platform to High level of Platform Nos. 1 & 2.

Ratlam-Chittorgarh Section

1. Ratlam-Neemuch Section-Construction of covering sheds on benches on passenger platforms at Namli, Barayala, Jaora, Mundlaram, Dhodhar, Daloda, Mandson, Piplia, Sindpan, Malhargarh, Harkiyakhal & Jamuniyakalan stations.
2. Jaora-Construction of foot over bridge between Platform Nos. 1 & 2
3. Neemuch, Mandsaor & Jaora Station-Raising of Station building plinth.

Meghnagar—Ratlam & Ratlam-Khandawa & Indore-Ujjain-Dewas Section

1. Baminal-Upgradation of Passenger amenities by providing waiting room, improvement of waiting hall, benches, Booking window & circulating area.

1	2
2.	Raoti-Construction of foot over bridge.
3.	Ratlam Division—Improvement to Passenger amenities at Omkareshwar & Laxmibal Nagar stations.
4.	Dewas-Improvement to the facade of station building.
5.	MHOW: Construction of separate water supply arrangement for station area.
6.	Indore-Construction of 2.25 lakh liters capacity overhead tank with sump for coach filling.
7.	Suvasra-Covering over platform.

Rajasthan

Ratlam-Chittorgarh Section & Kota-Nagda Section medium level to high level.

3. Chaumahala-Covering over platform.

Gujarat State

Godhra-Dahod Section

1. Dahod-Raising of platform Nos. 2 & 3 in cover shed portion.
2. Usra-Construction of UP platform.
3. The State-wise position of trains proposed for 2008-09 is as under:

Sl.No	State	Introduction	Extension	Increase in frequency
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	4	0
2.	Assam	4	0	0
3.	Bihar	25	4	8
4.	Chhattisgarh	2	1	1
5.	Delhi	13	2	8
6.	Goa	3	0	2

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	8	2	4
8.	Haryana	7	0	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	0	2
10.	Jharkhand	8	1	3
11.	Karnataka	10	6	2
12.	Kerala	4	1	1
13.	Maharashtra	17	5	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	13	2	2
15.	Nagaland	2	0	0
16.	Orissa	7	2	3
17.	Pondicherry	1	0	0
18.	Punjab	6	0	3
19.	Rajasthan	7	0	3
20.	Tamil Nadu	12	6	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh	24	5	8
22.	Uttrakhand	5	0	0
23.	West Bengal	11	0	2

Additional Freight Carriage in the Railways

4358. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the additional freight carriage by Railways train wagons and rail tracks have been badly affected;

(b) if so, whether due to these factors the gap between tracks is increasing and also affected the quality of tracks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Bellary Airport

4359. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to improve the infrastructure facilities at Bellary Airport in Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the schedule for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The existing non-operational airport at Bellary belongs to the Government of Karnataka. Its runway 12/30 is having a dimension of 3400 feet x 60 feet. At the request of the State Government, an Airport Authority of India (AAI) team carried out a feasibility study for upgradation/extension of the runway for operation of ATR and higher categories of aircrafts. The study has found that extension of the runway is not possible due to Tungabhadra high level canal on the western side and a hillock coming in the approach of runway 30 on the eastern side. The AAI team also examined the possibility of construction of a new runway 15/33 as suggested by the State Government. The team found that it would not meet ICAC specification of 95 per cent usability factor for runway system as established by the wind analysis.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Jan Shatabdi Express

4360. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new Jan Shatabdi train between Nagal Dam and New Delhi;

(b) if so, by when is it likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Development of Food Processing Industries

4361. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan for development of Food Processing Industry has been formulated by National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurships and Management;

(b) if so, the number of districts of various States selected for this purpose;

(c) whether any criteria has been fixed for selection of these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the funds released for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) is being set up at Kundli, District Sonapat, Haryana, as an international center of excellence to cater to the needs of various stakeholders such as entrepreneurs, industry, exporters, policy makers, government and existing institutions. The mandate of the institute is to create world-class leaders for India's food science and food industry ventures by offering high quality educational and research programs, specific to food industry management and by providing business incubation facility. It would work as a focal point for catalyzing the growth of food processing industries in India with respect to global scenario.

(b) to (e) While mandate towards action plan for state-wise and district-wise development of Food Processing Industry is not directly related to setting up of NIFTEM, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) have various plan schemes to provide financial assistance for the overall growth of food processing sector. MFPI Infrastructure scheme especially envisages a demand-driven and cluster-based approach bringing farmers, processors and retailers together to drive investment in developing food processing infrastructure.

[English]

Visakhapatnam Airport

4362. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the night landing system have commissioned at Visakhapatnam Airport;

(b) whether Visakhapatnam is going to be a industrial hub in the near future;

(c) whether many airlines are keen to operate their flights from this airport to different destinations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether present operation hours of the airport are only from 0800 hours to 1700 hours; and

(f) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for round the clock operation of this airport?

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

(b) Two Industrial Parks at Vishakahpatnam have been approved so far under the Industrial Park Scheme of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. These are-M/s. Vizag IT Park Ltd. and M/s. Ramky Industrial City (India) Ltd.

(c) and (d) At present Air India, Alliance, Jetlite, Spice Jet, Air Deccan, Paramount Airways and Kingfisher Airlines are operating at Visakhapatnam airport. No request is pending with Airports Authority of India (AAI).

(e) Present hours of operations are 0800 to 1400 hours and 1700 to 2000 hours.

(f) Visakhapatnam airport belongs to Indian Navy. AAI is maintaining a Civil Enclave for scheduled flights. For round the clock operation, Naval Headquarters have been requested for increasing the watch-hours.

[Translation]

Development of Drug Marketing System

4366. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to develop drug marketing system to ensure easy availability of good quality and life saving drugs is under consideration by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time and manner in which the said system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) In the Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006, Proposals viz, streamlining to bulk procurement of drugs by the Government, Schemes for providing accessibility to the poor (BPL families), Pharmaceutical distribution (retailing) etc, have been made. This Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007. It was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution. GOM has held three meetings so far on 10-4-2007, 12-9-2007 and 30-1-2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet.

[English]

Thirupathi Pilgrimage Tour

4364. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started a package tour for Thirumala-Thirupathi Pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to extend such tours to other destinations particularly the southern parts of the country;

(d) if so, the locations identified for the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., a Public

Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways is already operating package tours to Thirupathi/ Thirumala from Secunderabad, Chennai & Mumbai. The duration of the packages varies from one day to 2 night/ 3 days with the cost ranging from Rs. 800/- to Rs. 5,499/- per person depending on duration and class of travel. These packages cover rail travel, road transport, accommodation on twin sharing bases, Darashan at Thirumala, meal, etc.

(c) to (e) There are already 80 tour packages under operation to different destinations including Alleppey, Kumarkom, Ernakulan, Munnar, Rameswaram, Mysore, Coorg, Mookambika, Dharmashtala, Colmbatore, Ooty, Madurai, Kodalkanal, Velankanni, Pollachi, Valpari, Kovalam, Thekkady and Shirdi, etc. In the Southern part of the country. Further, development and operation of new packages is an on-going process and additions are made regularly.

Goods Trains

4365. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the increase in the earnings of the Railways in respect of goods trains during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) whether this increase is due to increase in the number of bogies in each goods trains; and

(c) the average number of bogies added to each goods train and the adverse affects thereof on the life and maintenance of rail tracks, engines etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The increase in the Goods Earnings of Indian Railways during the last three financial years are as under:

Year	Increase (Rs. in crore)
2004-05	3160.43
2005-06	5508.57
2006-07	5429.53

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Hotels for Commonwealth Games 2010

4366. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hotels proposed to be constructed in Noida for the Commonwealth Games 2010 and the number of plots allotted for this purpose;

(b) the reasons for non-allotment of plots till date for hotels;

(c) the time by which plots will be allotted for hotels; and

(d) the number of plots where hotel construction work for commonwealth games has begun?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) has identified twelve commercial/hotel plots which have been put for auction. Tenders for the same have been invited from 25.3.2008 to 24.4.2008. Fourteen hotel plots earlier auctioned are under litigation. The construction work would begin after allotment of plots.

[English]

Authorised Hospitals/Nursing Homes of AAI

4367. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private hospitals and nursing homes recognized by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for treatment of its employees;

(b) the total payments made by AAI to each of these private hospitals and nursing homes during each of the last three years;

(c) whether these private hospitals and nursing homes have been involved in dishonest practices as far as treatment of AAI's employees are concerned and most of the times not mentioning the time of discharge on their discharge papers; and

(d) if so, the details of such hospitals and nursing homes and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There are 789 hospitals/nursing homes empanelled by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the treatment of its employees. The payment made to these hospitals/nursing homes during the last three years, i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 was Rs. 1291.13 lakhs, Rs. 946.31 lakhs, and Rs. 1190.83 lakhs, respectively.

(c) Claims for payment of charges against indoor treatment by the empanelled Hospitals/Nursing Homes are scrutinized. On scrutiny, if any irregularity is detected, necessary justification/ clarification are sought from respective hospitals. Based on the scrutiny and clarification deductions wherever necessary are made. In case repetitive irregularities are noticed action against concerned hospitals/nursing homes are taken including depanelment.

(d) The hospitals/nursing homes which are depanelled are under:

Getanjali Hospital, Orthonova Hospital, Manav Medical Care, Ludik (Dixit) Hospital, Maharishi Dayanand Charitable Clinic, Roshan Lal Bajaj Hospital, Sumit Clinic, and South Point in Delhi and Awadh Hospital, Raj Chandra Hospital, Seth L.M. Hospital and City Hospital & Trauma Centre in Lucknow.

Loss Suffered by IA/AI

4368. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic passenger load of Indian Airlines has decreased between February 2007- February 2008.

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

(c) whether Indian Airlines/Air India (IA/AI) have suffered a high loss during 2007-08;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which merger of both airlines will be able to become a profit-making company;

(f) whether after merger operational cost of new National Aviation Company of India Limited will increase;

(g) if so, whether any study has been made by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Passenger Load Factor (Seat Factor) during February 2008 was 58.5% as against Passenger Load Factor (Seat Factor) of 70.6% during February 2007.

(c) and (d) The accounts for 2007-08 have not yet been finalized.

(e) to (h) As per M/s. Accenture, the Consultants, on implementation of the merger steps, synergy benefits would accrue to nearly 3% to 4% of combined revenue and result in savings in cost to the extent of 3-4%. In other words a benefit of Rs. 800 to Rs. 1200 crore is likely to accrue over a period of 3 years due to synergy process.

Indian Museum

4369. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the money that has been siphoned off from the Indian Museum in West Bengal on the pretext of renovation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to punish the officials involved and to verify the disappeared artifacts?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI) (a) and (b) Indian Museum is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture established under an Act of Parliament. The Office of Principal Director of Audit (Central) Kolkata, undertook Transaction Audit of Indian Museum, Kolkata during May-June, 2007 and pointed out certain irregularities. Indian Museum has entrusted the matter to the CBI for further investigation.

(c) Three officers of Indian Museum have been placed under suspension. A physical verification committee has been constituted by the Indian Museum to verify the objects.

Promotion of Yaksha Gana Dance

4370. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that 'Yaksha Gana' a dance and drama cultural play which is most popular among Tenku, Badagu and Bada people of Karnataka is gradually disappearing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote this unique form of dance and drama; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Culture, has been presenting Yakshagana in Akademi festivals/programmes etc. held in Delhi and other parts of the country. Sangeet Natak Akademi has also been sponsoring Yakshagana in festivals of the other organizations of the country. Financial assistance is also being provided by the Akademi for production of Yakshagana plays. Apart from performance support and financial assistance, the Akademi has also been honoring artists in the field of Yakshagana.

National School of Drama, another autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture, has included Yakshagana in its curriculum. Depending upon the text of the plays, the Yakshagana elements are also used in the productions by the students and the Repertory Company of National School of Drama.

Zonal Cultural Centers have also been supporting this traditional art form.

[Translation]

Arrangements for Hajis

4371. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Air India left thousands of Hajis stranded at Jeddah Airport for upto one week this year at time of their return;

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

(c) whether the luggage of the Hajis reached to them late and Jamjam of most of the Hajis is still awaited;

(d) if so, the reasons and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to float an international tender for selecting a company to make travel arrangements for the Hajis; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) A number of flights were delayed during the return phase of Haj 2007 due to reasons such as demolition of remote check in area at the Haj terminal; in Jeddah airport, availability of only 4 check-in counters in place of 16; non availability of aircraft bays for immigration/security/boarding of passengers on immediate basis; disruption caused by 4 Hajis (carrying over 100 kgs excess baggage) on the first Lucknow flight on 25.12.2007, which delayed the flight by 10 hrs. and consequently delaying the subsequent schedule etc.

(c) and (d) Air India allows 20 to 30 kgs. of free baggage allowance to its international passengers. However, Hajis are allowed 45 kgs of free baggage and 10 kgs of Zam Zam water, but many Hajis carry baggage in excess of the free baggage allowance on extra payment basis. Besides this, the hand baggage being carried by the pilgrims exceeds the 10 kgs allowed. This is a safety hazard and excess hand baggage has to be retrieved and transferred to the baggage hold. As the payload of 767 and 737 aircraft do not permit carriage of such large volume of baggage, Air India was left with no option but to leave the baggage in order to accommodate the stranded passengers. The left behind baggage was afterwards transported by special freighter flights. So far as Zam Zam water is concerned, this year the problem arose as the supplier of Saudi Airlines refused the supply and even created problems for Air India's supplier. The problem was however resolved with the intervention of CGI and Indian Mission at Jeddah. Except for few misplaced baggage, all the left behind baggage and Zam Zam water has been entrusted to the respective State Haj Committees.

(e) and (f) International tender is floated by Air India for leasing additional capacity for transportation of Haj pilgrims.

[English]

Muslim Representation in Technical and Educational Institutions

4372. DR. SHAFIQUK RAHMAN BARQ. Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of students from minority sections is much lower in technical and educational institutions compared to other sections of population; and

(b) the steps that has taken to improve the situation by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) According to the Sachar Committee, the graduate attainment rate for minorities is less than their share in population.

(b) Several schemes have been launched such as a merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme for student in technical/professional courses at under graduate/post graduate levels, post-matric scholarship scheme, and a free coaching & allied scheme, to improve the representation of students from minority communities in higher and technical education.

Provident Fund of Employees

4377. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Airports Authority (NAA) Employees Contributory Provident Fund scam has come to the notice of the Government in past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NAA Employees provident fund was invested in the share market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Certain transactions of the National Airports Authority Employees Contributory Fund Trust are being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) The matter is under investigation by CBI.

Outstanding Dues Recoverable by the Railways from State Electricity Boards

4374. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of outstanding dues recoverable by the Railways from State Electricity Boards as on the end of 2007; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) The steps taken/proposed to recover the dues from the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are:-

- Power Houses are being encouraged to follow the scheme for pre-payment of freight for carriage of coal.
- Close monitoring of recovery of outstanding dues by holding regular meetings with representative of State Electricity Boards/Power Houses.
- Meeting are also held with Secretaries of the concerned Ministries and Chief Secretaries of the State from time to time.
- Adjustment of outstanding dues against traction bills done in respect of some SEBs.
- Special drive for clearance of outstanding dues by forming teams of Accounts and Commercial Officials are launched from time to time.
- Extension of facility of Electronic payment Gateway to all major customers including State Electricity Boards are under process, which will help to contain the rising trend further.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No	Name of State Electricity Board/Power House	March'07	Feb'2008
1	2	3	4
1.	A.P. State Electricity Board	0.02	2.28
2.	Bihar State Electricity Board	0.78	0.33
3.	Delhi Vidyut Board	177.10	179.73
4.	Gujarat State Electricity Board	0.42	1.78
5.	Haryana State Electricity Board	14.31	8.53
6.	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	0.03	0.01
7.	Karnataka State Electricity Board	0.09	0.52
8.	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	0.45	46.79
9.	M.P. State Electricity Board	0.11	0.14

1	2	3	4
10.	Punjab State Electricity Board	443.09	444.73
11.	Rajasthan State Electricity Board	49.50	52.82
12.	Tamil Nadu State Electricity Board	0.60	0.71
13.	U.P. State Electricity Board	34.17	5.24
14.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	3.16	27.86
15.	Badarpur Thermal Power Corporation	252.10	87.98
16.	National Thermal Power Corporation	5.00	20.89
17.	Damodar Valley Corporation	0.80	2.33
18.	Private Power House-Sabarmati	0.00	0.17
	Total	981.73	882.84

Special Railway Facility at the Tourist Centres

4375. SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plans to provide special Rail Services for Mysore, Hampi, Goa and Bijapur tourism centers; and

(b) if so, the time by which it will be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Railways in association with Kamataka State Tourism Development Corporation has already launched a Luxury Tourist Train which covers Mysore, Hampi and Goa.

[Translation]

Harassment of Women

4376. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Railways have been drawn towards the news item under the caption "Tour se laut rahi DU ki Chhatraon se chhed khani, bogie me aag lagayi" published in "Dainik Jagran" on March 11, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty persons so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 10.03.2008 at about 08.45 hrs. while train No. 2155 Dn. (Habibganj-Nizamuddin Express) was passing between Sholaka and Rundhi stations in Mathura-Nizamuddin section, a quarrel took place between the commuters and passengers in Coach No. S-9. The train was stopped by the passengers by pulling alarm chain. Commuters pelted stones on Coach No.S-9 and also tried to set afire the coach. However, the situation was controlled by the Railway Protection Force escorting party by opening fire in the air.

(c) A case vide Crime No. 26/08 under sections 147, 149, 426 Indian Penal Code and 141, 152 the Railways Act, has been registered at Government Railway Police Station Palwal. So far 4 persons have been arrested and sent to jail by Government Railway Police Palwal.

[English]

12 Coaches Local Trains

4377. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are going to run 12 coaches local trains in Sealdah and Howrah Divisions of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the infrastructure works have been completed so that the 12 coach local trains can run smoothly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the likely time frame by which these train services will be available to passengers?

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

(b) At present seven rakes of 12 coach rakes are in operation over Sealdah & Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway. Further, introduction of 12 coach local EMU trains in Howrah & Sealdah divisions of Eastern Railway has been planned for which new EMU rakes are being acquired through integral Coach Factory/other manufacturing agencies.

(c) to (e) Works for extension of platforms and signal works for running 12 coach local trains in Sealdah-Ranaghat, Sealdah-Krishnanagar (via mainline) & Krishnanagar-Ranaghat sections in Sealdah division and Howrah-divisions have been completed. Works for running 12 coach local trains in remaining sections of Sealdah & Howrah divisions are under progress and planned to complete by 31.12.2009. Additional 12 coach EMU services will be introduced in Sealdah & Howrah Divisions in a phased manner subject to availability of new rakes and completion of works.

SC Status to Raigar Caste

4378. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI LALMANI PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Raigar Caste has been given the status of Scheduled Caste in Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such status not accorded to Raigar Caste in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) 'Raigar' Caste has

been specified as a Scheduled Caste in Rajasthan, Punjab Haryana and Delhi. In Madhya Pradesh, 'Regar' caste has been specified as a Scheduled Caste.

(b) In accordance with Article 341 (1) of the Constitution of India, specification of a caste as a Scheduled Caste is in relation to a particular State/Union Territory. Further, no proposal has been received from Government of Uttar Pradesh in regard to inclusion of 'Raigar' caste in the list of Scheduled Castes in Uttar Pradesh.

Production of LPG

4379. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for inadequate LPG production in the country;

(b) whether lack of sufficient bottling infrastructure is one of the reasons for such inadequate production; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for augmentation of production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The production available from Refineries and Fractionators is less than the existing demand for LPG in the country.

(b) Production of LPG is not dependant upon LPG bottling infrastructure.

(c) With the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, both the public and private sector companies have planned capacity additions to meet the increasing demand for petroleum products in the country including LPG.

Reservation Counter for GRP

4380. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Railways have been drawn towards the news item published in "Nav Bharat Times" (Delhi Edition) dated 1 February, 2008 under the caption "Reservation ka GRP Counter";

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

(c) whether the Railways have investigated into this matter; and

(d) if, so, the action being taken against the employees found guilty in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) During investigation into the report in the news clipping, no Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force staff were found guilty of cornering of seats. However, necessary precautionary measures like brining the trains locked and opening them on platforms where queues are formed are taken under the supervision of GRP/RPF and ticket checking staff for entry of passengers into the coaches. In addition, surprise checks are conducted and persons found cornering of seats for selling the same to bonafide passengers are prosecuted under the Railways Act, 1989.

Indus Valley Civilisation

4381. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in deciphering the script belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any project or any funding is going on pertaining to the decoding of the Harappan or Indus Valley (Civilization) scripts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The script of the Indus Valley Civilization has not been deciphered yet.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not undertaken any project or provided any funding for decoding the Harappan/Indus Valley script.

Routine Problems Faced by the Airline Passengers

4382. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been done to find out and consolidate the routine problems faced by airline passengers including safe drinking water facility to those who are waiting in the lounges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Though no separate study has been conducted in this regard, a question on drinking water, i.e., accessibility, cooling and availability of water glasses, is asked in the Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted at the airports. The results of the (August-September) 2007 Survey reveals that the Customer Satisfaction Index for above referred attribute is reasonably good.

(c) In order to increase customer satisfaction index at AAI managed airports in the areas where it is reported low, Airport Directors and Regional Executive Directors (REDs) are advised to take necessary initiatives/steps for eliminating the deficiencies. They are also advised to co-ordinate with regulators/concessionaires/agencies on items with low customer satisfaction index, where AAI has no direct control. Such issues are also taken up for discussions in fora like Airport Facilitation Committee meeting.

Usage of Water Soluble Fertilizers

4383. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new policy in order to promote the usage of water soluble fertilizers is being formulated by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government for benefiting the average farmers by the use of such fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Presently Department of Fertilizers administers Concession Scheme on Di-Ammonium Phosphate, Muriate of Potash, NPK

Complexes, Mono-Ammonium Phosphate and Single Super Phosphate only. Water Soluble Fertilizers are not covered under the Concession Scheme of decontrolled P & K fertilizers.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Additional Bogies and Summer Special Trains

4384. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any assessment of increasing number of passengers particularly in the coming summer season on different routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways proposes to add additional trains on all such routes to effectively cater the growing number of passengers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways propose to attach additional bogies with all trains on such routes particularly those destined to in-bound trains to Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. 3616 summer specials have been planned on 67 routes and about 243 extra coaches have been planned to be

attached on existing trains including those serving Maharashtra for summer 2008. Time Table of the summer special trains is also available to the public.

[*English*]

Adequate Funds for Alloy Steel Plant

4385. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of alloy steel is increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has not provided adequate funds to Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur for procuring raw materials and to meet the other requirements;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) There has been an increasing trend in the demand of Alloy Steel in the country during the last few years.

(b) The domestic apparent consumption is being considered analogous to demand. The production for sale exports, imports and consumption of Alloy Steel since 2002-03 is given below:

(⁰⁰⁰ tonnes)

Year	Production for Sale	Exports	Imports	Apparent Consumption	% Growth of Apparent Consumption
2002-03	1756	11	153	1780	
2003-04	2125	372	213	1950	9.55
2004-05	2195	324	184	1988	1.95
2005-06	2176	323	455	2248	13.08
2006-07	2333	349	491	2455	9.21
2007-08 (Prov.)	2510	450	480	2500	1.83

(c) The Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, of the Steel Authority of India Limited has adequate funds for procuring raw materials and to meet other requirements.

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

Jobs for the Disabled Persons

4386. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently approved new schemes for the disabled persons to create huge number of jobs for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of disabled persons likely to be benefited under the scheme; and

(c) the time by which the new scheme would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) According to the Budget Speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister in 2007-08, a scheme has been sanctioned which envisages payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) by the Government for the first three years for providing employment in private sector to persons with disabilities. The benefit of the scheme is for the persons with disabilities defined under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999. The Scheme has already come into from 1.04.2008.

Investment by Private Sector in Petroleum Sector

4387. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the private sector has invested in the country's petroleum sector;

(b) if so, the total investments made by the public and the private sector till April 2007 in petroleum sector;

(c) the share of Domestic and Foreign Capital in total investment made by the private sector; and

(d) the slice of the foreign capital earned from the Indian resources and investment in the petroleum sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, Private Sector is actively involved in various facets of petroleum sector like marketing of petroleum products, exploration, refining etc. There is also similar investment by foreign companies. However, information relating to the exact quantum of investment made by the private sector and foreign companies in the petroleum sector is not maintained in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

In so far as major PSUs in petroleum sector are concerned, the investment made are as given below:

Name of the Oil Companies	The total amount invested in petroleum sector by major Oil Public Sector Oil Companies till March, 2007
ONGC	115461.14
IOCL	50213.11
OIL	9835.79
BPCL	22011.18
HPCL	16750.23
GAIL	16870.00

Modernised Technology to CPSUs

4388. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take steps to bolster the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and provide modernized technology to the farmers who will in turn provide a fast tract to the economic development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to unshackle the CPSUs from the Government control with a view to providing them a free hand to operate independently; and

(d) the progress made in this regard after taking steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) Government have granted Miniratna status to 'National Fertilizers Ltd.' (NFL) and 'Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.' (RCF) producing fertilizers. Revival of 'State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.' (SFCL) engaged in production of seeds, and 'Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.' (FACT) producing fertilizers have been approved at a total cost (cash and non-cash) of Rs. 1016 crore. In addition 'National Seeds Corporation Ltd.' which is a profit making Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) is engaged in production and marketing of quality seeds, planting material and sale of bio-fertilizers.

(c) and (d) The Navratna and Miniratna CPSEs have been delegated enhanced powers in the area of incurring capital expenditure, entering into technology joint ventures and strategic alliances, establishing financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries, merger and acquisition and administrative powers like approval of foreign tours of functional Directors, human resource management etc. Other profit making CPSEs have also been delegated enhanced powers for incurring capital expenditure, etc.

Development of Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

4389. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tourist spots in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) the tourist spots developed and beautified in Andhra Pradesh with the Central Financial Assistance during the last three years;

(c) the number of projects pending with the Union Government for sanction for development of tourism in Andhra Pradesh as on date; and

(d) the status of these projects as on date?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations themselves. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides funds on the basis of project proposals received for grant of central financial assistance every year under the following schemes;

- (i) Product/Infrastructure development of tourist destinations/circuits
- (ii) Large Revenue Generating projects
- (iii) Information Technology
- (iv) Fairs/festivals/events

The list of projects received as per scheme guidelines, which were appraised on inter-se-priority and sanctioned during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) Out of the 15 projects proposals received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the following which were complete as per guidelines were sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during the year 2007-08:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sr.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
1	2	3
1.	Development of Kolleru Lake in West Godavari Dist.	447.61
2.	Development of Horsely Hills in Chittor District	253.91
3.	Destination development of Anantharam village, Mahabubabad Mandal, Warangal District.	64.53

1	2	3
4.	Development of Circuit on Rivers Godavari and Krishna	425.95
5.	Development of Eco Tourism Centre at Pulicat Lake in B.V. Palem at Nellore District	167.37
6.	Development of Charminar Area of Hyderabad	994.75
7.	Development of Puligundi as a Adventure & Destination tourism in Chittoor District	216.68
8.	Tourism Development at Padmakshi Temple, Hanumakonda, Warangal District	43.68
9.	Celebration of Kadaposthavalu (Cultural Festival) in Kadapa District	15.00
	Total	2629.48

Statement

Sr.No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
2005-06		
1.	Destination Development of Singur Dam, Andhra Pradesh	433.96
2.	Destination Development of Night Bazaar, Shilparamam, Hyderabad	500.00
3.	Integrated Development of Lower Krishna Valley Buddhist Circuit	789.97
4.	Integrated Development of Araku-Vizag Tourism Circuit	771.86
5.	Development of Eco-Commerce Portal for IT Scheme	75.00
6.	Celebration of Hyderabad Carnival and Kalinga festival	20.00
7.	Celebration of Konaseema Festival in East Godavari	15.00
2006-07		
1.	CFA for development of Laknavaram Lake as Eco Tourism destination in Warangal District	468.63
2.	Integrated development of Beach Circuit comprising Bhavikonda-Totlakonda-Paruvalakonda-Appikonda	571.93
3.	Development of Golconda-Qutub Shahi Tomb-Hakimpet-Shaikpet Sarai-K.B. Musuem-Premavathi Mosque	500.00
2007-08		
1.	Development of Kolleru Lake in West Godavari District	447.61
2.	Development of Horsely Hills in Chittoor District	253.91
3.	Destination development of Anantharam village, Mahabubabad Mandal, Warangal District.	64.53
4.	Development of Circuit on Rivers Godavari and Krishna	425.95
5.	Development of Eco Tourism Centre at Pulicat Lake in B.V., Palem at Nellore District	167.37
6.	Development of Charminar Area of Hyderabad	994.75

1	2	3
7.	Development of Puligundi, as a Adventure & Destination tourism in Chittoor District	216.68
8.	Tourism Development at Padmakshi Temple, Hanumakonda, Warangal District	43.68
9.	Celebration of Kadaposthavalu (Cultural Festival) in Kadapa District	15.00
Total		6775.83

[*Translation*]

Price Fixation of Natural Gas

4390. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are adopting the competitive bid process for price fixation of natural gas;

(b) if so, whether estimated gas reserves are kept in mind while fixing price of natural gas; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The price of Administered Price Mechanism (APM) gas is decided by the Government. The price of gas produced under pre-NELP contracts is determined in terms of the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract between Government and the Joint Venture Consortium. As regards the gas from NELP fields, prior approval of Government has to be obtained for the formula or the basis on which the price is fixed. Price of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement between the LNG seller and the buyer. Sport cargoes are purchased on mutual agreeable commercial terms.

[*English*]

Anti-Social Activities

4391. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received a complaint from passengers of Northern Railway about increasing attacks and other anti-social activities in the local and Express trains in Northern Railway, especially in Delhi-Mathura-Delhi Section;

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

(c) whether passengers have given any suggestions of starting Helpline Services in the running train; and

(d) if so, the action Railways are going to take on such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 10.03.2008 at about 08.45 hrs. while train No. 2155 Dn. (Habibganj-Nizamuddin Express) was passing between Sholaka and Rundhi stations in Mathura-Nizamuddin section, a quarrel took place between the commuters and passengers in Coach No. S-9. The train was stopped by the passengers by pulling alarm chain. Commuters pelted stones on Coach No. S-9 and also tried to set afire the coach. However, the situation was controlled by the Railway Protection Force escorting party by opening fire in the air.

A case vides Crime No. 26/08 under section 147, 149, 426 Indian Penal Code and 141, 152 the Railways Act has been registered at Government Railway Police Station Palwal. So far 4 persons have been arrested and sent to jail by Government Railway Police Palwal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Budget Hotels

4392. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to prepare 'Budget Hotel' in view of increasing the number of tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. Ministry of Tourism is in regular touch with the State Governments and various land owning agencies like Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, DDA etc. for creating land banks for hotels, allocating land on joint venture/revenue sharing basis, adopting single window clearance, increasing FAR/FSI. Ministry of Tourism offers subsidy for budget hotels of one, two and three star category in the country.

[English]

Passenger Coaches

4393. SHRI K.S.RAO:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger coaches required separately for mail/express and passenger trains and requirement of new coaches projected for the next five years;

(b) the details of drawbacks of coaches made of carbon steel and amount of losses suffered each year on account of their maintenance and running costs;

(c) whether the Railways propose to stop manufacturing of carbon steel coaches replacing them with stainless steel coaches in a phased manner using the state-of-the-art technology to draw advantage of lower maintenance, higher carrying capacity and economy in running costs;

(d) if, so the details thereof;

(e) whether the railways have designed a new special type of coach to prevent injury to passengers in case of accidents; and

(f) if so, by when such coaches are likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Requirement of coaches for five years is planned as per Five Year Plan and is done combined for mail/express and passenger trains. Requirement of 22500 new coaches has been projected for the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012).

(b) The present design passenger coaches are made of corten steel and are comparatively heavier and not as sturdy in the structural strength. Coaches to this design are more prone to corrosion and demand higher attention during the major overhauls. The carrying capacity of these coaches is also limited. The service life of such coaches has been prescribed as 25 years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Stainless steel coaches to LHB design, acquired through a Transfer of Technology have already been inducted in identified Rajdhani/ Shatabdi Express Trains. Ministry of Railways have recently taken a policy decision to start manufacture of superior design stainless steel coaches even for other Mail/Express/ Passenger services in a phased manner. These coaches shall have higher carrying capacity, higher service life of 35 years owing to corrosion resistant properties, higher periodicity between overhauls and aesthetically appealing interiors and upgraded passenger amenity items. About 100 such coaches have been planned for manufacture during 2008-09.

(e) and (f) With a view to enhance safety in our coaches, Railways have evolved a "crashworthy" coach design along with provision of Central Buffer Coupler. Such a coach shall provide "anti climbing" features and enhance passenger safety in unfortunate case of an accident. Production of coaches to this design has already commenced in the Production Units during 2007-08 and about 135 number of crashworthy coaches have already been manufactured.

[Translation]

Production from Crude Oil Reserves in Rajasthan

4394. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the crude oil production from the crude oil reserves in Rajasthan is likely to be commenced by mid-2009 as envisaged before;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the production from these reserves;

(c) whether the aforesaid schedule of the production is likely to be delayed due to problems created by the State Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As per the Operator, commercial crude oil production from the block RJ-ON-90/1 is likely to commence by the second quarter of 2009.

(b) As per the approved development plan the plateau oil production rate from RJ-ON-90/1 block is likely to be 1,08,000 barrels of production per day (BOPD).

(c) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Processing of Cashew Nuts

4395. SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cashew-nut processing factory in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is considering to establish new cashew-nut processing factory in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As per the information available with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), there exists 1800 Cashew-nut processing factories in the country. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not set up food processing units on its own. However, for promotion of Food Processing Industries including Cashew processing units, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation/Establishment of food processing industries, for setting up of new unit or expansion/modernisation of existing food processing unit. Under this scheme, financial assistance to food processing units is provided in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakh in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance under this scheme, the Ministry w.e.f. 01.04.2007 has decentralised the disbursement procedure through banks/Financial Institutions.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of cashew nut processing factories
1.	Kerala	432
2.	Karnataka	266
3.	Goa	45
4.	Maharashtra	350
5.	Tamil Nadu	417
6.	Andhra Pradesh	175
7.	Orissa	60
8.	West Bengal	30
9.	Chhattisgarh	3
10.	North Eastern States	22
Total		1800

[*Translation*]

Construction of Airport at Shirdi

4396. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the construction of a new airport at Shirdi in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether preliminary viability report for the said purpose has been prepared;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the efforts made/proposed to be made by the Union Government to complete all the formalities at the earliest; and

(f) the time by which the construction work on the said place is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Airpority of India (AAY) has no proposal under consideration to construct an airport at Shirdi. However, Government of Maharashtra throughh Maharashtra Airport Development Corporation (MADC) has got the area surveyed and identified 450 hectares of land close to Shirdi towards Kopargaon in District Ahmednagar. MADC has appointed M/s. L & T Ramboll as Consultant for preparation of preliminary viability report.

(e) and (f) No proposal has been received by the Union Government, as yet, from the Government of Maharashtra. Therefore, it will not be possible to indicate any definite time frame at this stage.

[Translation]

Ai Express to Gulf and Bangkok

4397. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received to the Union Government for providing low-cost Air India Express services from Hyderabad to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in October, 2006 for operation of Air India Express flights from Hyderabad to Gulf Countries and

Bangkok. Air India Express is planning three flights a week from Hyderabad to Abu Dhabi by end of April, 2008. Currently, Air India Express has no plans for operations to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait from Hyderabad. However, Air India is operating non-stop flights from Hyderabad to Bangkok and Kuwait and through hub and spoke operations over Mumbai to Riyadh.

[Translation]

Air Services from Rajkot Airport

4398. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for starting Delhi-Rajkot-Delhi air services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon so far and outcome of the said action;

(d) whether any private airline has offered its service on said route;

(e) if so, the salient features of said offer alongwith the action taken thereon so far; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to provide air facilities to the passengers?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country, including North-East region. It is, however up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country

subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

[*English*]

Agreement between GAIL and Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure

4399. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL India Ltd. has signed an agreement with Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure for transmission of Gas;

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

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) GAIL (India) Limited signed a Gas Transmission Agreement (GTA) with Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTIL) on 07.12.2007 for accessing transmission services on RGTIL's East West Pipeline (EWPL) extending from Kakindada in Andhra Pradesh to Bharuch in Gujarat. EWPL shall be connected with GAIL's Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline/Dahej-Vijaipur pipeline (DVPL) network at Ankot in Gujarat, Dahej-Uran Pipeline (DUPL)/ Dabho-Panvel pipeline Mashkal in Maharashtra and K.G. Basin pipeline network at Oduru in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The details of the terms and conditions are as follows:—

- Specific Rights & obligations of gas transmission would arise upon signing of Capacity Tranche Agreement between the parties.
- Capacity booking could be firm or fall back
- The term of the contract will be twelve years
- Transmission charges to be payable with ship or pay provisions in case of firm capacity booking.
- Termination payment shall be applicable only in case of firm capacity booking.

Exploration of Hydrocarbon Reserve in River Brahmaputra

4400. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to explore the Hydrocarbon in the bank of river Brahmaputra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any environmental reasons opposing study of hydrocarbon potential of the river; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to look into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Government of India has awarded 16 exploratory blocks in the State of Assam near the bank of Brahmaputra in the Pre-NELP (New exploration Licensing Policy) and NELP rounds held so far. These blocks are under various stages of exploration. Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for three blocks namely AA-ON/2 and AA/ONN-2004/5 is yet to be issued by the State Government.

Oil India Limited (Oil) has plan to carry out, 1,700 Ground Line Kilometre of 2D seismic survey in parts of river Brahmaputra in Upper Assam as a part of its hydrocarbons exploration activities.

OIL is awaiting necessary environmental clearance for the proposed seismic survey operation from pollution Control Board of Assam. A few Non Government Organizations and public organizations had expressed their concern for the survey apprehending ecological imbalance in river Brahmaputra, particularly threat to river dolphins present in the river. OIL is carrying out Environmental Management Plan Study as suggested by Expert Appraisal Committee of Ministry of Environment and Forest.

[*Translation*]

Bharat Darshan Trains

4401. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the routes meant for the Bharat Darshan trains;

(b) the names of the stations where the facility of reservation in above trains is available;

(c) whether this reservation facility for such trains is available at Jaipur in Rajasthan;

(d) if not the reasons therefor;

(e) the state-wise number of the passengers travelled in trains during the last three years;

(f) whether it is also proposed to run similar trains from other destinations also; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Bharat Darshan Trains are operated on different routes decided from time to time by Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), the nodal agency, in consultation with Indian Railways.

(b) The booking for Bharat Darshan Trains can be done through Tourism Facilitation Centres of IRCTC, Website www.railtourisminadia.com and IRCTC agents.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The total number of passengers travelled during the last 3 years ending March '08, is 25,607. However, State-wise travellers data is not maintained.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The itinerary of Bharat Darshan Trains is decided from time to time and keeps on changing.

[English]

Closing of Petrol Pumps by the Private Sector Companies

4402. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

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

(a) whether in view of rising global crude oil prices and inability to match the fuel price offered by public sector oil companies, some private sector companies have decided to shut down their petrol pumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has informed that the sales at their retail outlets (ROs) are negligible due to selling price differential between private and public sector ROs. leading to the closure of their ROs. Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and Shell India Marketing Private Limited (SIMPL) have not yet decided to shutdown their ROs.

The prices of sensitive petroleum products are fixed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in consultation with the Government. Private Oil Companies are not subject to pricing restriction by the Government and are free to take their pricing decisions on commercial considerations.

Domestic Steel Prices

4403. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic steel prices are still lagging behind the international steel prices;

(b) if so, the average domestic steel prices as compared to international steel prices; and

(c) the reasons for forcing the Steel Authority of India Limited and other companies to reduce steel prices when the international steel prices are going up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The retail price of the steel items as prevailing in Mumbai retail market is given below in the Table with landed cost of major items of imports. The comparison indicates that the retail prices were lower than the landed cost of these items as on 15th April 2008.

Description	Bars	HR Coils	CR Coils
CIS-FOB Price in \$/T	930	1000	1100
Landed cost at Mumbai Rs./Tonne	49,606	53,029	57,921
Retail Price at Mumbai Rs./T	47,700	48,450	52,000
Difference Rs./T	1,906	4,579	5,921

The retail prices are inclusive of taxes, duties and freight.

Source: Metal Bulletin & JPC

(c) The steel sector in the country is deregulated and therefore the prices are determined by the steel producers depending upon the market conditions. Therefore Government does not decide the selling price of steel. However, with a view to manage the rising inflation in the country, the Government has held extensive discussions with major steel producers as well as secondary steel producers during the first week of April, 2008. As a result of these deliberations, the steel producers, sharing the concern of the Government towards rising inflationary trend in the country, voluntarily reduced the price of different long products, which includes bars, rods and structurals, used by even the common man for housing by amount ranging Rs. 4000-5000 per tonne.

[Translation]

Expansion and Upgradation of Mumbai Refinery

4404. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan for expansion and upgradation of Mumbai Refinery in Maharashtra and Numaligarh, Noonmati and Bongaigaon Refineries in Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. (NRL), Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd. (BRPL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) have undertaken Fuel Quality Upgradation projects in their refineries at Guwahati (Noonmati), Numaligarh, Bongaigaon and Mumbai respectively.

As a part of Fuel Quality Upgradation project, the refining capacity of Mumbai Refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) will be enhanced to 7.9 MMTPA (million metric tonnes per annum) from existing refining capacity of 5.5 MMTPA.

(b) The details of upgradation projects are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Company	Projects	Estimated Expenditure	Expenditure Incurred (till 31.3.08)
BRPL	Diesel Hydrotreatment (DHDT)	1431.91	348.67
HPCL, Mumbai	Green Fuel and Emission Control	1850.00	1337.10
BPCL, Mumbai	Revamping of Diesel/ Naphtha Hydro-desulphuration Units and Installation of new FCC Gasoline Splitter	390.00	5.35
NRL	Diesel Quality Upgradation	434.94	13.87
IOCL, Guwahati (Noonmati)	Motor Spirit Quality (MSQ) Upgradation	372.00	3.48

Production of Steel

4405. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to fix the production of steel commensurate with its consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any suggestions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government is taking steps to facilitate the production of steel through both green-field and brown-field capacity expansion to take care of growing demand of steel. Under the existing policy regime, Government's role is to act as a facilitator and formulate suitable policy for the overall growth of the steel industry including steel production to match the anticipated demand in the country. The production targets, in respect of various kinds of steel products are fixed by the individual producers based on their installed capacities as well on their perception of the market demand. However, considering the fact that the country's steel demand is growing in the 12-13% range over these years. Government has taken various steps in facilitating higher steel production in the country. Some of these initiatives are:-

- (i) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is expanding its crude steel production capacity to 24.84 million tonnes by the year 2011-12 from the current level of 12.84 million tonnes.
- (ii) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) is also expanding its production capacity to 6.8 million tonnes by the year 2011-12 from the present level of 2.91 million tonnes.
- (iii) In order to monitor and coordinate issues concerning major steel investments in the country, Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) consisting of Secretaries of the Ministries/Departments of Steel, Industrial

Policy & Promotion, Railways, Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Environment & Forest and Mines as well as the Chief Secretaries of concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) Government has not received any specific suggestion in regard to fixing the production to commensurate with the consumption. However, Ministry of Steel undertakes regular interaction with steel producers and consumers to discuss all relevant issues such as production, demands, distribution, investments, etc., affecting the steel sector in the country. The interaction with the stakeholders acts as important guideline and feedback material in formulation of policy directives undertaken in the Ministry.

Overweight Air Hostess

4406. SHRI RACSAHEB DANVE PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overweight air hostesses of the public sector airlines have been spared from the hostess duties;

(b) if so, whether such air hostesses have been served with notice in this regard prior to their withdrawal from hostess duties;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total number of such hostess who have been spared from the hostess duties;

(e) whether the Government has thought over their future career prospects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) As on February, 2008, there are 22 airhostesses of erstwhile Indian Airlines, 16 airhostesses of erstwhile Air India and 5 airhostesses of Alliance Air who are grounded due to being over weight. Such cabin crew are asked to reappear for weight check periodically and are assigned flight duty once they conform to the prescribed weight limits. Cabin crew who continue to remain overweight are evaluated by a duly constituted Medical Board and based on its assessment and recommendations, further action is taken as per the Terms of Employment.

*[English]***Expenditure on Preservation of Monuments**

4407. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount being spent for the conservation of various historical monuments in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether any special plan has been formulated for the preservation of other monuments in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Funds for conservation of centrally protected monuments are not distributed State-wise. They are allotted yearly to 24 Circles and 2 Branches [Science and Horticulture] of the Archaeologica Survey of India. The allotment of funds during the current financial year 2008-09 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yearly conservation programmes are formulated by the Circles and Branches for structural conservation, chemical preservation, horticulture operations and day to day maintenance as per the priorities and available resources. The conservation programmes for the current financial year 2008-09 are under preparation.

Statement

The details of funds allocated to the Circles/Branches (State-wise) for conservation and preservation of monuments for the year 2008-09

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Name of the State	Allocation of funds for 2008-09
1	2	3	4
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	600.00
2.	Guwahati	Assam (North-East States)	330.00
	-do-	Arunachal Pradesh	
	-do-	Manipur	
	-do-	Meghalaya	
	-do-	Nagland	
	-do-	Tripura	
	-do-	Sikkim	
	Kolkata	Sikkim	
3.	Patna	Bihar	435.00
4.	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	280.00
5.	Goa	Goa	100.00
6.	Vadodara	Gujarat	450.00
	-do-	Daman & Diu	

1	2	3	4
7.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh (U.T.)	435.00
	-do-	Haryana	
	-do-	Punjab	
8.	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	135.00
9.	Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	350.00
10.	Ranchi	Jharkhand	100.00
11.	Bangalore	Karnataka	1400.00
12.	Dharwad		
13.	Thrissur	Kerala	270.00
14.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	710.00
15.	Aurangabad	Maharashtra (including JBIC	15000.00
16.	Mumbai	Project of Ajanta & Ellora) (Rs. 800.00) lakhs	
17.	Delhi	N.C.T. Delhi	700.00
18.	Bhubaneshwar	Orissa	325.00
19.	Jaipur	Rajasthan	335.00
20.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	525.00
	-do-	Pondicherry (U.T.)	
21.	Agra Circle	Uttar Pradesh	1400.00
22.	Lucknow		
23.	Dehradun	Uttaranchal	180.00
24.	Kolkata	West Bengal	310.00
25.	Chief Horticulturist, Agra	All India	1300.00
26.	Director Science, Dehradun	All India	550.00
	DG Office	Reserve	225.00
	Total		12945.00

Total Number of Unmanned Railway Crossings

4408. SHRI ZORA SINGH MAAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unmanned railway crossings in the State of Punjab, division-wise;

(b) whether the Railways are erecting gates on these unmanned railway crossings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof especially in Ferozpur area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As on 01.04.2008, there are 858 unmanned level crossings as under:-

01. Delhi Division-37
02. Ambala Division-160
03. Ferozpur Division-632
04. Bikaner Division-29

(b) The level crossings are qualifying for manning being proposed for and providing gates.

(c) 31 level crossings have been manned and with gates during the year 2007-08 in Ferozpur Division and 16 are proposed for manning.

Operation of Tourist Chartered Flights

4409. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has recently liberalised the conditions for operating tourist chartered flights under Inclusive Tour Package (IPR); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently liberalized the tourist charter guidelines for operating tourist chartered flights under the Inclusive Tour Package, as under:-

- (i) The restriction with regard to maximum and minimum length of stay of tourists has been removed.
- (ii) The requirement of 2:1 between inbound and outbound tourists for operating the outbound charters has also been removed.

[Translation]

Sealdah Express

4410. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received repeated requests to provide stoppage of 2313 Up and 2314 Down Sealdah Express trains at Koderma Station; and

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

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

(b) The matter has been examined but not found feasible.

[English]

Commercial Development

4411. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have planned to unlock 300 hectares in Delhi, Patna and in other places for commercial development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the development will be done on Public Private Participation basis;

(d) if so, the details of fund proposed to be invested; and

(e) the details of areas identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Ministry of Railways have set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) by an amendment to Railways Act, 1989 (Amendment No. 47 of 2005) for commercial development of vacant railway land for generating revenue. So far 115 sites, covering a total area of 1139 hectares (approx) have been entrusted to the Authority for commercial development at different places. In addition, 26 stations located in metropolitan cities and important centers have been identified for redevelopment as world class stations through Public Private Participation (PPP) by leveraging the real-estate potential of the land around and the air space above the stations.

(c) As per current thinking Railway land is to be given to developers for commercial development through transparent bidding process on long term lease basis for development work without any budgetary resources. The

work of redevelopment of identified 26 stations into World Class Stations are planned to be undertaken through PPP basis.

(d) No funds from Railway Budget are envisaged to be invested except to the extent of meeting requirement of viability gap funding in exceptional cases of development of stations as World Class Stations.

(e) The 26 stations identified for redevelopment as World Class Stations through PPP are as under:—

Nagpur, Pune, Camac Bunder (Mumbai), Howrah, Lucknow, Anand Vihar (Delhi), Bijwasan (Delhi), Amritsar, Chandigarh, New Delhi, Varansi, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Secunderabad, Tirupat, Ahmedabad, Patna, Bhubaneshwar, Mathura, Bangalore, Gaya, Jaipur, Agra, Bhopal (Habibganj), Kanpur, Guwahati.

Setting up of Shops/Godowns for Adequate Supply of Fertilizers

4412. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up shops/godowns in all talukas of various states in the country for proper and adequate supply of fertilizers to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Urea is the only fertilizer under partial movement distribution control of the Union Government. Availability of which is ensured to match with the assessed requirement of the States. District-wise requirement/supply plan is drawn by the State Governments in consultation with the suppliers to ensure availability of fertilizers within the state. The availability of fertilizer is currently monitored by the Department of Fertilizers through Fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) up to the district level. This is proposed to be taken further up to the Block/Taluka level. However, the appointment of dealers for sale of fertilizers

is made by the concerned manufactures/suppliers and not by the Union Government.

[Translation]

Opening of LPG Agencies

4413. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies in the country, State-wise;

(b) the norms fixed by the Government for allotment of LPG agency;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to facilitate the people in those regions/district where no LPG agency exists;

(d) whether any action plan has been prepared by the Government to open LPG agencies in such areas;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor in view of the hardships being faced by the people of these areas; and

(f) if so, the details of such action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As on 01.04.2008, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 9365 LPG distributorships in the country. The State-wise details of LPG distributorships is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (f) Government have given freedom to OMCs to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plan for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized 1340 locations in the country for setting up of new LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for the same have been released.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of suitable locations, arranging land for setting up of godowns, obtaining statutory clearances, etc.

Statement

*State-wise Number of LPG Distributor
as on 01.04.2008*

Figs. (in nos)	
State/U.T.	Total
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	877
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4
Arunachal Pradesh	30
Assam	251
Bihar	309
Chandigarh	28
Chhattisgarh	153
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
Daman & Diu	2
Delhi	316
Goa	53
Gujarat	542
Haryana	277
Himachal Pradesh	119
Jammu & Kashmir	152
Jharkhand	142
Karnataka	488
Kerala	374
Lakshadweep	1
Madhya Pradesh	568
Maharashtra	996
Manipur	31
Meghalaya	32
Mizoram	25
Nagaland	27
Orissa	185

1	2
Punducherry	18
Punjab	420
Rajasthan	429
Sikkim	8
Tamil Nadu	660
Tripura	29
Uttar Pradesh	1177
Uttarakhand	168
West Bengal	473
All India	9365

Licences to the Hawkers

4414. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision of issuing licenses to the hawkers on rail passenger bogies and platforms under section 144 of Indian Railways Act, 1989 or any other law; and

(b) if so, the total number of licences issued to the hawkers so far in various railway zones in the country and the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Express Trains from Dwarka (Gujarat)

4415. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to introduce express train from Dwarka (Gujarat) to Amritsar, Dwarka to Agra and Dwarka to Ajmer;

(b) if so, specify the time frame; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no proposal to introduce trains from Dwarka to Amritsar/Agra/Ajmer.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

New Rail Terminals

4416. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up new rail terminals in each State;
(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;
(c) the number and names of such terminals of which construction work has actually commenced; and
(d) the reasons for not commencing construction work for remaining terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) State-wise information for new coaching and freight terminals is given below;

Maharashtra: A new coaching complex at Panvel has been planned for which land is being acquired.

New Freight Terminals have been sanctioned at Ramtekdi, Taloja, Jejuri and Daund. These works are still in progress.

Bihar: A New coaching terminal at Muzaffarpur in the State of Bihar has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2008-09.

Madhya Pradesh: A New Goods shed at Rewa has been sanctioned and the construction work has already commenced.

New Delhi: Development of new Coaching terminals at Anand Vihar Ph-II, Bijwasan, Shakurbasti and Holambi Kalan has been sanctioned in Railway Budget 2008-09.

Karnataka: There is a plan to develop a world class passenger terminal at Baiyyappanahali in Bangalore.

Trains as Soft Target

4417. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have become a soft target for terrorists, naxalites and other disruptive forces causing loss of innocent lives and loss of properties;
(b) the number of bomb blasts incidents taken place in the trains during the last three years and the number of persons killed therein;
(c) the steps taken by the Railways to strengthen and modernize security arrangements; and
(d) the number of vacancies in various ranks lying vacant in Railway protection Special Force/Railway Protection Force and steps taken to fill them?

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

(b) The number of bomb blasts incidents that took in trains and number of persons killed in these incidents during the last three years i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007 are as under:-

Year	Number of Bomb blasts reported	Number of persons killed
2005	01	09
2006	04	195
2007	08	73

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Railways to strengthen and modernize security arrangements:-

- (1) 96 stations and 96 trains have been identified as model station/trains and crime position in these stations and trains are monitored by the Security Directorate at Board's level.
- (2) Four flying squads, headed by officers of the rank of Deputy Inspector General, have been constituted for surprise checking of various trains/stations and submitting report directly to the Director General/Railway Protection Force.

- (3) Intensive drive has been launched through pamphlets, skits and public announcements to sensitize passengers about *modus-operandi* of criminals specially Druggists (Jahar Khurani) and terrorists.
- (4) Videography of passengers sitting in General Compartments is being done by RPF at important originating stations.
- (5) Modern security equipment like Close Circuit Television & Cameras, Bomb Detection & Disposal equipment, Bullet Proof Jackets and Bullet Proof Helmets, Walkie-Talkies, Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors etc. are being provided to the Force personnel.
- (6) Dog Squads have been strengthened. Railway Protection Force has 182 Sniffer and 54 tracker dogs.
- (7) 1450 important passenger trains are being escorted by the Railway Protection Force.
- (8) 'RPF Mitra Yojan' a Community Policing Concept, has been launched which aims to strengthen the contact and information network between Railway Protection Force and passengers.
- (9) Intelligence network has been geared up with increased emphasis on close liaison with the Central and State Intelligence Agencies.
- (10) 'Expression of Interest' has been invited on outright purchase basis or through Public Private Partnership (PPP) on BOOT (Build, Own, Operate and Transfer) basis to develop 'Integrated Security System' over hundred Railway Stations of Indian Railways.

(d) Recruitment for filling up the 5937 vacancies of Constables in RPF/ RPSF has already been completed on all Railways, except on Northern Railway. The recruitment for filling up 993 vacancies of Sub-Inspector in RPF/RPSF is in the last stage of completion. As regards, filling up the 599 vacancies in Ancillary Cadre of RPF/RPSF, notification has been issued in March 2008.

Sale and Consumption of Alcohol on Domestic Flights

4418. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale and consumption of alcohol on domestic flights is prohibited by the Government;

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

(c) whether the Government has received representation from various organizations/the federation of Indian airlines to permit domestic carriers to serve wine and beer on domestic carriers; and

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

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

(c) and (d) A proposal has been submitted by the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) and other organizations. However, Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

Energy Security

4419. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to turn its focus from the OPEC countries to the African nations for acquisition of oil and gas assets to meet surging energy requirements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any dialogue has been held with the African nations in this regard;

(d) if so, the success has been achieved in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the energy security for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) The country imports the major chunk of its crude oil requirement from OPEC countries. Government has, however, been making efforts to diversify its sources of crude oil imports and, in this connection is

looking at African countries also as sources of crude oil imports. In this context, the first India-Africa Hydrocarbon Conference and Exhibition was organized on 6-7th November, 2007 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. A total of 26 African countries participated in the two-day deliberations and a framework envisaging greater cooperation between India and the African continent in the field of Hydrocarbons was drawn up. A road map of cooperation was drawn out, the contours of which envisage:-

- i. Hydrocarbon Cooperation Agreements at the macro level to identify the broad areas of cooperation in the field of Exploration, Production and Refining;
- ii. Stepping up crude oil imports, and exports of petro-products by India;
- iii. Technology transfer and cooperation in R&D;
- iv. Retail marketing of Fuels and Lubricants by Indian Companies in Africa; and
- v. Training of technical and managerial personnel of African nations in hydrocarbon industry management.

(e) The Government has taken the following steps to ensure the energy security for the country:

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

viii. Diversification of the sources for procurement of crude. The Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are now importing crude oil from about 25 countries either on term contract or through spot purchase.

xi. Construction of Strategic Storage of crude oil of 5 MMT capacity at three locations viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur for meeting unforeseen situations arising out of short term supply disruptions etc.

Shortage of Fertilizers

4420. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka and Kerala are stated to be heading for a major shortage of chemical fertilizers during the ensuing Kharif season with the Union Government yet to finalise the fertilizer prices and consequently the factories going slow on production as reported in the 'Hindu' dated February 25, 2008;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in fixing quantum of subsidy on fertilizer and its price; and

(d) the steps the Union Government proposes to take to avoid shortage of fertilizers in the Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) No Sir. The prices of all fertilizers under the subsidy/concession scheme have remained unchanged since 2002. There is no move at present for revision of prices of fertilizers. The quantum of subsidy is derived from the difference between the delivered price of fertilizers and Maximum Retail Prices (MRP's) fixed by the Government as well as quantity of fertilizers sold.

Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government ensures availability of urea at state level. State Government are responsible for its distribution within the state.

Protection of Historical Monuments

4421. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Governments of Bihar UP for financial assistance for the protection of historical monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the location-wise details of each projects; and

(c) the financial assistance provided for the this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Archaeological Survey of India has no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

Change in the Composition of Ocimix by M/S. Panacea

4422. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. Panacea has changed the composition of its product Ocimix to avoid price control;

(b) if so, the details about the composition of Ocimix both old and new;

(c) whether the Government proposes to refer the case to CBI for a probe; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) A show cause notice was issued to M/s. Panacea Biotech Limited on 4.2.2005 for overcharging in the sale of Ocimix Tab. Each Film Coated Tab Contains: Ciprofloxacin 500 mg Omidazole 500 mg Batch No. 2974014. The company deposited overcharge amount alongwith interest. Subsequently the company has kept the brand name intact and has changed the composition of the medicine. It appears that the company

has violated section 17 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 by changing the combination of this formulation. Since the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, comes under the jurisdiction of State Drugs Controller, a letter was issued to the Drug Controller Himachal Pradesh on 8.8.2007 with a request to take appropriate action against the company.

Sting Operation to Stop Illegal Recovery by GRP and RPF

4423. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start sting operation to stop illegal recovery by General Railway Police (GRP), Railway Protection Force (RPF) as reported in 'Dainik Jagran', dated February 18, 2008;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal to start sting operation to stop illegal recovery by Railway Protection Force. As and when any such incident is reported, stern action is being taken against the erring Railway Protection Force Personnel.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

De-Addiction Centres in Madhya Pradesh

4424. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent 25 proposals of the voluntary organization working in the field of de-addiction regarding establishment of de-addiction centres to the Government of India during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken by the Union Government on these proposals;

(c) whether the approval of the two new centres is pending with the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals sent by the State Governments were considered by the Screening Committee consisting of experts in the field. The Committee approved two proposals of 2005-06 for Madhya Pradesh and grants have been released accordingly.

(c) and (d) No proposals are pending with Govt.

[English]

Taxes Charged on Medicines

4425. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether taxes upto 60 percent are being charged on medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the taxes being charged by the Central Government and State Governments on the medicines in the country during the year 2007-08 alongwith the rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Upto 29th February, 2008, drugs and medicines attracted 16% excise duty and education cess @ 2% was levied on basic duty.

Presently, 8% excise duty is attracted on all pharmaceuticals including drugs and medicines. Education cess and Secondary & Higher Education cess amounting to 3% of the basic duty is also levied. However, specified life saving drugs including Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs and bulk drugs for their manufacture have been exempted from excise duty. Nearly all State Governments have levied 4% VAT except Assam & Meghalaya who have levied 6% VAT on medicines. In States like Kerala and

Tamil Nadu, some of the life saving drugs are exempted from VAT.

Installation of TV in Long Distance Trains

4426. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to install TVs in long distance trains;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the present status of implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether running status of the trains is also to be broadcasted in the TV programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which TVs are likely to be provided in the trains?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Pantry Cars in Weekly, Bi-Weekly and Tri-Weekly Trains

4427. SHRI RAGHUVI SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility of pantry car is available in all weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly long distance trains;

(b) if so, zone-wise details of passenger trains in which the said facility is available and the ones in which it is not available; and

(c) the details of weekly, bi-weekly and tri-weekly long distance trains going through Kota junction in which pantry car facility is available?

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

(b) There are about 539 pairs of Mail/Express trains over Indian Railways running without pantry cars. Number of daily, bi-weekly and tri-weekly trains (in pairs) having pantry car facility are as under:-

Railway	Daily	Bi-weekly	Tri-weekly
Central	11	2	4
Eastern	5	1	3
Northern	8	7	nil
Northern Eastern	1	nil	1
Northeast Frontier	1	2	1
Southern	12	7	nil
South Central	7	1	2
South Eastern	4	1	2
Western	8	2	2
East Central	7	nil	nil
North Western	1	2	1
South East Central	1	1	nil
East Coast	5	3	5
North Central	nil	nil	nil
South Western	2	3	nil
West Central	nil	nil	1

(c) List of trains with pantry cars passing through Kota Division is as under:-

Sl.No.	Train No.	Train Name	Pair of Station	Frequency
1	2	3	4	5
1.	2451/2452	Rajdhani Express	Hazrat Nizamuddin Thiruvananthapuram	Bi-weekly
2.	2471/2472	Swaraj Express	Jammu Tawi-Bandra Terminus	4 days in a week
3.	2473/2474	Sarvodaya Express	Jammu Tawi-Ahmedabad	Weekly
4.	2475/2476	Express	Jammu Tawi-Hapa	Weekly
5.	2477/2478	Express	Jammu Tawi-Jamnagar	weekly
6.	2059/2060	Jan Shatabdi	Hazrat Nizamuddin-Kota	6 days in a week
7.	2907/2908	Maharashtra Sampark Karanti Express	Bandra Terminus—Hazrat Nizamuddin	Bi-weekly
8.	2917/2918	Gujart Sampark Karni Express	Ahmedabad-Hazrat Nizamuddin	Tri-weekly

1	2	3	4	5
9.	9037/9038	Avadh Express	Bandra Terminus-Forakhpur	4 days in week
10.	9039/9040	Avadh Express	Bandra Terminus-Muzaffarpur	Tri-weekly
11.	2903/2904	Golden Temple Mail	Mumbai Central Amritsar	Daily
12.	2925/2926	Paschim Express	Bandra Terminus-Amritsar	Daily
13.	2951/2952	Rajdhani	Mumbai Central-New Delhi	Daily
14.	2953/2954	AK Rajdhani	Mumbai Central-Hazrat Nizamuddin	Daily
15.	2955/2956	Express	Jaipur-Mumbai Central	Daily

*Jan Shatabdi does not have pantry car as such through mini-pantry is available.

[English]

Train Service at the Western Ghats

4428. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have resumed train service along the Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the revenue likely to be earned for the next three years; and

(c) if not, the time by which the train service is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The train Metre Gauge services between Punalur and Kollam situated in the Western Ghats have been closed for gauge conversion. The Metre Gauge line between Punalur to Sengottai is available and 4 pairs of Metre Gauge services are being run.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The train services will be restored after conversion and commissioning of the Sengottai-Kollam to Broad Gauge.

Setting up of LPG Agencies in Gujarat

4429. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in Banskantha and Patna districts of Gujarat where Liquefied Petroleum Gas Agencies have been established and since when;

(b) the number of additional connections of liquefied petroleum gas provided to these agencies during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of persons registered with these agencies for new connections during the above period; and

(d) the details of additional connections released and the number of persons in the waiting list, agency-wise in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, the LPG requirement in Banaskantha and Patan Districts of Gujarat is being catered by 12 and 8 LPG distributorships. The names of locations and dates of establishment of the LPG distributorships are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned MOCs.

(b) to (d) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. OMCs have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers. OMCs have further reported that they have released 8041, 7035 and 9369 new LPG connections in Banaskantha District and 3239, 3180 and 4713 new LPG connections in Patan District of Gujarat during the period 2005-06; 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

At present, there is no waiting list pending with the OMCs for release of new LPG connection by their LPG distributors operating in Banaskantha and Patan districts of Gujarat.

Production of SSP

4430. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) manufacturing units in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of production of SSP in the country during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of subsidy given by the Government to fertilizer units producing SSP during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The SSP manufacturing units registered with the Department of Fertilizers under the Concession Scheme alongwith details of production during each of the last three years, is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The year-wise subsidy given by the Department of Fertilizers to fertilizers units producing SSP during 2005-06 to 2007-08 was as follows:-

Year	Total Amount of Subsidy (Rs. In crores)
2005-06	189.78
2006-07	259.09
2007-08	259.46

Statement

State wise/Unit-wise Production of Superphosphate (SSP) During 2005-06 to 2007-08

(000' MT)

Sl.No.	Name of Unit	Place/District	State	Installed capacity*	Production		
					2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Private Sector	East Zone					
1.	Shrikrishna Fertilizers Limited	Muzaffarpur	Bihar				
	Total (Bihar)			33.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2.	The Jay Shree Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (Unit-I)	Khurdah, 24 parganas(N)	West Bengal	93.721	29.679	37.395	23.003
3.	The Jay Shree Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (Unit-II)	Khurdah, 24 Pargans (N)	West Bengal	66.000	52.078	47.759	32.389
4.	The Phosphate Company Limited	Hoghly	West Bengal	120.000	107.702	94.334	57.655
5.	Tata Chemicals Ltd. (Hind Liver Chemicals Ltd.)	Haldia, Midnapore	West Bengal	160.000	140.200	159.690	90.645
6.	Sai Fertilizers	Midnapur West	West Bengal	132.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
7.	Teesta Agro Industries Limited	Jalpalguri	West Bengal	165.000	89.690	86.691	89.370
	Total (West Bengal):			736.721	419.349	425.869	293.062
	Total (East Zone)			769.721	419.349	425.869	293.062

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		North Zone:					
8.	Assian Fertilizers Limited	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	66.00	57.933	36.687	24.354
9.	Khaitan Chem. & Fert. (formelty Mahadeb Fert. Ltd.)	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh	115.00	0.000	36.103	4.630
10.	Natraj Organics Limited	Muzaffarnagar	Uttar Pradesh	60.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
11.	V.K. Phosphate Ltd.	Shajahanpur	Uttar Pradesh	60.000	10.178	8.422	10.079
12.	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (For Shrinivas)	Jhansi	Uttar Pradesh	132.000	57.639	60.639	27.65
13.	Jubilant Organosys Ltd. (Formerly Vam Organic)	Gajraula	Uttar Pradesh	132.000	129.291	134.451	109.328
14.	Kashi Urbarak Limited	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	33.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total (Uttar Pradesh)			598.000	255.041	276.301	176.041
	Total (North Zone)			598.000	255.041	276.301	176.041
		South Zone					
15.	The Andhra Sugars Limited	Tanuku	Andhra Pradesh	66.000	44.436	44.498	26.615
16.	Chemtech Fertilizers Ltd.	Medak	Andhra Pradesh	90.000	19.499	20.562	12.267
17.	Krishna industrial Corporation Limited	Nidadavole	Andhra Pradesh	66.000	38.802	36.697	23.255
18.	Subhodaya Chemicals Limited	Gauripatnam	Andhra Pradesh	50.000	25.112	22.416	13.518
19.	Pragati Fertilizer Limited	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	36.000	12.020	10.278	0.940
20.	Agri Green Ferts. & Chemicals	Cuddapah	Andhra Pradesh	60.000	-	20.906	8.408
21.	Priyanka Fertilizers & Chemicals	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	36.000	8.190	1.410	0.000
22.	Prathyusha Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	100.000	0.000	11.119	3.981
	Total (Andhra Pradesh)			504.000	148.059	169.886	88.984
23.	Tungabhadra Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited	Kopel	Karnataka	60.000	41.334	33.279	12.984
	Total (Karnataka)			60.000	41.334	33.279	12.984
24.	Coimbatore Pioneer Fertilizers Limited	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	48.000	52.398	42.635	37.57
25.	Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. (EID Parry (i) Limited)	Chennai	Tamil Nadu	132.000	110.363	115.606	67.43
	Total (Tamil Nadu)			180.000	162.761	158.241	105.000
	Total (South Zone)			744.000	352.154	361.406	206.946
		West Zone					
26.	Liberty Phosphate Limited (Formerty, Hind, Rasayan)	Nandesari Vadodara	Gujarat	100.500	69.825	61.739	32.419
27.	Nirma Limited (Formely Kisan Industries Ltd.)	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	100.000	78.150	64.640	59.561

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
28.	Sona Phosphate Limited	Sarigam, Valsad	Gujarat	15.000	1.096	2.263	0.000
29.	Aarti Fertilizers Limited	Valsad	Gujarat	132.000	63.600	53.266	58.134
30.	T.J. Agro Industries Ltd.	Navsari	Gujarat	22.000	24.077	22.201	18.66
31.	Narmada Agro Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	Mnagrol, Junagarh	Gujarat	33.000	3.579	3.002	1.614
	Total (Gujarat)			402.500	240.327	207.111	170.388
32.	Liberty Unvarak Ltd.	Nirnani	Madhya Pradesh	100.000	62.833	74.496	51.992
33.	Khaitan Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited	Nirnani, Khargone	Madhya Pradesh	400.000	165.314	147.658	80.201
34.	Rama Phosphates Limited	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	165.000	100.211	106.521	35.692
35.	Swastik Fertilizer & Chemicals Limited	Indore	Madhya Pradesh	66.000	18.467	29.61	27.311
36.	Agro Phos. (India) Ltd.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	45.000	0.000	0.000	10.255
37.	Madhya Bharat Agro Product Limited	Nayagoun	Madhya Pradesh	45.000	34.332	32.476	27.137
38.	Madhya Pradesh Orgochem Limited	Nayagoun, Neemuch	Madhya Pradesh	75.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
39.	Madhya Bharat Phosphates Ltd.	Diwanganj, Raissen	Madhya Pradesh	45.000	14.183	24.102	19.964
40.	Mexican Agro Chem. Ltd. (Asha Phos. (India) Ltd.	Jaggalhedhi	Madhya Pradesh	60.000	11.766	10.684	0
41.	Mukdewar Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	45.000	0.000	2.213	0.000
42.	Revati Minerais & Chem. Ltd.	Heerapur, Sagar	Madhya Pradesh	14.000	-	-	-
43.	Arihant Fertilizer & Chemicals India Limited	Kanaweti, Neemach	Madhya Pradesh	66.000	-	6.020	4.344
	Total (Madhya Pradesh)			1126.000	407.106	433.780	256.896
44.	Jairam Phosphate Limited	Farhad, Rajanandgaon	Chhattisgarh	66.00	27.107	19.600	16.049
45.	BEC Fertilizers Limited	Bilaspur	Chhattisgarh	135.00	70.406	88.622	46.804
	Total (Chhattisgarh)			201.000	97.513	108.222	62.853
Figures for the year 2007-08 have been reported on the basis of information supplied by FAI.							
46.	BEC Fertilizers Limited	Phulgaon	Maharashtra	66.00	66.515	45.317	32.550
47.	Bharat Fertilizers Industries Limited	Thane	Maharashtra	132.000	3.137	3.069	1.612
48.	The Dharamsi Moraji Chemicals Company	Ambemath, Thane	Maharashtra	300.000	107.188	97.222	26.491
49.	Rajlaxmi Agrotech India Limited	Jaina	Maharashtra	60.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
50.	Rama Krishi Rasayan	Loni Kalbhor	Maharashtra	132.000	75.562	105.650	72.649
51.	Shiva Fertilizers Limited	Nanded	Maharashtra	90.000	52.812	52.42	36.296
52.	Basant Agro Tech. (India) Limited	Akola	Maharashtra	120.000	77.322	72.836	54.961

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
53.	Shri Bhavani Mishra Fertilizers Limited	Nanded	Maharashtra	30.000	0.000	9.414	0.000
54.	Balaji Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd.	Nanded	Maharashtra	60.000	11.056	11.899	8.271
55.	Liberty Phosphate Limited	Pali, Raigad	Maharashtra	66.000	12.976	41.584	19.117
56.	Jairam Phosphate Limited	Nagpur	Maharashtra	66.000	32.046	15.3	0.000
57.	R.C. Fertilizers	Lakhampur	Maharashtra	132.000	0.000	0.000	42.701
58.	Shree Dutta Feri. & Chem.	Anravati	Maharashtra	60.000	-	-	0.000
59.	Shri Gajraj Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd.			72.000	-	10.519	1.847
	Total (Maharashtra):			1386.000	435.614	465.230	296.465
60.	Manglam Phosphate Ltd.	Hamirgarh	Rajasthan	66.000	12.736	6.135	8.278
61.	Liberty Phosphate & Fertilizers Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	165.000	127.894	132.548	90.958
62.	Rama Phosphates Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	181.000	68.893	82.44	83.747
63.	Shurvi Colour Chemicals Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	18.000	0.000	1.318	0.000
64.	Shri Ganpat Fertilizers Limited	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	198.000	0.000	27.544	3.495
65.	TEDCO Granite Limited	Bhikwara	Rajasthan	132.000	42.957	46.461	45.677
66.	Arawali Phosphate Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	66.000	36.816	33.673	21.543
67.	Arihant Phosphate & Fertilizers Limited	Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	66.000	0.000	38.016	18.881
68.	Bohra Industries Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	200.000	0.000	60.524	49.884
69.	Gayatri Spinners Limited	Bhikwara	Rajasthan	33.000	11.265	14.495	7.587
70.	The Dharamsi Moraji Chemicals Co. Ltd.	Khamli, Udaipur	Rajasthan	66.000	36.300	21.399	20.500
71.	Sadhana Phosphate & Chemicals Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	132.000	53.800	45.331	44.860
72.	Liberty Phosphate Limited	Jagpura, Kota	Rajasthan	132.000	23.560	44.416	42.099
73.	Khaitan Chems. & Ferts	Nimbaheda	Rajasthan	200.000	73.051	82.743	69.898
74.	Indian Phosphate Limited	Udaipur	Rajasthan	66.000	0.000	36.731	28.513
	Total (Rajasthan)			1721.000	489.272	673.764	533.900
	Total (West Zone)			4836.500	1669.632	1888.107	1320.532
	Total (Private Sector)			6948.221	2696.376	2951.683	1996.583
	Grand Total (All India)			6948.221	2696.376	2951.683	1996.583

Transportation of Imported Fertilizers

4431. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of fertilizers in tonnes imported by the Government during the current financial year;

(b) whether the said fertilizers are lying at the ports;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the arrangements being made by the Government for the timely transportation of imported fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Urea is the only fertilizers covered under statutory price and partial movement control. Import of urea is restricted and permitted through State Trading Enterprises i.e. MMTC, STC and Indian Potash Limited, Import of Urea for direct application fertilizer is made on Government account. The quantity of imported urea on Government account arrived at various Indian ports during the current financial year (from 1.4.08 to 20.04.08) is 1.95 lakh metric tonne. Out of the quantity arrived 0.78 lakh MT was discharged from the ships and 0.14 lakh MT despatched various states from the ports.

(d) At present, adequate rail transport arrangements for transporting imported fertilizers are available. Department of fertilizers, in close coordination with

Railways, monitors despatches of fertilizers from all major ports on continuous basis to ensure timely evacuation of fertilizers.

Agreements Signed with Corporates

4432. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of agreements signed with corporates under National Culture Fund for upkeep and restoration of monuments;

(b) the total amount of money collected from the corporates so far;

(c) whether the amount collected is enough to maintain satisfactorily the monuments in respect of which the agreements are signed; and

(d) if not, in which manner Government proposes to arrange for the inadequacy of funds?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Eleven memoranda of Understanding with different corporate bodies have signed so far. Rs. 31.47 Crores have been committed by different corporate bodies. Details are in given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for maintaining the monuments from Government funds. The corporate contributions under National Culture Fund complement the Government funding.

Statement*The ASI-NCF Projects on Monuments Under the Custody of Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl.No.	Name of the Monument	Name of the Sponsoring agency	Funds committed by the agency (Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Monuments at Lodi Garden	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	1.00 Crore
2.	Humayun's Tomb, New Delhi	Aga Khan Trust for Culture & Oberoi Group of Hotels	2.25 Crores
3.	Jantar Mantar	Apeejay Surendra Park Hotels Ltd.	10 Lakhs
4.	Sun Temple, Kona	Indian Oil Foundation (IOF)	25 Crores
5.	Kanheri Caves, Mumbai		

1	2	3	4
6.	Group of Temples, Khajuraho		
7.	Warangal Fort, Warangal		
8.	Taj Mahal, Agra	Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (Tata Group)	1.87 Crores
9.	Lauriya Nandangarh and Chankogarh and Rampurva	Bokaro Steel Plant (SAIL)	50 Lakhs
10.	GOL Gumbaz	State Trading Corporation Ltd.	50 Lakhs
11.	Wazirpur Ka Gumbad	PEC Ltd.	25 Lakhs

Food Processing Industries in Andhra Pradesh

4433. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of Food Processing Industries in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the financial assistance provided in this regard during the last three years, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/ entrepreneurs for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Units. Under the above scheme, Ministry extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP Areas.

During the last three years, namely, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and till date 97 applications for grant for Setting up/Modernisation/Technology Upgradation of food processing units in Andhra Pradesh have been approved for a amount of Rs. 2453.44 lakhs.

Air Service from Bangalore to Mauritius

4434. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Mauritius proposed to operate a weekly direct flight from Bangalore to India;

(b) if so, the extent to which has helped in improving the tourism between India and Mauritius;

(c) the facilities that are being provided to the airports in Bangalore as well as Mauritius;

(d) whether there is a demand of increasing the frequency of direct flight; and

(e) if so, the details and the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for facilitating tourism, Air Mauritius has introduced operations to Bangalore by operating co-terminal service on their once weekly services on their once weekly services on Mauritius-Bangalore-Chennai-Mauritius without exercising traffic rights between Bangalore and Chennai.

(c) All infrastructure facilities required for international operations are available for carriers including Air Mauritius for operating to/from Bangalore.

(d) and (e) As per the existing bilateral air services arrangement between India and Mauritius, the designated airlines of each sides are entitled to operated 14 services per week. At present, only Air Mauritius is operating 6 services per week to/from India. Therefore, the designated

airlines of each side are free to utilize the balance capacity entitlements as per the commercial judgement.

Reduction of Entry Fee of Taj Mahal

4435. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently notified reduction in the entry fee for Taj Mahal in Agra from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 20/- for tourists from SAARC countries like Myanmar and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the entry fee was earlier shared between Archaeological Survey of India and the Agra Development Authority in the ratio of the Rs. 50/- and Rs. 700/- respectively;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Agra Development Authority has contested the reduction in entry fee for SAARC nationals and wants its earlier share restored;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the notification has since been revised; and

(h) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Through a notification dated 5th March, 2008, the Archaeological Survey of India has brought the entry fee in respect of citizens of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries at par with Indian citizens.

(c) and (d) At Taj Mahal, ASI charges entry fee @ Rs. 10/- from Indian visitors and nationals of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries. Foreigners of other nationalities are charged @ Rs. 250/-. The Agra Development Authority charges Rs. 500/- from each foreign national including citizens of SAARC and BIMSTEC countries Rs. 10/- from Indian visitors as Toll Tax (Path-kar).

(e) and (f) The notification issued by the Archaeological Survey of India applies only to ASI's entry fee and not to the tax charged by the Agra Development Authority.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Question does not arise.

Horizontal Distance Between two Aircrafts

4436. SHRI RAMESH DUBE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the horizontal distance between two aircrafts in order to lift pressure from Airports at Delhi and Mumbai due to ever increasing air traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the existing airports are capable of handling increasing traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid mid air disasters?

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

(b) Reduced Horizontal Separation is required to be implemented to reduce the air-congestion and delays. However, evaluation of available ground infrastructure, Communication, Navigation, Surveillance facilities, manpower & controllers', software tools for efficient handling of increased traffic is required. Necessary augmentation of these facilities needs to be carried out before implementation of reduced horizontal separation, so as to ensure safety of aircraft on ground and in air. Subject to fulfillment of these conditions, the current horizontal separation of 05 nautical mile could be reduced to 03 nautical mile in accordance with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Standards.

(c) and (d) Following development works have been undertaken/being undertaken to enhance the capability of airports for handling increasing traffic.

1. New high speed exit taxiways at Delhi and Mumbai airports have been constructed and some more have been planned.
2. Mumbai and Delhi airports have been handed over to Joint Venture Companies for *inter-alia*, further development of ground infrastructure.

3. Simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports has started during the peak hours.
 4. Restriction on general aviation aircraft during peak period at Delhi and Mumbai airports has been imposed.
 5. ATC Automation System at Delhi and Mumbai airports has been planned for upgradation.
 6. The number of hourly movements of flights are being frozen at Mumbai & Delhi airports in sync with available runway/terminal building capacity. In addition, Clearance Delivery Position has been established at Mumbai and Delhi Airports.
 7. At IGI Airport, Delhi, construction of a third runway is nearing completion. On its commissioning, the aircraft handling capacity of the airport would greatly get augmented. A parallel taxi track has also been constructed at Delhi airport by which runway occupancy time has been reduced considerably.
 8. At Mumbai airport, the beginning of runway 32 and 27 have been joined by constructing a new taxi track and beginning of runway 27 is being joined with the international apron to reduce runway occupancy time.
 9. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up a project for upgradation of 35 non-metro airports to handle increased air traffic at those airports.
 10. AAI is also expanding and modernising Chennai and Kolkata airports to handle the increasing traffic at these airports.
- (e) The following measures are in force to prevent mid air disasters/incidents:
1. All the aircraft which are holding over on airport for landing are continuously monitored on Radar to maintain the prescribed safe height.
 2. The radar system is capable of displaying the height of aircraft, thus a close surveillance is maintained by the controllers on the heights being maintained by different aircrafts.
 3. The automation system at Delhi and Mumbai, the two busiest airports, has the capability to generate conflict alert which draws the attention

of the controller, in case any deviation is observed on the height of an aircraft.

4. All the aircraft are equipped with Air borne collision avoidance system which improves the situational awareness of pilot and generates alert in case of any conflict.

Damaged Engine Cover of Aircraft

4437. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engine cover of an Indian Airlines aircraft came off and fell on the runway at the Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an investigation has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. M/s National Aviation of Company of India Limited (NACIL-I) A-321 aircraft VT-PPD while operating charter flight from Delhi to Srinagar on 24.2.2008 was involved in an incident during take-off wherein the bottom latches only of the nose cowl of right hand engine opened up. The aircraft returned and landed safely at Delhi.

(c) to (e) Investigations were carried out and on *prima facie* evidence the privileges of the licences of both the departure engineer and the engineer who earlier carried out weekly inspection have been suspended.

Shortage of Drugs

4438. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of drugs being given to overcome severe pain and mental illness on account of strict enforcement of Narcotics Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to remove such shortage of drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Whenever shortage of any drug is reported, remedial action is taken by requesting the drug companies concerned to make supply of medicines in the affected regions. No specific shortages of drugs for treatment of severe pain and mental illness has been brought to the notice of the Department or the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) so far.

[Translation]

National Commission for SCs

4439. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the National Commission for backward Classes has the power to hear grievances and award penalties as in case of National Commission for Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to confer judicial powers to the National Commission of Backward Classes on the lines of National Commission for SCs/ STs?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The matter regarding enhancing the powers of National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is under consideration.

[English]

Passengers Being Thrown Out

4440. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the cases of railway staff and passengers being thrown out from running trains have increased recently;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. But there is no increase in cases of thrown out of railway staff and passengers.

(b) The number of thrown out of passengers including Railway staff reported over Zonal Railways during the last three years i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007 are as under:-

Year	Number of cases reported
2005	11
2006	9
2007	9

(c) The following preventive measures have been taken for the security of passengers:-

1. About 2200 important mail/express trains are being escorted by GRP and about 1250 trains are being escorted by RPF on daily basis for providing security to passengers in vulnerable sections.
2. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains especially in crime prone/vulnerable sections.
3. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with State Police and Government Railway Police to discuss crime trends and formulate effective strategies to contain such crimes.

4. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP. Squads comprising women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable sub-urban sections, especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.
5. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers travelling in ladies compartments, anti-social elements creating nuisance in Railway premises as well as in trains etc. and offenders detected are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railway Act.

[Translation]

Funds for the Handicapped Persons

4441. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a provision of Rupees 1800 Crores for the handicapped persons in the 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the manner in which the said funds are likely to be utilized;

(c) whether the Government has fixed a target for making one lakh fresh employment available for handicapped persons in the private sector every year;

(d) if so, whether any action plan has been drawn up for making the said employment opportunities available; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) According to the Budget Speech of Hon'ble Finance Minister in 2007-08, a scheme has been sanctioned which envisaged payment of employer's contribution to Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance (ESI) by the Government for the first three years for providing employment to persons with disabilities in private sector. The benefit of the scheme is for persons with monthly wages up to Rs. 25,000/- per month. The scheme covers all persons with disabilities defined under the

Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 and National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999.

[English]

Food Processing Training Centres

4442. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Food Processing Training Centres and training-cum-product development centers set up by the Government in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) the details of the special schemes and programmes for tribal people of these islands; and

(c) the financial assistance given by the Government in this regard during the last three years, including the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Under a Component of the Ministry's Scheme of Human Resource Development i.e. Food Processing Training Centre the Government is assisting State Government Organizations, Educational & Training Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations & Cooperatives etc. in setting up of Food Processing Training Centre in the country in various States for skill upgradation and training of unskilled and unemployed youths so as to enable them to either set up their own food processing unit or get employment in food processing industries. Government of its own does not set up Food Processing Training Centre. The Directorate of Industries, Industries Department, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Port Blair has set up one multi product line Food Processing Training Centre with assistance of Rs. 6.90 lakhs from this Ministry in the year 1998-99.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries for promotion of fruits & vegetables processing units. Under this Scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance to food

processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/ Establishment of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.07. Besides, under Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, J & K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, higher level of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for upgradation/modernaization of units is available for processing of horticulture produce.

Under the Human Resource Development Scheme Ministry provides assistance for creation of infrastructure facilities for running Degree Diploma Courses in Food Processing Technology upto Rs. 75.00 lakhs and also provides assistance upto Rs. 2 lakhs for conducting Entrepreneurship Development Programme.

Ministry has also identified thrust areas for strategic intervention for the 11th Plan, by establishing Mega Food Parks, Cold-chain/value addition and preservation infrastructure, capacity building by setting up of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) and establishment/upgradation of Quality Control Laboratories, which could result in increasing the level of processing, value addition of food products, including perishables.

The Budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been increased from Rs. 650 crores during the 10th Plan to Rs. 4031 crores for the 11th Plan.

The Ministry also extends financial assistance for setting up Food Testing Labs, implementation of quality systems such as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP), ISO 9000, Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), promotion of Research and Development, capacity building for Human Resource Development.

The Ministry also proposes to implement a revamped schemes in the 11th Plan for infrastructure Development under which, it envisages giving enhanced financial assistance for setting up Mega Food Parks upto Rs. 50

crores, cold chain infrastructure, value added centres, packaging centres upto Rs. 10 crores and modernization of Abattoirs upto Rs. 15 crores. The scheme will provide backward and forward linkages as well as a reliable and sustainable supply chain.

All the plan schemes of this Ministry for promotion of food processing industries are meant for all the citizens of India. However special weightage is given to Tribals/ SC/ST/OBC and women entrepreneurs. During the last three years no proposal for setting up of Food Processing Training Centres from Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been received.

(c) During the last three years 84 Food Processing Training Centres have been assisted with Rs. 221.11 lakhs all over India.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Between Ratlam-Akola

4443. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any scheme to carry out gauge conversion on the Ratlam-Akola metre-gauge section;

(b) if so, the time by which work is likely to be started on the said scheme alongwith the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds allocated by the Railways for the said scheme;

(d) whether electrification of the said section is likely to be carried out during the course of gauge conversion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The gauge conversion of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa²-Akola (472.64 km) has been included in the Railway Budget 2008-09 at an anticipated cost Rs. 1421.25 crore and an outlay of Rs. 32.95 crore has been provided for this project during the current fiscal year. The work would be taken up once the Railway Budget is passed by the Parliament.

(d) to (f) Electrification of tracks are considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity. At present, there is no proposal to electrify Ratlam-Akola rail line.

[English]

Sub-Standard Food

4444. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that low quality food is being served in the trains and also at the stations despite charging high rate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Railways endeavour to provide hygienic food to the passengers at stations and in trains at reasonable prices. However some complaints regarding quality, less quantity, over charging have been received. Appropriate action like warning, fine, termination of contract, counseling etc. is taken on complaints found substantiated.

Improvement in catering services as an ongoing process, receives constant attention of the Railways and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). IRCTC, a wholly owned company of India Railways has been formed to upgrade and professionalize the catering and hospitality services of Indian Railways. IRCTC is setting up multi-cuisine state-of-the-art Food Plazas, Automatic Vending Machines to dispense hot and cold beverages, and modernizing railways' existing base kitchens. Regular monitoring of catering services is done by Railways and IRCTC officials. IRCTC has engaged independent food audit agencies to ensure quality of food being supplied to the passengers of Indian Railways. All good practices like, progressive ISO (international Organization of Standardization) and HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) certification of catering units are being followed. IRCTC has set up control offices at New Delhi, Mumbai, Howrah, Chennai and Secunderabad for receipt and redressal of complaints. Each of these control rooms has personal computers with broadband connectivity and dedicated telephone lines. Any

passenger can make a telephone call to any of these control rooms and immediate action is taken on these complaints/suggestions.

In addition to above steps like, Customer Satisfaction Survey conducted through M/s IMRB International, Food Audit done by M/s TUV Sud South Asia on 112 units including Trains, Base Kitchens & Food Plazas, engagement of M/s RITES for ISO 22000:2005 certification of mobile as well as static units, conducting special drives on premium trains including Rajdhani, Shatabdi and other Mail/Express trains through Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) so as to improve quality of catering services, introduction of Colored Menu Cards depicting a-la-Carte items along with rates etc. have been taken to effect improvement in catering services.

[Translation]

Strike by AAI Employees

4445. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees Union of Airports Authority went on strike recently;

(b) if so, number of flights affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether the passengers too had to face inconveniences because of the said strike;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive steps being taken to avoid such strikes by the employees of airports in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports' Authority Employees Union (AAEU) went on non-cooperation movement from 11.03.2008 (midnight) to 12.03.2008. However, the flight operations remained largely unaffected during this period.

(c) and (d) Due to the non-cooperation movement of AAEU, the passengers had to face minor inconveniences on account of drop in upkeep of airports, services at aerobridges, conveyor belts operations, etc. at some of the airports.

(e) It has always been the endeavour of the Government to resolve issues amicably through dialogues. In this regard, Government have constituted a Tripartite Committee with the representatives of the Government, AAI Management and AAEU, which has been meeting periodically.

Immovable Properties Owned by the Railways

4446. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made necessary arrangements for safe upkeep of the immovable properties of the Railways alongside rail lines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Necessary checks on such immovable properties are being conducted by the Section Engineers in their respective jurisdiction from time to time. Necessary assistance by Railway Protection Force is provided to the Engineering Branch to remove the unauthorized encroachments of such properties in coordination with Civil Police and Government Railways Police.

(b) The following preventive measures for safe upkeep of the immovable properties are as under:—

- (1) Constant watch is being kept by track men of Engineering Department during their daily patrolling of railway track.
- (2) Some vulnerable sections are also being patrolled by Railway Protection Force who also keeps a watch on immovable properties lying alongside rail lines.
- (3) Railway Protection Force is also rendering assistance to Engineering Department to evict encroachments as and when called for.

[*Translation*]

National Commission for Minorities

4447. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering to

confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities (NCM);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Bill to confer constitutional status on the National Commission for Minorities was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2004. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination. The recommendations of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment regarding the Bill have been considered but some other related issues are still under examination.

Usha Mehra Commission

4448. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Commission set up for categorization of SCs into sub-groups has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of its recommendations; and

(c) if not, the time by which the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): The National Commission to examine the issue of Sub-Categorisation of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh has not submitted its Report.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The tenure of the Commission is one year from the date of taking over of the charge by the Chairperson, who assumed charge on 21.05.2007.

[*Translation*]

Delhi-Moradabad Rail Line

4449. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of work of doubling of Delhi-Moradabad Railway line;

(b) whether the completion of the said work is getting delayed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) (a) to (d) On Delhi-Moradabad railway line, doubling has already exists from Delhi to Garh Mukhteshwar and Amroha to Moradabad. Doubling of balance portion is targeted for completion by 30.06.2008. This balance section was targeted for completion by 2007-08 but has delayed due to slow progress of bridge on river Ganga and delay in supply of singaling cables by the supplier.

New Trains Announced in the Rail Budget

4450. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time bound programme for new passenger trains announced in the Rail Budget 2008-09;

(b) whether the Railways have received demand for providing halts of passenger trains at places of pilgrimage and important stations;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereon;

(d) whether the Railways propose to introduce new trains (Garib Rath) between New Delhi-Azamgarh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Passenger trains announced in the Railway Budget (including Railway Budget 2008-09) are introduced during the course of the ensuing financial year subject to availability of rolling stock & completion of infrastructural works.

(b) and (c) Demands for provision of stoppage of passenger trains including pilgrimage/important stations are received from various quarters. These are examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

(b) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company

4451. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagaland Pulp and Paper Company (NPPC) has been provided working capital for its revival package;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the factory is likely to start its operation;

(c) whether the pay scales of 1977 has been sanctioned for the employees of NPPC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) A provision of Rs. 15.33 crore for working capital has been provided in the revival scheme of NPPC with cash infusion of Rs. 552.44 crore. The revival scheme envisages completion of the scheme in 27 months from the zero date, i.e. 27.06.2007, which is the date of sanction of revival scheme by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NPPC has been a chronically loss making company under reference to Board for industrial and Financial (BIFR). As per the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises, NPPC is not entitled for availing pay structure of 1997.

Fool Proof Security at the Airports of NE States

4452. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the terrorist outfits have planned to hijack civilian aircraft particularly from North-Eastern (NE) States;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to arrange fool-proof security at the airports of NE States to meet the threat perceptions?

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

(b) Several intelligence inputs have been received by Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) regarding terrorist outfits planning to hijack civilian aircrafts from NE States.

(c) On receipt of intimation about any threat message from intelligence agencies, an alert message is issued by BCAS with a copy to concerned regional Dy. Commissioner of Security (Civil Aviation) with specific instructions to coordinate with the concerned agencies at the airports and to monitor the security arrangements.

[Translation]

Prices of Essential Drugs

4453. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KIREN RIJUJ:

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

(a) whether the prices of essential drugs have doubled in March even after reduction in the excise duty;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take action against such companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Consequent to reduction in excise duty vide Notification No. 4/2008-CE dated the 1st March 2008 from 16% to 8% and reduction of abatement from 42.5% to 35.5% vide Notification No. 14/2008-CE (NT)

dated the 1st March, 2008 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), NPPA vide S.O. No. 418 (E) dated the 3rd March, 2008 revised the equivalent Maximum Retail Price (inclusive of all taxes) of all Scheduled formulation packs downwards by 4.58%.

With respect to non-Scheduled formulations NPPA vide Guidelines No. 2/2008 dated the 10th March, 2008 advised all the manufactures and marketing companies to ensure the reduction of MRP (inclusive of all taxes) by 4.58% consequent to the reduction in Excise Duty.

The new MRP would be uniformly applicable in all the States, wherever the excise duty has actually been paid to the Government.

S.O. No. 418 (E) dated the 3rd March, 2008 and Guidelines No. 2/2008 dated the 10th March, 2008 are available at NPPA's website www.nppaindia.nic.in.

No specific information has been brought to the notice of NPPA regarding doubling of drug prices in March, 2008 after reduction in excise duty.

[English]

Anti Collision Device

4454. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to install Anti Collision Devices in all the railway zones;

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

(c) the details of the expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) the time by which all Railway Sections in the country will be provided with Anti Collision Devices; and

(e) the total cost involved in the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Anti-Collision Device (ACD) is proposed to be progressively installed over the entire Broad Gauge (BG) network of Indian Railways. As a pilot project, the ACD has been installed on Katihar-New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati-Tinsukhia-Dibrugarh-Ledo section of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and is operational. The deficiencies in the system are being attended by Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL).

(c) Expenditure incurred on the project so far, is Rs. 92.22 Crore.

(d) After successful completion of the project on NFR, it is proposed to provide the ACD system on three Railways i.e. Southern, South Central and South Western Railway in next two years.

(e) Total cost for provision of ACD on the entire BG network of Indian Railways will be worked out after finalization of ACD design incorporating the performance feedback of the project on NFR and based on composite field trials of ACD in electrified suburban section.

Serving of Mild Alcoholic Beverages on Board

4455. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU
YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allow mild alcoholic beverages on board in the domestic airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether women organizations have strongly opposed this move by the Government;

(d) if so, the details of representations made by the women organizations in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure full security of women and co-passengers, especially in view of a number of cases reported in the past about the misbehaviour of drunken passengers?

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

(c) and (d) No representation has been received from women organizations in this regard.

(e) Government has not any decision in this regard.

Technology for Using Hydrogen as Fuel

4456. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has developed the technology for using hydrogen as fuel in automobiles in place of Petrol and Diesel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been implementing a broad based research, development and demonstration programme on different aspects of hydrogen energy and fuel cell technologies including hydrogen production, its storage and applications in internal combustion engines and fuel cells.

(i) The programme is implemented through academic and research institutions like IITs, Universities, CSIR laboratories etc. and industry.

(ii) These efforts have resulted in modification of petrol driven motor cycles and three wheelers by Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi to operate with hydrogen as fuel. 15 such hydrogen fuelled motorcycles have been developed and are being demonstrated on limited basis in the campus of BHU.

(iii) Experiments on use of blends of hydrogen and diesel have also been undertaken in internal combustion engine in the laboratory scale prototypes by IIT Delhi and Jadavpur University, Kolkata. However, automobiles that can be run on hydrogen-diesel blends are yet to be developed in the country.

(iv) A fuel cell-battery hybrid van was developed and demonstrated by SPIC Science Foundation, Tuticorin.

(v) A development-cum-demonstration project has been supported by the Ministry for introduction of blend of hydrogen and Compressed Natural Gas in selected vehicles to evaluate the performance and emissions of these vehicles.

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and five automobile manufacturers are participating in this project. The project is expected to be completed by September, 2009.

- (vi) However, prototypes of automobiles developed in the country to operate with hydrogen as fuel would need further development before they can be commercialized.

BPCL is conducting research on various aspect of technology for using hydrogen as fuel in automobiles as detailed below.

(a) Hydrogen production: BPCL has initiated a dialogue with National Chemical Laboratory, Pune for undertaking a research programme for production of hydrogen by novel methods.

(b) Hydrogen Storage: BPCL is working on the development of storage materials base on nanotechnology for on-board storage of hydrogen in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore and CSMCRI, Bhavnagar.

(c) Trials with Three Wheeler (Auto Rickshaw): A CNG three wheeler has been modified for hydrogen use to gain experience in (i) hydrogen storage and refueling on-board canister system and (ii) performance of vehicles.

(d) A Hydrogen Corpus Fund has been created by the MoP & NG in which OMCs are partner with OIBD.

IOC, R&D Centre is also carrying out tests and developmental studies for using Hydrogen in conjunction with CNG in three and four wheeler vehicles.

Railway Tea Stalls at Mumbai Division

4457. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai Division of Central Railway issued instructions to maintain uniformity of Railway Tea Stalls in size from top to bottom as per approved size within a specified period;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the implementation of these instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) With a view to ease congestion on the station platforms, instructions were issued to the zonal railways in March, 1999 to replace old catering stalls with compact modular stalls of uniform design. On receipt of representations from zonal railways the amended instructions regarding size of modular stalls, were issued in February 2000 and zonal railways were advised to draw an action plan in order to implement these instructions.

Global Cargo Firms

4458. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether global cargo firms have been allowed to operate in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of global cargo firms on the share of State carriers; and

(d) the manner in which the global cargo is likely to be benefited to the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has recently liberalized the norms for foreign direct investment in cargo airlines and raised it to 74%. For non-resident Indians the limit has been raised to 100%.

(c) and (d) The air cargo industry is expected to expand and generate sufficient demand for various operators in the sector.

Expenditure on Petrol Pumps for Decoration

4459. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether petroleum companies have spent thousands of crores of rupees on decorating the petroleum outlets;

(b) the reasons for this huge expenditure on petrol pumps;

(c) whether oil PSUs have taken deliberate decisions to avoid giving dividends to the Government through such expenditure; and

(d) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) To sustain and improve their position in the current deregularized market and to combat the impact on their sales due to entry of private companies in petroleum retail marketing, all the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are spending resources on projecting their Retail Visual Identity (RVI) by providing basic facilities and value added services at their Petrol Pumps, in a phased manner for the convenience of their customers. This is necessary to increase and enhance their customer base and brand image in current competitive market.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The expenditure spent by OMCs on RVI is very small as compared to cost incurred on marketing and distribution of petroleum products and has no impact or very little impact on the overall net profits of the OMCs. All the OMCs are contributing as per guidelines, to the Government, regularly.

[Translation]

**Profit Earned by the Oil Refineries
under Indian Oil Corporation**

4460. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) the profit earned by the oil refineries per barrel under Indian Oil Corporation during 2007-08;

(b) whether the improvement and efficiency in the working has resulted in the increase in this profit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the estimate of the total profit during the year 2008-09 in view of the profit earned during March 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The provisional Gross Refinery Margin (GRM) and Net Refinery Margin (NRM) per barrel of Oil Refineries under Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) during 2007-08 is as under:

2007-08	\$ bbl (provisional)
GRM	8.54
NRM	5.64

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The GRM in 2007-08 is \$8.54/bbl (provisional) as against \$4.19/bbl in 2006-07. Out of the total increase of \$4.35/bbl, an increase of \$0.83/bbl is attributable to improvement and efficiency in the working of the refineries.

(d) The profit before tax for IOCL refineries for March, 2008 is Rs. 1208.16 crore (provisional). The profit of one month is not representative for estimating the profit for a longer period. The estimated profit for IOCL refineries for the year 2008-09 as per Budget Estimates is Rs. 5078.18 crore.

Food Processing Industries in Chhattisgarh

4461. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing units, location-wise, running at present in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the total investments made in these units and the production thereof; and

(c) the details of the total financial assistance provided by the Government during the last three years for setting up of new food industries and cold storages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, the information about total number of food processing industries in the country, the total investments made in these units and the production thereof is not centrally maintained in the

Ministry of Food Processing Industries. However, the Ministry received 25 applications for setting up/modernization/expansion of food processing units in Chhattisgarh so far.

An amount of Rs. 442.82 lakhs for 13 cases have been approved as grant-in-aid in respect of setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units in Chhattisgarh in the last three years, namely, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08. According to the available data, these units are running in various Rajnandgaon. No assistance for setting up of cold storages has been approved for the State during the period.

[*English*]

Beach Tourism

4462. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State/UT Governments to promote beach tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance provided for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism, however, provides financial assistance for tourism projects on the basis of proposals received from them in accordance with scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds. During the year 2007-08 Rs. 64513.23 lakh has been sanctioned as financial assistance to States/Union Territories for development and promotion of tourism including following projects for beach tourism;

Sl.No.	Projects	Amt. sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)
1.	Development of Marina beach, Chennai.	492.76
2.	Beautification of Beach Promenade, Pondicherry	500.00
3.	Celebration of Golden Beach Festival at Chandipur-on-Sea.	3.00

[*Translation*]

Rise in the Prices of Raw Materials

4463. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of almost all the materials being utilized in the production of steel have gone up in the country during the year 2007;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase registered in the prices of the each of the components used in

production of steel during the said period separately;

(c) the name of the materials which are being supplied by the public sector in the country; and

(d) the impact of price rise in raw material on selling price for the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The increase registered in the raw material spot prices (FOB) of the main steel making raw materials from January 2007 to December 2007 is given in the table below alongwith the percentage increase during the said period:-

Raw Material Spot Prices (FOB)

Period	NMDC (LTA) Price* (In Rs./tonne)	India Spot (Export) Iron Ore 63.5% Fe (In \$/tonne)	Australian Spot hard Coking Coal (In \$/tonne)	China met Coke 12.5% Ash (In \$/tonne)	Shredded Scrap (In \$/tonne)
January-07	11141	60.0	98.0	180.0	280
February-07		59.5	100.0	180.0	290
March-07		62.5	103.0	185.0	340
April-07	1209	70.0	107.0	195.0	307
May-07		75.0	109.0	212.0	313
June-07		74.5	120.0	252.0	300
July-07		78.0	129.0	256.0	295
August-07		88.0	140.0	256.0	302
September-07		114.0	150.0	275.0	302
October-07	1783	130.0	165.0	340.0	302
November-07		155.0	172.5	400.0	302
December-07		140.0	180.0	390.0	317
%age Increase	60%	133.3	83.7	116.7	13.2

*Baliadila Fines (64.5/64% Fe less than 10 mm)
Pithead price exclusive of freight and taxes.

(c) There is no steel making raw material, which is exclusively supplied by the public sector. However, the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is a major supplier of iron ore to the domestic steel industry. Similarly, Coal India Ltd., A Public Sector Undertaking supplies coal through its subsidiary companies. The domestic steel industry meets much of its demand for coking coal through imports.

(d) The impact of increase in the price raw material will differ from producer to producer, depending on the technology as well as the availability of captive raw material resources. The raw material cost per tonne of crude steel, in the case of some of the major steel producers, based on the information published in their website is as under:

Cost of Raw Materials per tonne of Crude Steel

Name of Producer	Rs./Tonne			
	Jan.-Mar. 2007	Apr.-June 2007	July-September 2007	October-December 2007
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	9131	8822	8902	8886
Tata Steel Ltd.	7635	7796	6977	8340
JSW Ltd.	14750	15274	15383	16530

*(English)***Kolkata Metro Rail**

4464. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have undertaken the extension of Kolkata Metro Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether numbers of trains that are plying over this system has come to such a condition that an urgent replacement/procurement of new trains is required;

(d) if so, whether the Railways have chalked out any plan for the same; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Railway have undertaken the extension from Tollygunge to Garia (8.5kms.) as a material modification to the Dum Dum-Tollygunge Project and revised estimate amounting to Rs. 1032 crores was sanctioned in October, 2007. One-third cost of the project is being shared by West Bengal Government. It is proposed to start limited services on this extended section during the current year.

(c) to (e) The Kolkata Metro runs services with rakes comprising 8 coaches each. The trains rakes are being maintained in a satisfactory manner and are fit for providing safe and comfortable services. The present holding is of 18 rakes of which 14 Nos. are utilized during peak hours and the rest are on standby/maintenance.

However, on age-cum-condition basis various replacement/procurement actions for new rakes have been initiated.

Additional rakes are also being procured for services on extended section as also for augmented services. Details of such proposed procurement are.

(i) As a part of Tollygunge-Garia extension 7 additional rakes are being procured for catering to the extended length of section.

(ii) Through Ministry of Railway's Rolling Stock Programme item No. 484, 6 Nos. additional rakes are being procured out of which 4 Nos. are for anticipated augmented frequency and 2 Nos. are against replacement as a part of normal age-cum-condition basis replacement.

(iii) Further, through Ministry of Railway's Rolling Stock Programme item No. 885, 8 rakes are being procured of which 6 are for proposed augmented frequency and 2 Nos. are against replacement.

The above rakes are being procured through ICF.

Target Achievement

4465. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan envisaged by Railways to fulfill its target of achieving to transport 10-billion passengers in the next eight years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No target of 10 billion passengers in the next eight years has been fixed. The target at the end of the 11th Plan (2011-12) for originating passengers is 8.4 billion. Creation of additional capacity to handle more traffic including passenger traffic both on the network and terminals is a major priority during the 11th Plan. The strategies to carry more passenger traffic also include higher capacity rolling stock, longer trains, augmentation of suburban services, increase in short distance services, using Mainline Electric Multiple Units (MEMU)/ Diesel-Electric Multiple Units (DEMU) trains besides creation of world class passenger terminals/stations.

Agreement Between GAIL and Oil India Limited for Oil Exploration

4466. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether GAIL and Oil India Limited have signed any cooperation agreement to explore oil discoveries, production, distribution, Coal Bed Methane etc;

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

(c) the extent to which both companies will be benefited by such cooperation agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. GAIL India Limited (GAIL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 27th December, 2007. The area of cooperation by both side includes joint participation in New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) round & joint bidding for exploration blocks overseas, to explore cooperation in transportation and marketing of OIL's share of gas from new discoveries through GAIL's existing & planned pipeline network. GAIL & OIL also agreed to examine cooperation in Coal Bed Methane (CMB) opportunities in India and abroad, to examine opportunities available in the petrochemicals sector, to cooperate in sharing technology and knowledge wherever feasible.

(c) GAIL and OIL recognize the potential of adding value to their business by adopting a cooperative approach based on their cooperative approach based on their complementary skill, and common business interests. Both parties have signed an MOU with a desire to explore opportunities for cooperation so that respective resources could be pooled on the basis of mutuality and reciprocity.

Setting up of Abhijit Sen Committee

4467. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Abhijit Sen Committee for formulating new investment policy on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Committee;

(c) the matter which are likely to be looked into by this Committee; and

(d) the time by which the said committee is likely to submit its report to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) to (d) The Group or Minister (GOM) in

the meeting held on 12th February 2008 approved to constitute a committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission with Secretary (Fertilizers), Secretary (Expenditure) and Secretary (Agriculture & Cooperation) to look into various options for new investment policy in Fertilizer Sector which will induce balanced fertilization. Various international benchmarks in this regard are to be looked into and recommendations given to the Government in two months time.

[Translation]

Ticket Sale Through IRCTC

4468. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has set a new record of selling more than one lakh reserved tickets through internet in a single day;

(b) the number of passengers to whom reserved Railway tickets were provided by the IRCTC and the Railways during the said period in each State of the country;

(c) whether a number of passengers are forced to travel without ticket or with inappropriate tickets due to the shortage of booking clerks and reservation clerks in many States of the country; and

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

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

(b) State-wise data of number of passengers booked is not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

New Trains for Andhra Pradesh

4469. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways intend to introduce new trains to cater to the needs of daily commuters from and to satellite towns near State capital like Kumool, Nalgonda, Nizamabad and Khajipet; and

(b) if so, the names and time of introduction of such trains from Hyderabad Secunderabad Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Installation of Navigational System at the Airports

4470. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Performance Based Navigational System (PBNS) would be installed at major airports in the country to ease traffic congestion and to reduce risks of accidents in air;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted preliminary tests of the system and the extent to which such system has been found satisfactory;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plans of the Government to install such system at all the airports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Implementation of Performance Based Navigation

(PBN) Systems, will provide better access to airports without depending on the ground based navigation aids.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The analysis indicates that the PBN procedures will provide structured traffic flow which will enhance operational efficiency and thereby reduce air-congestion and promote air safety. PBN procedures are proposed to be initially implemented at Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad airports.

(e) PBN procedures will be developed for other airports in a phased manner.

Excavation of Historical Places in Gujarat

4471. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of historical places in Gujarat where various excavation work have been undertaken during the last three years;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Archaeological Survey of India for the protection of these places; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not carried out any excavation in Gujarat during the last three years. However, other agencies like Government of Gujarat, Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur and M.S. University, Vadodara have carried out excavations in the State during the last three years. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present for protection of these sites by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Statement

The details of excavation carried out in Gujarat during the last three years.

Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Site
1	2	3
2005-06		
1.	Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Gujarat and Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	Kanmer, district Kachchh
2.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	Jaidak No Timbo, district Mehsana

1	2	3
2006-07		
1.	Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Gujarat and Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	Kanmer, district Kachchh
2.	Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Gujarat.	Vadnagar, district Mehsana
3.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	Jaidak No Timbo, district Mehsana
2007-2008		
1.	Department of Archaeology, Govt. of Gujarat and Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur	Kanmer, district Kachchh
2.	Department of Archeology, Govt. of Gujarat,	Vadnagar, district Mehsana
3.	M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara	Valamiya Timbo, Shikarpur, district Kachchh

*[Translation]***Funds for Old Age Homes**

4472. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the economic assistance given for running the old age homes;

(b) whether the Government is aware that the assistance given to each old age home for 25 aged persons is meagre; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enhance this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme of "An Integrated Programme for Older Persons, and amount of Rs. 2,76,412/- was given as 90% recurring grant in aid to the Voluntary Organizations for running old age homes. The Scheme has since been revised with enhanced financial assistance for such projects.

Taxes on Petroleum Products

4473. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise duty, revenue levy, sales tax,

special cost, the commission and profit margins of the dealers is included in the sale price of petroleum products viz, petrol, diesel, gas and kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the percentage of each of these components in the sale price of these products;

(c) whether the sale price of these petroleum products is also affected by special concessions in fixation of sale price, the facilities of the companies, concession in excise duties, cost of public conveniences, the funds involved in disputes, capital gains, the Government scams etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to reduce their respective taxes by mutual consent in order to provide some relief to the consumers from the rising prices; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The break-up of price components of Petrol, Diesel, LPG (Domestic) and PDS Kerosene at Delhi are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Retail setting price of petroleum products namely Petrol, Diesel, LPG (Domestic) and PDS Kerosene is to be calculated by taking into account:

(i) Basic Ex-storage Point Price

- (ii) Freight from refinery to depot and depot to market
- (iii) Excise duty at applicable rates
- (iv) Sales Tax and other local levies
- (v) Dealers/Distributors commission, etc.

The basic ex-storage selling prices are uniform at all refinery locations throughout the country.

Currently, Government is modulating the retail selling price of the four sensitive petroleum products in such a manner as not to pass on the burden of spiraling international oil prices so as to protect the consumer and to insulate the economy from the inflationary impact of international oil prices. Despite the steep increase in the international oil prices, the prices of domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene have not been increased since November, 2004 and March, 2002 respectively. The Government has made a marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by

Rs. 2/litre and Re. 1/litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008.

(e) and (f) The duties on sensitive petroleum products have been rationalized to mitigate the impact of high international oil prices on their retail selling prices. The Customs Duty on Petrol and Diesel has been reduced from 10% to 7.5% effective 14.6.2006 and the ad-valorem component of Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol and unbranded Diesel has been abolished with effect from 1.3.2008. The Customs Duty and Excise Duty on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene were earlier abolished with effect from 1.3.2005. Further, consequent to enactment of Finance Bill 2006, Domestic LPG has become a "Declared Good" under CST Act and the maximum Sales Tax/VAT rate is 4% effective 19.04.06 across all the States/Union Territories.

The Central Government has been continuously taking up the matter with the State Governments for reduction in the rates of Sales Tax/VAT.

Statement

The break-up of price components of petrol, diesel, LPG (Domestic) and PDS Kerosene at Delhi are detailed below:

Share of Dealer Commission, Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of Petrol at Delhi

S.No.	Particulars	Rs./Litre
1.	Basic Price without Dealer Commission, Customs Duty, Excise Duty, Sales tax components	20.16 (45%)
2.	Dealer Commission	1.02 (2%)
3.	Custom Duty (Based on 1st Fortnight of April'08)	1.97 (4%)
4.	Excise Duty (levied @ Rs. 14.35/litre plus 3% education cess)	14.78 (32%)
5.	Sales Tax	7.59* (17%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+2+3+4+5)	45.52#

Figures in bracket give the components of dealer commission, customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as @ % of S.No. 6

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported under-recovery of over Rs. 9 per litre.

Share of Dealer Commission, Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of Diesel at Delhi

S.No.	Particulars	Rs./Litre
1.	Basic Price without Dealer Commission, Customs Duty, Excise Duty, Sales tax components	20.28 (64%)
2.	Dealer Commission	0.60 (2%)
3.	Custom Duty (Based on 1st Fortnight of April'08)	2.36 (7%)
4.	Excise Duty (levied @ Rs. 4.60/litre plus 3% education cess)	4.74 (15%)
5.	Sales Tax (incl. Pollution Cess of Rs. 0.25 per litre)	3.78 (12%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+2+3+4+5)	31.76#

Figures in bracket give the components of dealer commission, customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as ● % of S. No. 6
Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported under-recovery of over Rs. 15 per litre.

Share of Dealer Commission, Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of LPG (Packed Domestic) at Delhi

S.No.	Particulars	Rs./Cyl.
1.	Basic Price without Dealer Commission, Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales Tax components	264.36 (90%)
2.	Dealer Commission	19.05 6%
3.	Custom Duty-Nil	0.00 0%
4.	Excise Duty-Nil	0.00 0%
5.	Sales Tax	11.34 (4%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+2+3+4+5)	294.75#

*Figures in bracket give the components of dealer commission, customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as ● % of S.No. 6
Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported under-recovery of over Rs. 303 per cylinder

Share of Dealer Commission, Duties and Taxes in Retail Selling Price of PDS Kerosene at Delhi

S.No.	Particulars	Rs./Ltr.
1.	Basic Price without Dealer Commission, Customs Duty, Excise duty and Sales Tax components	8.01 (88%)
2.	Wholesale Dealer Commission and Retail Commission	0.73 (8%)
3.	Custom Duty-Nil	0.00 0%
4.	Excise Duty-Nil	0.00 0%
5.	Sales Tax	0.35 (4%)
6.	Retail Selling Price at Delhi (1+2+3+4+5)	9.09#

*Figures in bracket give the components of dealer commission, customs duty, excise duty and sales tax as ● % of S.No. 6
Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have reported under-recovery of over Rs. 24 per litre.

*[English]***Steel Under Essential Commodities Act**

4474. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring steel under Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Steel was taken out of the purview of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in February, 2007. Suggestions have been received from different quarters to re-classify steel under the Act. However, no formal decision has been taken in this regard till date.

Setting up of a Regulatory Authority

4475. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to set up TRAI like regulatory authority for C.N.G., P.N.G., L.P.G., Petrol, Diesel to regulate the price of petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government has set up Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has been set up w.e.f. 1.10.2007 under the PNGRB Act, 2006.

IAF Pilots in Civil Airlines

4476. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airlines are facing shortage of trained pilots;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Air Force (IAF) has been asked to lend its pilots to the airlines;

(c) if so, under which the terms and conditions the Indian Air Force's Pilots proposed to be used for civil airlines;

(d) whether IAF Pilots have been permitted to join private airlines too;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Civil aviation industry in the country is facing shortage of type rated pilots.

(b) Yes, Sir. So far 12 Indian Air Force (IAF) pilots have been inducted in Air India.

(c) IAF has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Air India on 05.04.2007. As per the MoU, Senior IAF pilots, who have fulfilled their commitments to service and would be due for superannuation in the near future, would be sponsored for permanent absorption into Air India/Air Indian Express.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Setting up of Integrated Steel Plant

4477. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have any proposal to set up an integrated steel plant in the country;

(b) if so, the details and its estimated capacity thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said plan is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 17.8.2007 for setting up an Integrated Steel Plant in the State of Chhattisgarh by a Joint Venture Company with equity participation of SAIL, NMDC and RINL. However, now, NMDC is planning to take up the project on its own with support of RINL in the areas of project management and construction related activities. The plant is proposed to be set up at a suitable location near Dilmili village (Bastar District, Chhattisgarh) subject to availability of land from Government of Chhattisgarh and also subject to availability of all other linkages in terms of raw material, water and power. M/s MECON is carrying out the Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for the proposed Steel Plant.

(b) The capacity of the steel plant could be 3.0 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 4.0 MTPA and shall be finalised as per the out come of the TEFR.

(c) After acquisition of land and grant of all other statutory clearances, it will take about 36 months to commission the plant.

{Translation}

Self-Sufficiency in the Production of Urea

4478. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status regarding self-sufficiency in the production of urea along with the status of achievements of the target of fertilizer production during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the obstacles identified in achieving the said target; and

(c) the details of the works to be undertaken for self-sufficiency in the future and the requirement of estimated amount for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The present status of total installed capacity of operational urea units in the country, its production and sales during the Tenth Five Year Plan is as below.

Year	Installed Capacity	Production	Sales
2002-03	197.00	187.26	186.4
2003-04	197.00	192.03	195.8
2004-05	197.00	202.63	205.47
2005-06	197.00	200.98	221.91
2006-07	197.00	203.08	244.85

It can be seen from the table above that the production of urea in the country has been more than 100% of the installed capacity from 2004-05 onwards. The country is no longer self-sufficient in urea production as in 2002-03, as there has been no new investment in this sector for the last ten years. The production capacities have remained stagnant whereas the consumption of urea has increased sharply over the last few years. In order to bridge the gap between the rising demand and stagnant production in the country, the Government is in the process of finalising a new policy for attracting investments in this sector. In addition, the Government is also looking into looking into the feasibility of revival of closed units of FCIL and HFCL to meet the increasing demand of urea in the country.

[English]

MoU with Public Sector Undertakings

4479. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with various public sector undertakings, State Governments, corporate bodies for construction of new BG lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected increase in bulk transport as a result of laying of the above new BG lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with following for construction of new Broad Gauge lines:-

- (i) State Government of Jharkhand for Deogarh-Dumka, Giridih-Koderma, Koderma-Ranchi, Koderma-Tilaiya and Dumka-Rampurhat.
- (ii) State Government of Chhattisgarh, Steel Authority of India Limited and National Mineral Development Corporation for construction of Dallirajahara-Jagdarpur.

Further, a number of projects are under implementation by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited and participation by the respective Governments on cost sharing basis-

(c) The traffic on the Indian Railway network including the new lines is expected to increase to a level of 1100 million tonnes of freight traffic by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan (2011-12).

Air Fare Policy for Infants and Children

4480. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Air India and other Airlines charge fare for infants even for 1-day old baby;
- (b) if so, the justification to charge fare for infants;
- (c) the details of the air fare structure for children;
- (d) the difficulties of the Airlines to allow similar type of concession for children upto 5 years and upto 11 years as is given by the Railways;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to review air fare policy for infants and children;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL), which is a member of International Air Transport Association (IATA), follows the recommendations of IATA (and followed by the Member airlines world-wide) regarding fares for infants.

(c) The air fare structure for children in NACIL is (i) Infant (Under 2 years of age)-10% of the applicable fare

and (ii) Child (2 years of age or more but under 12 years) 75% of the applicable fare on the international routes and 50% of the applicable fare on the domestic routes.

(d) Being an active member of IATA, NACIL is required to follow its directions/guidelines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Airlines are free to determine their fare structure as per their commercial judgement and Government, as a matter of policy, does not interfere with it.

Expenditure on Advertisements

4481. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total advertisements given by ONGC during the last three years to newspapers, magazines, TV channels and all other media, giving separate figures for the print and visual media.
- (b) whether ONGC has any plans to increase its advertisements in the coming year; and
- (c) if so, the reasons for such expenditure by ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) The total advertisements given by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) for the last 3 years, with separate figures for Print and visual media are given as under:-

Year	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)	
	Print Media	Visual Media
2005-06	36.33	Nil
2006-07	41.66	5.69
2007-08	13.34	1.24

(b) The expenditure incurred on advertisements is based on business activity and statutory requirements that varies from year to year.

(c) ONGC is listed company, with a large and diversified shareholder base. It is the 'Flagship Energy Major' of the country. It is imperative that the corporate performance and achievements of Navratna ONGC are communicated to all shareholders, stakeholders in business and people of the country at large. Advertisements are accepted instruments to communicate corporate performance and reinforcing corporate goodwill among all stakeholders. ONGC also advertises in public interest.

Indemnity Bond by the Physically Challenged Passengers

4482. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Airlines operating in the country insist on signing an indemnity Bond by the physically challenged/passengers with reduced mobility before boarding the flight and also do not provide aisle chair for them;

(b) if so, the action taken against such Airlines;

(c) whether commercial staff engaged by the Airlines is required to be trained in dealing with such persons gracefully;

(d) if so, whether there have been complaints from the individuals giving instances where such services have been lacking;

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against those Airlines;

(f) whether DGCA ensures compliance of certain specific provisions made under C.A.R. before granting licences to these Airlines for operating in the country; and

(g) if so, the manner in which it is ensured that the Airlines adhere to these provisions and do not flout rules and regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s. Jet Airways, M/s. Kingfisher Airlines, M/s. Spicejet, M/s. Paramount and M/s. Indigo do not insist on Indemnity

Bond from the physically challenged/passengers with reduced mobility travelling by their flights. M/s. Jetlite insist on Indemnity Bond from physically challenged or those who are under medical treatment travelling by their flights. Air Deccan has informed that they take Indemnity Bond from aick passengers. Go Air has informed that passengers travelling by their flights, who have undergone medical treatment in the recent past, have to sign on MEDA form required by the doctor. All the private scheduled airlines have informed that they provide also seats to the physically challenged disabled passengers with reduced mobility in order to facilitate their boarding and disembarkation and enable the cabin crew to attend to their specific requirements.

(c) to (e) The commercial staff of scheduled airlines positioned at airports is adequately trained in various aspects viz. check-in, ground handling, customer care issues, etc. A few complaints have been received from passengers regarding denial of facilities like wheel chair to physically handicapped/elderly passengers. These complaints have been taken up with the airlines for redressal. All the airlines have been advised that they should display on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets.

(f) and (g) All the scheduled airlines have to comply with various provisions of CARs viz. airworthiness, operational and commercial requirements before the grant of permit. Directorate General of Civil Aviation Officers carry out surveillance checks, safety audits, inspections, etc. to ensure that airlines are adhering to the rules and regulations.

NGOs Related to Sulabh Shochalayas

4483. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing any financial assistance to the NGOs which runs Sulabh Shochalayas;

(b) if so, the scheme under which such assistance is being provided;

(c) whether the irregularities committed by the said NGO in certain schemes, have been taken into consideration by the Government before providing it with financial assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the rules under which the action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial assistance has been provided to Sulabh International Social Service Organization (SSISO), New Delhi, under 'Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)' and Scheme of Grant in aid for Supporting Projects of All India or Inter State Nature for Scheduled Caste Development (Research & Training).

(c) to (e) Ministry is not aware of any irregularity committed by the NGO in utilization of above funds.

Allotment of Additional Iron-Ore Blocks

4484. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Public Sector Undertaking had sought allotment of additional iron-ore blocks keeping in view the necessities of its expansion;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating therein the name of the PSU; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL):

The Growth Plan of SAIL envisages hot metal production of about 26 million tonnes by 2010-11 and about 50 million tonnes by 2019-20. As a result the iron ore requirement for the next 50 years would be about 5700 million tonnes. However, the iron ore resources available with SAIL, including Chiria and Rowghat is about 3400 million tonnes. Hence, SAIL would require additional iron ore and has made the applications as per details given below:-

Sl.No.	Type (PL/ML)	Name of lease/PL and name of State	Date	Area
1.	PL*	Rowghat A,B,C,D,E Blocks, Chhattisgarh	3.7.07	1529 Ha
2.	PL	Karampada, Jharkhand	20.8.07	5330 Ha
3.	PL	Ankua, Jharkhand	20.8.07	3160 Ha
4.	ML**	NEB, Karnataka	25.1.07	140 Ha
5.	ML	Kanjamalai, Tamil Nadu	27.5.07	1106 Ha
6.	ML	Ghatkuri, Jharkhand	29.5.07	2580 Ha
7.	ML	Meghahatuburu, Jharkhand	29.5.07	500 Acre

* PL: Prospecting License

**ML: Mining Lease

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL):

RINL has applied for iron ore blocks keeping in view the necessities of its expansion and also for its existing capacities. Application status is given in the enclosed statement.

The concerned State Governments are being actively pursued for expeditious allotment of Prospecting Licenses and Mining Leases.

Statement***Status of Mining Leases for Iron Ore in Favour of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited/
Visakhapatnam Steel Plants on 15/04/2008***

Sl.No.	Lease Name	Type of Ore	Area (ha)	Reserve of Ore in the Mining Lease (in Million Tonnes)	Background/History of the Mining Lease
I.	Orissa				
1.	Mankamacha and Badamgarh Phar in Sundargarh District	Iron Ore (Haematite)	939.1427	71.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 19.11.2003 vide the application No. 1387
2.	Khajurdihi RF, Koida Block in Sundargarh District	Iron Ore (Haematite)	569.5600	150.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 19.11.2003 vide the Application No. 1419
3.	Khajurdihi RF, Jaidhi and Tantigram	Iron Ore (Haematite)	1246.0940	120.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 13.01.2004 vide the Application No. 1419
4.	Kadakala, Marsuan, Triba and Rakam	Iron Ore (Haematite)	1300.9300	120.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 16.01.2004 vide the Application No. 1025
5.	Khajurdihi RF Kensara and Batageon	Iron Ore (Haematite)	360.1540	50.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 06.08/2004 vide the Application No. 1555.
II.	Chhattisgarh				
6.	Raoghat, Narayanpur Division, Baslar District	Iron Ore (Haematite)	3975.00	255.00	Mining Lease application was filed on 09.12.2003 vide the Application No. 8
7.	Bailadila, Dantewada District	Iron Ore (Haematite)	631.34	327.24	Mining Lease application was filed on 23.09.2005 vide the Application No. 21
III.	Andhra Pradesh				
8.	Konijedu, Marlapadu, Sarvareddy palem and Errjerla villages in Tanguturu and Ongole Mandal of Praksam District (A.P)	Iron Ore (Haematite)	1307.27	52.00	A Mining Lease application was filed on 23.05.2004 vide the Application No. 1416
9.	Vemparala village, Addanki Mandal, Prakasam District (A.P)	Iron Ore (Haematite)	77.00	5.00	A Mining Lease application was filed on 20.06.2005 vide the Application No. 1733
10.	Raidurg Section of Obulapuram village (A P)	Iron Ore (Haematite)	304.19	To be prospected	Prospecting License has been filed vide the PL applicatin No. 4844/PL/06 Dated 30th October, 2006.

Welfare of Minorities Living in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4485. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking any measures for the welfare of the Minorities especially Christians living in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any complaints regarding the census related to Minorities particularly Christian population;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Government is committed to ensuring the welfare of the minorities in the country. The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which has specific programme interventions to improve the social, economic and educational status of minorities, including Christians, is a major step in this direction. A multi-sectoral development programme has also been formulated to address the development deficits of 90 identified backward districts, including the district of Nicobar.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

New Rail Line Between Maksi-Godhana

4486. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects under implementation by the Railways for laying new Maksi-Godhana rail line;

(b) the present cost of the said projects;

(c) the extent to which the work on said projects have been completed;

(d) whether the Railways have fixed any time limit for completion of these projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) The work of Godhra-Indore and Dewas-Maksi was included in the Railway Budget 1989-90 as one project. The work was taken up only on Dewas-Maksi section which has since been completed and commissioned. The clearance from the Government for Dahod-Indore was obtained in February, 2007. As Godhra-Dahod 3rd line was not required due to change in traffic scenario and coming up of Dedicated Freight Corridor, the scope of the work was modified as Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Dhar and Dewas-Maksi in the Railway Budget 2007-08 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 734.74 crore. Since Dewas-Maksi has been completed, the nomenclature of the work has further been modified as Dahod-Indore via Sardarpur, Jhabua, Dhar (200.97 kms) in the Railway Budget 2008-09 at a cost of Rs. 678.56 crore. The work would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

Jobs to the Kin of Rail Accidents Victims

4487. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kin of those killed in the train accidents have been given employment during 2007-08;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Vacant Posts in Grade C

4488. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Grade 'C' posts are lying vacant in the Railways;

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

(c) the time by which these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There are approximately 127745 posts in Grade 'C' lying vacant as on 29.02.2008 in Railways. Any large organization like the Railway will have vacancies at any point of time. Arising of vacancies is a continuous process on account of normal retirement, voluntary retirements, deaths, promotions etc.

(c) Filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. The direct recruitment quota vacancies are primarily filled up through open market recruitment by Railway Recruitment Boards. Zonal Railways also recruit fresh candidates through compassionate ground, cultural, sports, Scouts quotas etc. As regards promotional quota vacancies, Railways regularly process for filling up higher grade posts through selections, suitability tests etc.

National Institute of Food Technology

4489. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management;

(b) if so, the details of the objectives and functioning of the Institute; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Institute will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) is being set up a Kundli, District Sonapat, Haryana, as an international center of excellence to cater to the needs of the various stakeholders such as entrepreneurs,

industry, exporters, policy makers, government and existing institutions. The major objectives of setting up of NIFTEM are as under:

- (i) To be an apex academic institution in the areas of food technology, entrepreneurship and management for the development, design, updation and standardization of courses, training programmes, teaching methods and learning materials.
- (ii) To be an apex information resource center on aspects of food processing including information on products, technologies, management practices, food standards, markets etc.
- (iii) To be the apex Research & Development (R &D) institute in India in Foods & Beverages and coordinate all R & D efforts in this sector in the country. It will carry out R & D in frontier areas, develop world-class technologies and assist the Government in policy making on R &D.
- (iv) To play a pivotal role in developing food standards, quality, accreditation and certification; keeping a repository of international & national standards and also advising the Government on matters related to international food standards.
- (v) To provide incubator services to enable entrepreneurs to develop sustainable businesses, which can in turn catalyze the growth of food processing sector.

The institute has been incorporated as a 'Not for Profit' company under section 25 of the Indian Companies Act 1956 and will be governed by the Board of Directors. The institute will have functional organization structure, which can empower and motivate the scientists and faculty to establish global benchmarks in research and training toward the achievement of its objectives. The Institute is expected to begin academic activities from July 2009.

Discrepancy in the Dispatch and Receipt of Diesel and Lubricant Oils

4490. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is any discrepancy has been noticed in diesel and lubricant oils dispatched from Nava supply base of ONGC in Mumbai and received by its various installations located in offshore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of these items dispatched from Nava each month in the last three years;

(d) the quantity received by each installation located in offshore during the last three years;

(e) the steps taken for identifying the reasons for mismatch in quantity dispatched and actually received; and

(f) the action has been taken against the persons found responsible for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such discrepancy has been reported.

(c) The details are placed in enclosed statement-I

(d) The details are placed in enclosed statement-II

(e) No mismatch has been noted. However, the flow meters are installed on all supply vessels which are duly certified/calibrated as per their validities from Government approved agency.

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

Statement-I

Details of Fuel Oil Loaded from Nhava to OSVs for Delivery to Offshore Installations for Last 3 years.

Month	Quantity in KL		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
April	12438	13142	11622
May	12226	13551	12875
June	13995	12830	9877
July	12771	12818	8160
August	14677	14164	11443
September	12164	12324	9306
October	11679	13427	10405
November	12700	14320	10624
December	13834	10521	12650
January	18276	11467	12963
February	12540	10417	11862
March	14363	11406	12236
Total	161663	150387	134023

Statement-II*Year wise Receipt of High Flash Speed Diesel (HFHSD)*

Quantity in KL

Year	Issue from Nhava	Users										Total	Balance carried forward
		Mumbai High Asset	Neelam Heera Asset	Basin & Satellite Asset	Drilling Services	Well Services	Engineering Services	Geophysical Services	Inspection Maintenance & Repair	Marine Logistics			
2005-06	161663	2718	1922	1226	62310	5106	1091	3335	13513	64442	155863	6000	
2006-07	150387	4467	586	1704	53812	5647	1687	4619	12708	66833	152063	4324	
2007-08	134023	3830	382	1263	39944	7272	2041	4584	22685	53744	135755	2592	

*[Translation]***Opening of Petrol/Diesel/Kerosene Oil/LPG Outlets in U.P.**

4491. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of places in districts-Meerut, Ghaziabad, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Azamgarh, Mau, Jaunpur and Ghazipur, in Uttar Pradesh where the petrol/diesel/Kerosene oil/LPG outlets are proposed to be opened by various companies during the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-2011; and

(b) the time by when the process of inviting applications and the selection of dealers is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have freedom to set up retail outlet (RO) dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships as per their commercial consideration based on feasibility and economic viability of the selected locations. The selection of dealers/distributors are done by the OMCs in accordance with objective and transparent guidelines laid down by them for the purpose. The

location-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the concerned OMCs.

OMCs have reported that it is difficult to indicate a definite time-frame by when the locations will be advertised and the selection of dealers can take place since fresh advertisements for selection of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products can be done only on the completion of the process of feasibility studies, rostering/categorization of identified locations, etc. Moreover, land has to be obtained for locations where Corpus Fund Facility is applicable and only then advertisements can be released.

*[English]***Changes at IGI Airport**

4492. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently asked the Delhi International Airport (Private) Limited to make certain changes at Indira Gandhi International Airports IGIA's terminal for the convenience of the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has asked CISF and DIAL to work together to deal with traffic problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The on going renovation and modernization works at IGI airport, Delhi have been rescheduled with a view to implement them in phased manner so as to minimise inconvenience to passengers.

(c) and (d) To solve the traffic problems, CISF and DIAL work in tandem with the Delhi Police for achieving smooth traffic flow.

First Aid Treatment in Trains

4493. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have prepared an ambitious plan to ensure first aid treatment in the running train;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure its effective implementation?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in the Drug Prices Due to New Patent Laws

4494. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new patent laws are likely to result in many fold increase in the drug prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check such increase in the drug prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The Indian Patent Act has been amended w.e.f. 1.1.2005 to introduce the Product Patent

Regime. The Product Patent Regime may have been some impact on the prices of medicines having patent.

The Government has provided sufficient safeguards in the Patent Act to ensure that medicines which are being manufactured in India on the date when this Law come into force are continued to manufactured. Therefore the prices of these patented medicines are expected to be under check as a result of sufficient market competition in such cases.

It is estimated that over 95 percent of the drugs being produced in India are off-patent and would not be affected by the Introduction of product patent. Similarly the medicines included in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 are also off-patent and would not be affected by the product patent regime. The small number of drugs (less than 5 percent) which are likely to be covered under product and were under production in India on the date of introduction of new patent regime would continue to be produced in the country without any interruption. This has been ensured under the latest amendment in the Indian Patents Act, 1970. A reasonable royalty on the production of such drugs would become payable to the patent-holder company.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. Recently, the Government has reduced the price increase of a drug from 20% to 10% in a year.

[English]

Mini Dal Mills

4495. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides subsidy for setting up of mini dal mills in the country;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed in this regard;

(c) the details of the subsidy provided during 2007-08 to various mills in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the number of such mills set up in various States under the said subsidy scheme so far, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per 10th Plan Schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries implementing agencies desirous of setting up mini pulse processing units are eligible to get assistance up to 50% of the total cost of the equipment (for setting up of mini pulse processing unit) subject to a maximum of Rs. 35,000/- per/unit. The assistance is routed through Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI) Mysore who would help in identifying the eligible beneficiaries.

(c) No grant was released during 2007-08 in the absence of suitable proposals.

(d) During 1999 to 2002, 100 Mini Dal Mills were established in various states under the above scheme:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Dal Mills established
1.	Bihar	4
2.	Punjab	1
3.	Madhya Pradesh	3
4.	Maharashtra	10
5.	Rajasthan	5
6.	Uttar Pradesh	59
7.	Orissa	6
8.	Andhra Pradesh	5
9.	Karnataka	2
10.	Tamil Nadu	2
11.	West Bengal	1
12.	Manipur	2
Total		100

However in the 11th Plan Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant

in aid under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries including pulse processing units. Under this Scheme the Ministry extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. In order to ensure speedy disbursement of the financial assistance, the Ministry has decentralized the disbursement procedure through banks under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing industries w.e.f. 01.04.07. Besides, under Mini Mission IV of Technology Mission of Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, J & K, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, higher level of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4 crores for promotion of new units and upto Rs. 1 crore for upgradation/modernization of units is available for processing of horticulture produce.

Laxity in the Supervision of the Delhi Airport

4496. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is laxity in supervision in the Delhi Airport;

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

(c) whether more counters and entry gates are proposed to be opened at Delhi airport to ease the congestion; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure the condition of the airport is in order?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Following steps have been taken to facilitate passengers and ease the congestion at the Delhi airport:-

(i) Space for passenger movement and smooth operation has been increased by relocating Airline offices outside the International Terminal building;

- (ii) Modernisation activities have been rescheduled and are being implemented in a phased manner to minimise inconvenience to passengers;
- (iii) New flight information display boards have been installed to facilitate the passengers;
- (iv) An agency has been deployed at the international terminal to guide the passengers to respective check-in-counters;
- (v) Security check gates have been increased from 8 to 14. The immigration counters on the departure side are being increased from 28 to 44 and further to 52. On arrival side, the immigration counters are being increased from 28 to 48;
- (vi) Hand-baggage x-ray machines at international terminal have been increased from 8 to 12 which would further go upto 16 by June 2008. The check-in-counters would increase from 78 to 100 by June 2008.

Functioning of Punctuality Coordination Cell

4497. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
 SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
 SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:
 SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punctuality Coordination Cell has been functioning to monitor the State-owned carriers' punctuality;

(b) if so, the details alongwith its findings in the last two years in comparison to private carriers;

(c) whether any renewed efforts have been made by the Government to improve the punctuality of State-carriers vis a vis private carriers in the last three months;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Two Punctuality Coordination Cells viz. (i) Coordination Cell monitoring NACIL (I) Operations and (ii) Control Cell-

Mumbai Monitoring NACIL (A) Operations, have been functioning. The on-time performance (OTP) of erstwhile Air India during the last two years (2006-07 and 2007-08) ranged from 39% to 65% in the entire network, while in erstwhile Indian Airlines, it was 58.98% and 59.27% respectively.

(c) and (d) The following measures have been implemented by Air India to bring about improvement in on-time performance: (i) Consolidate flights, with a view to sustaining undisrupted and punctual operations; (ii) Continuous review of aircraft routing, delays, crew allocations etc. by senior executives with a view to achieving optimum utilisation of crew and substantial savings; (iii) a new base for crew was opened in Thiruvananthapuram; (iv) Enhance aircraft maintenance reserve; (v) A corporate level Control Room has been set up at Delhi headed by an Executive Director which will ultimately be integrated with the Hub Control set-up in Mumbai. The Control Room at Delhi, Hub Control at Mumbai and Regional Coordination Cell have a dedicated officer in each shift to regularly communicate with the Call Centre through Hot lines to keep them apprised of the flight status continuously; (vi) A mini Control Cell is being set up at Thiruvananthapuram to monitor flight operations; (vii) a Punctuality Coordination Cell has been functioning at Mumbai round-the-clock to coordinate various flight handling departments and ensure punctuality of flights.

(e) Does not arise.

Incident of Plane Crash Averted at Guwahati Airport

4498. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major crash was averted at Guwahati airport in the recent past;

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

(c) the emergency arrangements in place to face such a situation; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to avert such major crashes at the airports in the country?

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

There was a bird hit and tyre burst incident to Indian Airlines Kolkata-Guwahati flight No. IC 229 on 07.02.2008.

(c) Every airport has procedure documented to deal with all emergencies. Guwahati airport has an Aerodrome Emergency Plan (AEP) to cater to any emergency situation involving aircraft and its occupants. The AEP is updated periodically and drills are conducted to ensure effectiveness and preparedness of the plan.

(d) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

[Translation]

**Setting up of Crude Oil Reserves
by the Private Sector**

4499. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is necessary to open the crude oil reserves to private sector for increasing the production which was restricted to the Government organization, till date;

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

(c) whether any final decision has been taken the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this decision is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Hydrocarbon exploration is a capital intensive and knowledge based industry. In order to

accelerate exploration in the country, Government of India approved the New Exploration & Licensing Policy (NELP) in 1997 and it became effective in February, 1999. Since then licenses for exploration are being awarded only through a competitive bidding system and National Oil Companies (NOCs) are required to compete on an equal footing with Indian and foreign companies to secure Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs). Six rounds of bids have so far been invited under NELP, in which 162 exploration blocks have been awarded. In addition, 28 exploration blocks were signed prior to NELP. Under NELP, 58 oil and gas discoveries have already been made in Cambay onland, North East Coast, Cauvery and Krishna-Godavari deepwater areas, for development pains by the operators, viz., Cairn, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Niko are in progress. After implementation of NELP, no exploration block was awarded on nomination basis to any company. Under seventh round of NELP which was launched on 13th December 2007, Government is offering 57 exploration blocks. Bid closing date is 16th May 2008.

[English]

Inauguration of Devanahalli Airport

4500. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bengaluru Interantional Airport at Devanahalli is all set to take off and is likely to start within two months from now;

(b) if so, whether 95% of the work has been completed;

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

(d) whether the user development fee will be halved for the first two months after commercial flight operation commence on March 30, 2008; and

(e) if so, the details and the extent to which this will be helpful for passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The airport is almost ready for commissioning.

(d) and (e) M/s Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has been permitted to charge User Development Fee (UDF) @ Rs. 1070/- (inclusive of all taxes), on departing international passengers. No decision has yet been taken on UDF to be charged on departing domestic passengers.

Production of Stainless Steel

4501. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steel plants under Public Sector Undertakings producing stainless steel at present, with volume of production, plant-wise and location-wise;

(b) the total volume of the production that is being exported, plant-wise;

(c) the total demand for stainless steel in the domestic market;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the target of production of stainless steel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, the Alloy Steels Plant (ASP), Durgapur (West Bengal) is the only plant of the Steel Authority of India Limited's (SAIL) producing stainless steel. The ASP produced 21,800 tonnes stainless steel slabs during 2007-08.

The Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem (Tamil Nadu) of SAIL has a Rolling Mill for rolling stainless steel slabs to produce stainless steel flat products. At present, it does not have its own stainless steel production facility. It rolled 58788 tonnes of stainless steel products during 2007-08.

(b) At present no export of stainless steel is made from ASP. SSP exported 6153 tonnes stainless steel products during 2007-08.

(c) The Government is maintaining the database of alloy steel which includes stainless steel. There is no exclusive database for stainless steel. The domestic apparent consumption of alloy steel (including stainless steel) for the last five years is given below:

Apparent Consumption of Alloy Steel

(^{000 tonnes})

Years	Apparent consumption
2002-03	1780
2003-04	1950
2004-05	1988
2005-06	2248
2006-07	2455
2007-08 (Prov.)	2500

Apparent consumption may be considered as analogous to demand during the period.

(d) and (e) The current expansion plan of the Salem Steel Plant envisages stainless steel production through Steel Melting Shop to produce 180,000 tonnes per annum of stainless steel slabs. The saleable steel capacity of the plant will increase from 0.18 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) to 0.34 Mtpa after expansion.

[Translation]

Reservation Expressed by National Commission for Minorities

4502. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received recommendations from the National Commission for Minorities regarding the social and economic development of minorities under the 11th Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has information regarding reservation expressed by the Commission;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan prepared by the Government for the implementation of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI. A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) The Chairperson of the National

Commission for Minorities had written to the Prime Minister to advise the Planning Commission to introduce a minority sub-plan in the 11th Plan Period. The 11th Five Year Plan does not provide for a minority sub-plan.

[English]

Revival of Kulti Steel and IISCO

4503. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state.

- (a) whether revival of Kulti Steel has been completed;
- (b) if so, the expenditure incurred in the said revival project;
- (c) the extent to which capacity of Kulti Steel has been increased after the completion of the revival plan;
- (d) the details of status of revival of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) as on date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the said plan by 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Kulti Works has been separated from Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) and renamed as "SAIL Growth Works", Kulti and now operates as a separate unit of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). It has commenced operations in April, 2008 with the starting of the non-ferrous foundry alongwith associated facilities. An amount of Rs. 8.7 crore has been sanctioned for the repair and maintenance of existing equipments, machineries, etc. Since the facilities at the non-ferrous foundry, steel foundry and balancing facilities are being partially revived, as such there will be no increase in the capacity at " SAIL Growth Works", Kulti.

(d) and (e) The Expansion Plan of IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) has been approved by the SAIL Board. The engineering works is in progress and the site mobilization by contractors has commenced. For the timely completion

of the Expansion Plan of ISP, the Ministry of Steel and SAIL are regularly monitoring the progress made in the implementation of various packages of the expansion plan. Further, the project is monitored on a monthly basis by the Plant Level Standing Committee, which reports to the Managing Director.

[Translation]

Allotment of Land for Exploration of Oil

4504. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

- (a) whether recently international companies engaged in the exploration of oil have asked the Government to allot land in various States especially in Bihar for digging wells in 3 to 5k.m. area for the exploration of oil and have submitted detailed proposal for the said project; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government of India has awarded 1 exploratory block namely GV-ONN-2002/1 in the state of Bihar to M/s Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. So far, operator has carried out 37,746 Line Kilometre (LKM) of Aeromagnetic survey and 500 LKM of 2D seismic and proposes to drill 1 exploratory well, for which operator has approached the district authority for acquisition of land in Darbhanga district in the State of Bihar.

[English]

Air Passengers Stranded at the Airport

4505. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Air India has left behind nearly 100 passengers stranded at the Rajasansi International Airport as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated March 31, 2008.

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to investigate the matter and to take corrective measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PHAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The flight in question, AI-187 of 30th March, 2008 from Amritsar to Toronto, was overbooked in Economy Class and 58 passengers had to be offloaded. The offloaded passengers were re-booked on the first available flight to Birmingham/Toronto and sent home with reimbursement of transportation charges.

(c) and (d) As per industry practice, airlines overbook their flights to optimize utilization of capacity, as all passengers booked on a flight do not turn up at the airport. However, at times more passengers than expected to turn up and the airline has no option but to resort to offloading. However, for passengers holding tickets, paid in Indian Rupees, for destinations to USA, UK and Europe, compensation is granted in the form of a miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO), which can be used for future transportation.

**Dividend Paid by the Public Sector
Oil Companies**

4506. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dividend remittance by some oil companies is decreasing year after year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the oil companies are spending huge sum on administrative expenses resulting in less dividend to the Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or directions issued by the Government to the oil companies to restrict or reduce their administrative expenses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) The details of dividend remitted to Government by the Oil Companies from 2005-06 onwards are given in the enclosed statement. There is no year after year reduction in remittance of dividend. Some Oil Companies have remitted less dividend in certain years due to the burden of under-recoveries on account of spiralling international crude oil prices.

(c) The administrative expenses of the Oil Companies are in tune with their requirements and they have not resulted in less dividend to the Government.

(d) Government has, from time to time, issued instructions to the Oil Companies to observe utmost economy in their administrative expenses.

Statement

Name of Oil PSU	Amount of Dividend remitted to Government for the years:		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
ONGC	4757.22	4968.65	4915.79
IOC	958.08	1772.45	1245.50
BPCL	148.95	168.81	198.59
GAIL	484.94	484.93	290.95
HPCL	173.09	155.77	207.71
OIL	598.50	556.50	425.01
EIL	53.31	43.14	50.77

Agreement with Turkmenistan

4507. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government of India and Turkmenistan in MoU on cooperation in oil and gas in Turkmenistan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to sign agreement with Turkmenistan on cooperation in oil and gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Ministry of Oil/Gas Industry and Mineral Resources of Turkmenistan was signed in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 5th April, 2008 during the visit of Uprashtrapatiiji to Turkmenistan. The objective of the MoU is to establish a cooperative institutional relationship to develop bi-lateral cooperation in the field of oil and gas.

(c) to (e) India is pursuing import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Meetings of the Technical Working Group and Steering Committee of the participating countries are taking place in Islamabad, Pakistan from 21st April, 2008.

New LPG Connections

4508. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints that certain dealers of LPG are not accepting applications for new gas connections in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter genuine domestic customers.

IOC has detected a case of not accepting application for new gas connection by a LPG distributorship in Delhi in the month of April, 2007. Action against the erring distributorship was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

[Translation]

Profit/Loss by Instrumentation Limited

4509. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the business transacted by the Instrumentation Limited, Kota during the last three years alongwith the current year;

(b) the year-wise details of the profit/loss incurred by the said institute during the above period; and

(c) the year-wise details of the payable and the paid salary to the employees of the said institute during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) Details of the business transacted (turnover) and net loss incurred by the company during the last three years and those for the current year are as under:-

Year	(Rupees in crore)	
	Turnover	Net Loss
2005-06	219.98	(-) 24.50
2006-07	228.34	(-) 27.80
2007-08 (Provisional)	250.00	(-) 24.05

Since the current year has just started, details of turnover and profit/loss of the company for the year cannot be assessed at this stage.

(c) Year-wise details salary/wages other statutory dues payable and the amount paid during 2005-06 to 2007-08 were as under:-

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Amount due	Amount paid
2005-06	37.41	34.41
2006-07	38.92	38.92
2007-08 (Provisional)	38.50	30.61

[English]

New Rail Line and Introduction of Beach Express

4510. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to lay a new railway line and introduction of 'Beach Express' along the East Coast viz. Chennai-Mahabalipuram-Puducherry-Kanyakumari-Tuticorin;

(b) if so, whether the Railways have conducted any feasibility study on the issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) On the suggested alignment, new line work for Chennai-Mahabalipuram-Puducherry-Cuddalore has been included in the Railway Budget 2008-09 after conducting a survey. The cost of this 179.28 km long new line has been assessed as Rs. 523.52 crore.

On the balance portion, surveys for new lines for Karaikudi-Ramanathapuram-Tuticorin and Rameshwaram (Ramanathapuram)-Tuticorin-Kanyakumari have been taken up in the Railway Budget 2008-09.

Beside, metre gauge line from Cuddalore to Karaikudi-Manamadurai is already existing and its gauge conversion has already been sanctioned under different projects and works are in various stages.

As the suggested new line is yet to be established, there is no proposal to introduce Beach Express.

Commercial Plantation of Jatropha

4511. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing policy of the Railways with regard to commercial plantation of Jatropha;

(b) whether the Railways propose to enter into Joint Venture (JV) partnership with private companies for commercial plantation of jatropha;

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

(d) the sites identified for Jatropha plantation in the joint venture; and

(e) the revenue likely to be earned by the Railways from this policy annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There is no specific policy with regard to commercial plantation of Jatropha. However, Railways have a general policy with respect to commercial plantation including Jatropha on such vacant land, which is not immediately required for Railways immediate operational use. Railways has been entered into joint venture with Indian Oil Corporation (a Government company) for plantation of jatropha on 500 hectares of vacant land on nominal licence fees of Rs. 1 per hectare and re-purchase of bio-diesel at mutually agreed concessional rates. Apart from this, commercial plantation for jatropha has been initiated for 45 sites (25 on North-Eastern Railway and 18 sites on South-Central Railway). Assessment of revenue earnings can be done after actual yield on maturity of jatropha plants at the site.

[Translation]

Availability of Land for Development of Indore Airport

4512. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land available and required for the expansion of Devi Ahilya Airport, Indore;

(b) whether the Union Government has asked the State Government to provide additional land for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Apart from 770.60 acres of land presently available, Airports Authority of India has requested the State Government to provide additional land measuring 2345.2 acres for development/expansion of Indore airport, in two phases, for various airport development related works. The response of State Government, is awaited.

Scholarships to the Students of Minority Community

4513. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched pre-matric scholarship scheme for providing 25 lakhs scholarships to the students belonging to Minority Community w.e.f. 1st April, 2008;

(b) if so, the status of the implementation of the scheme State-wise;

(c) the amount of pre-matric scholarship to be granted, class-wise; and

(d) the amount of post-matric scholarship for the students of medical and engineering courses?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to give wide publicity to the scheme and invite applications from eligible students.

(c) The scheme of pre-matric scholarship provides for reimbursement of admission fee of Rs. 500% per annum, and tuition fee and Rs. 350/- per month, subject to actuals, both for day-scholars and hostellers of class VI to X. It also provides for payment of maintenance allowance, for ten months in a year, at the rate of Rs. 600/- per month for hostellers of class VI to X and Rs. 100/- per month for day-scholars of class I to X.

(d) Medical and engineering courses are not covered under the scheme of post-matric scholarship for students belonging to the minority communities.

[English]

District Disability Rehabilitation Centre

4514. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) functioning in the country, State-wise, as on 31st March, 2008;

(b) whether Government has proposed to set up more DDRCs in the country, during 2008-09;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As on 31st March, 2008, 160 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres are functioning in the country.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal is under consideration.

(d) So far Rs. 9.84 crore has been sanctioned/spent under the programme.

Awarding Tenders on Nomination Basis

4515. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tenders costing more than 50 lakh awarded on nomination basis by ONGC during the last three years;

(b) the policy under which PSUs are allowed to award tenders on nomination basis; and

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Government to monitor the system of awarding such tenders by ONGC and other PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translations]

National Tourism Advisory Council

4516. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the National Tourism Advisory Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of meetings of the Council held so far; and

(d) the issues discussed in the said meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The National Tourism Advisory Council (NTAC) was reconstituted in March 2008, with Hon'ble Minister for Tourism & Culture as Chairperson and individual experts in the field of Tourism, representatives of industry associations, and senior officers of the concerned Ministries of the Government as members. The first meeting of the reconstituted NTAC was held on 12th March, 2008. The main issues discussed in the meeting were the promotion of eco and rural tourism, tax incentives for hotels and other infrastructure facilities, granting of visa-on-arrival, safety and security of tourists, improvement in connectivity to important tourist destinations in the country, etc.

Non-Payment of Dues by the Oil Companies

4517. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be paid by various petroleum companies in Delhi to each of the transporters under the transport head as on 31st March, 2008;

(b) the reasons behind non-payment of dues of each transporter; and

(c) the time by which the Government/Companies are likely to make the payment of dues each transporter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has withheld a total amount of Rs. 6,21,755 in respect of 4 oil-products transporters as these transporters are alleged to be involved in suspect malpractices.

In case of HPCL, payment of Rs. 69,83,575.18 is pending in respect of 65 transporters for want of details like Banks Account Number and Pan Card Number, On receipt of these details, the amount will be paid to these transporters through electronic payments directly to their bank accounts.

[English]

Excess Pilots/Co-Pilots in Indian Airlines

4518. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Indian Airlines has been suffering huge financial losses since the latest several years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether Indian Airlines operates maximum 55 flight daily from Delhi whereas nearly 300 pilots/co-pilots are stationed here;

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

(e) whether excess pilots/co-pilots are also the factors responsible for losses of IA; and

(f) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir Erstwhile Indian Airlines had earned profit of Rs. 65.61 crore during the year 2003-04 and Rs. 49.50 crore during the year 2005-06. However, as per the audited accounts for the year 2006-07, the total loss suffered by erstwhile Indian Airlines was Rs. 240.29 crores.

(c) and (d) National Aviation Company of Indian Limited (NACIL-I) operates a maximum 59 flights (under IC code) daily from Delhi and has 266 pilots/co-pilots

available in Northern Region, Delhi. The number of flights operated out of Delhi varies from season to season and time to time, as many unscheduled flights like VIP/VVIP charter, extra section flights, army charter flights etc. are also operated out of Delhi.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There is no direct relationship between Pilot/co-Pilots and losses of erstwhile Indian Airlines. However, Pilots are positioned at a station keeping in mind factors like Flight and Duty time Limitations as laid down by DGCA from time to time, agreement signed with Pilots Association, Training requirements for special airfields, for operating additional/extra section flights etc.

Sudden Dense Fog at IGI Airport

4519. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that an 'unseasonal and untimely' fog wrecked havoc at Delhi Airport recently and thereby delaying more than 60 flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme to control such type of situation in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There was un-seasonal and untimely fog experienced on 9.3.2008 between 0612 to 1032 hours at IGI Airport Delhi which resulted in cancellation of two flights and diversion of 14 flights.

(c) and (d) Fog is a natural phenomenon, which normally occurs during the winter months of December to February. however, occurrence of fog is dependent on climate and as such there are no known means to control/restrain the same.

(e) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, New Delhi, which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range [RVR] of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All

airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with aircrafts and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions.

Single Window Flight Enquiry System

4520. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether people have to go counter to counter to enquire about the next immediate flight to any destination as all airline companies provide details of their own flight schedule only; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide a single window flight enquiry system to find out flight departures at the Airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While Airline operators have flight details of their own airline only, flight information display boards have been installed at all major airports. These display boards, which are put up at convenient locations at the airports, provide information regarding all departing flights within next one hour.

Financial Assistance for Rural Tourism

4521. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for infrastructure development in the rural sites to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the activities in the rural sites supported through the Government of India and United Nation's Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project and the Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry; and

(d) the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CAF) to the State Governments/Union Territories for infrastructure development in rural sites having tourism potential under

the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits. Community participation and capacity building including skill upgradation in such rural sites are being supported through Government of India—United Nations Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Projects and Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry. The objective is to showcase rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations and in villages. Artisans from several rural tourism sites have showcased their products through participation in fairs and festivals such as Deepawali Deep Utsav at Delhi Haat, Indian International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, Toshali Mega Craft Mele and Shopping Festival, Bhubaneswar etc. Both domestic and international tourists have already started visiting rural tourism sites.

The Year of Cleanliness 2007, by the Railways

4522. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cleanliness complaints have went up many times in 2007, the year Indian Railways observed as the Year of Cleanliness;

(b) if so, whether the data available with the Ministry zone-wise shows that complaints of cleanliness in coaches went up by 400% in north east zone, cleanliness at stations by 350% in north, cleanliness at stations by 200% in south, cleanliness in coaches by 136% in central zone in 2007;

(c) if so, whether in addition to the complaints of cleanliness, there had been lot of complaints about poor quality of bed rolls, bribery and corruption, allotment of seats, thefts, reservation issues and catering and vending services;

(d) if so, the main reasons for these complaints; and

(e) the action the Railways have taken on these complaints?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some complaints of deficiency in the service of bedrolls like poor washing, supply of used/torn linen etc., bribery and corruption in allotment of seats, thefts, reservation issues on account of some unscrupulous elements and unsatisfactory services of catering and vending regarding poor quality and quantity of food to notice.

(e) Frequent inspections are conducted by Railway Officers at different levels for monitoring such services and for taking remedial action as warranted. Suitable action is taken against the defaulting licensees and staff found responsible for any shortcomings.

[Translation]

Increase in the Prices of Raw Materials

4523. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the value of total sale made by the Steel Authority of India Limited during the last three years;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the prices of raw materials in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) The value of total sale made by Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Amt. (Rs. in Crore)
2004-05	31805
2005-06	32280
2006-07	39189
9M 2007-08	30026

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The prices of different raw materials procured by SAIL have increased significantly in the range of 53.6% to 349.5% between the period 2004-05 and 2008-09. The main reasons for the increase in raw material prices are mismatch between demand and supply, upward trend in international prices, increase in the transportation cost etc. The details of price increase of the raw materials, procured by SAIL are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The Government has taken the following measures to stabilize the prices of steel making raw materials in the country:-

- (i) The import duties on steel making inputs have been reduced over the years and also exempted in case of coking coal. In case of iron ore it has been reduced to 2%.
- (ii) In the Union Budget 2008-09, the import duty on melting scrap has been reduced from 5% to NIL.
- (iii) In order to ease the supply of iron ore to

domestic steel producers the Government has imposed an export duty at the rate of Rs. 300 per tonnes on export of all varieties of iron ore lumps. Export duty has also been imposed an export duty at the rate of Rs. 300 per tonne on export of iron ore fines with more than 62% Fe content and at the rate of Rs. 50 per tonne on export of iron ore fines with less than 62% Fe content.

Statement

Rates at which SAIL has procured Raw Materials

Raw Material	2008-09 %+- Over 2004-05	2008-09 Current Rate (Rs. /T)	2004-05 Rate (Rs. /T)
Coal: Imported	202.3%	14982	4956
Indigenous	56.8%	5457	3480
Iron Ore	77.3%	894	504
Lime Stone	55.4%	1861	1198
Dolomite	69.8%	892	525
Nickel	102.6%	1280000	831922
Fe Manganese	349.5%	1777725	39542
Fe Silicon	197.0%	113926	33361
Silco Mangense	331.5%	154940	35907
Zinc	112.5%	135300	63673
Tin	100.7%	953453	475000
Aluminum	53.6%	140910	91710

[English]

United Nations Development Programme

4524. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had committed for tourism development projects in India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements has been signed in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the details of the tourism projects running with the assistance of UNDP at present, State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of funds spent and the funds to be allocated by the UNDP for these project?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The

Government of India and the United Nations Development Programme have signed an agreement to prepare master plan for Integrated and Sustainable Development of Tourism in the State of Uttarakhand, Orissa and West Bengal in 2007-08. An amount of US\$ 6,53,000 has been allocated for the same. So far two installments each equivalent to 25% of the total allocation has been utilized.

Besides this, the United Nations Development Programme has also provided assistance under Government of India-United Nations Development Programme Endogenous Tourism Project for capacity building of local communities of 36 rural tourism sites. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Statewise Projects Sanctioned During 10th Plan Under GoI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Name of the Project	Name of Distt.	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Pochampalli	Nalgonda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
	2. Srikalahasti	Chittoor	2004-05	19.80	19.80
2. Assam	3. Durgapur,	Golaghat	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	4. Sualkuchi	Kamrup	2004-05	19.95	19.95
3. Bihar	5. Nepura	Nalanda	2004-05	20.00	16.00
4. Chhattisgarh	6. Chitrakote,	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	7. Nagamar	Bastar	2004-05	20.00	20.00
5. Gujarat	8. Hodka	Kachchh	2004-05	20.00	20.00
6. Haryana	9. Jyotisar,	Kurukshetra	2004-05	20.00	20.00
7. Himachal Pradesh	10. Naggur,	Kullu	2004-05	20.00	20.00
8. Karnataka	11. Banavasi	Uttara Kannada	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	12. Anegundi	Koppal	2005-06	20.00	20.00
9. Kerala	13. Kumbalangi	Eamakulam	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	14. Amamula,	Pathanamthitta	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	15. Kalady (Spice Circuit)	Eamakulam	2005-06	20.00	16.00
10. Madhya Pradesh	16. Anakkara (Spice Circuit)	Idukki	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	17. Pranpur	Ashok Nagar	2004-05	20.00	20.00
11. Maharashtra	18. Chaugan,	Mandia	2004-05	20.00	20.00
	19. Sulibhanjan-Khultabad	Aurangabad	2004-05	20.00	20.00

	1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Orissa	20. Raghurajpur,	Puri	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		21. Pipili	Puri	2004-05	20.00	20.00
13.	Punjab	22. Rajasansi	Amritsar	2004-05	20.00	20.00
14.	Rajasthan	23. Neemrana,	Alwar	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		24. Samode	Jaipur	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		25. Haldighati	Rajsamand	2004-05	19.32	15.45
15.	Sikkim	26. Lachen	North Diest.	2004-05	20.00	20.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	27. Kazhugumalai	Thoothukudi	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		28. Karaikudi,	Sivaganaga	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		29. Kombai (Spice Circuit)	Theni	2005-06	20.00	20.00
		30. Thadiyankudisai (Spice Circuit)	Dindigul	2005-06	20.00	16.00
17.	Tripura	31. Kamlaagar,	West Tripura	2004-05	20.00	20.00
18.	Uttaranchal	32. Jageshwar,	Almora	2005-06	20.00	20.00
		33. Mana		2004-05	20.00	20.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	34. Bhaguwala	Saharanpur	2004-05	19.75	19.75
20.	West Bengal	35. Ballabhpur Danga,	Birbhum	2004-05	20.00	20.00
		36. Mukutmonipur	Bankura	2004-05	20.00	20.00

Contracts for Importing Raw Materials

4525. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether large steel manufactures have been tying up for natural resources across the world to meet their requirement of raw materials;

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

(c) the name of Indian steel manufacturers so far signed contracts with various countries to import raw materials; and

(d) the extent to which such import of raw material has been responsible for price-rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has given approval for formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Coal India Limited (CIL), National Minerals Development Corporation (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) for securing metallurgical cost and thermal coal assets in overseas territories for meeting the requirements of raw material of these companies. Acquisition of coking coal assets would be done by the proposed SPV have commenced with the identification of suitable resources in various countries.

(c) SAIL and RINL imports metallurgical coking coal and Low Silica Limestone from various countries and have long term and short term contracts for import of these items.

(d) Raw material comprises a substantial part of the cost of production of steel. The impact of increase in the

price of raw material resources will differ from producer to producer, depending on the technology as well as the availability of captive raw material resources. The raw material cost per tonne of crude steel, in the case of some of the major steel producers, based on the information published in their website is as under:

Cost of Raw Materials per tonne of Crude Steel

(Rs/tonne)

Name of the producer	Jan-Mar, 2007	April-June, 2007	July-September, 2007	October-December, 2007
Steel Authority of India Ltd.	9131	8822	8902	8886
Tata Steel Ltd.	7635	7796	6977	8340
JSW Ltd	14750	15274	15383	16530

Tatkal System

4526. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation quota under the Tatkal Scheme has been raised in important trains recently whereas the number of berths under the Headquarters/emergency quota under the Railway Board, Railway Headquarters and Railway Division have been curtailed;

(b) if so, the class-wise details of the increase in the reservation quota under the Tatkal scheme, and the decrease under the Headquarters quota in each train; and

(c) the details of the benefits accruing to the Railways with this arrangement?

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

Agreement with China

4527. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether China and India have reached to an agreement to allow airlines of both countries beyond points;

(b) if so, whether India has same agreement with other countries but in absence of international flights by its airlines the other countries gain the most;

(c) if so, whether the agreement with China is likely to meet the same fate in absence of airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government to reap the benefits of this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. During the recently held bilateral air services talks between India and China on 19-20 March, 2008 in New Delhi, it was agreed that the Indian designated carriers may operate beyond China to San Francisco in USA.

(b) Traffic rights for international air services operations are specified in the Route Schedule attached with Bilateral Air Services Agreement with foreign countries specifying points of origin, points of destinations, intermediate and beyond points. Airlines are free to mount services as per the respective Route Schedule and as per their commercial judgement.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted Jet Airways to operate daily services on Mumbai-Shanghai-San Francisco route after reaching an agreement with Chinese side to have San Francisco as beyond point for Indian carriers.

New Rail Line in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4528. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to start the construction of new railway line in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) An updating survey for construction of rail line in Andaman & Nicobar Islands was conducted during 2002-03. The cost of construction of 250 Kms. long broad gauge line from Port Blair to Diglipur was assessed as Rs. 867.45 crore with negative rate of return. In view of unremunerative nature of the line and constraint of resources, the proposed new line was not taken up.

India as a Competitive Refining Destination

4529. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to promote India as a competitive refining destination;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether India had started earning from exports of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a private or public sector enterprise, depending on the promoters' assessment of its commercial viability. In view of India's emerging position as an exporter of petroleum products and with the envisaged refining capacity of 240 MMTPA at the end of Eleventh Plan, far

exceeding the domestic demand, the Indian refineries have the potential to emerge as a competitive refining destination for export of petroleum products.

(c) and (d) The details of earnings on account of exports of petroleum products by various oil companies during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Export	
	Quantity (MMT)	Earnings (Rs. Crore)
2004-05	18.2	29928
2005-06	23.5	49974
2006-07	33.6	81094
2007-08 (Provisional)	39.33	106999

Population of SCs Below Poverty Line

4530. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

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

(a) the percentage of people of SCs who are below the poverty line in various States during 2006-07 and 2007-08;

(b) the percentage of SCs population benefited by various schemes of the Government during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to bring them at par with the people of other communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) As per the latest information available, a State-wise statement showing percentage of SC population below Poverty line in 2004-05 is given below:

Sl.No.	States	Rural	Urban
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.4	39.9
2.	Assam	27.7	8.6

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar	64.0	67.2
4.	Chhattisgarh	32.7	52.0
5.	Delhi	0.0	35.8
6.	Gujarat	21.8	16.0
7.	Haryana	26.8	33.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	19.6	5.6
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.2	13.7
10.	Jharkhand	57.9	47.2
11.	Karnataka	31.8	50.6
12.	Kerala	21.6	32.5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42.8	67.3
14.	Maharashtra	44.8	43.2
15.	Orissa	50.2	72.6
16.	Punjab	14.6	16.1
17.	Rajasthan	28.7	52.1
18.	Tamil Nadu	31.2	40.2
19.	Uttar Pradesh	44.8	44.9
20.	Uttarakhand	54.2	65.7

1	2	3	4
21.	West Bengal	29.5	28.5
	All India	36.8	39.9

(b) and (c) Following schemes are being implemented for economic development of Scheduled Castes:

- Special Central Assistance (SCA) to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) 100% grant is given as an additive to the Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) to the States/UTs.
- National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSCFDC) provides credit facilities at concessional rates of interest to SCs living below double the poverty line, for income generating Scheme;
- National Safai Karmcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) provides credit facilities at concessional rates to Safai Karmacharis and their dependents for income generating activities.

In addition, the Central Government also provides equity Share support to the State Scheduled Caste Development Corporation (SCDCs) in ratio of 49:51. The SCDCs are playing an important role in providing credit and missing inputs by way of subsidy and margin money loans to the target group.

A statement showing the number of beneficiaries under these schemes of the Government during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of beneficiaries assisted out of Special Central Assistance funds		No. of beneficiaries assisted through NSCFDC		No. of beneficiaries assisted through NSKFDC	
		2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	165950	75879	45059	4590	11645	2825
2.	Assam	9922	6906	200	145	0	0
3.	Bihar	NR	NR	680	310	0	1566
4.	Chhattisgarh	NR	NR	54	444	1085	12
5.	Gujarat	6834	NR	2701	4603	3029	5345

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Goa	NR	NR	7	1	-	-
7.	Haryana	16032	922	210	148	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	62818	NR	1218	1039	1448	11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	NR	NR	215	125	0	17
10.	Jharkhand	NR	NR	740	1010	500	0
11.	Karnataka	NR	NR	4780	4997	2332	0
12.	Kerala	NR	NR	1239	1004	0	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10286	NR	2059	4120	1012	3089
14.	Maharashtra	17753	3606	2079	8218	123	1201
15.	Manipur	NR	NR	0	0	0	0
16.	Orissa	14115	NR	225	290	690	0
17.	Punjab	3116	8079	616	838	62	52
18.	Rajasthan	49447	22532	934	856	419	572
19.	Sikkim	121	NR	168	72	-	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	141388	17077	2198	5173	0	0
21.	Tripura	1086	NR	156	255	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh	82040	67704	9092	50	1268	0
23.	Uttaranchal	3563	173	1	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	NR	NR	7487	7363	82	0
25.	Chandigarh	NR	NR	82	54	15	0
26.	Delhi	52	NR	200	333	0	0
27.	Pondicherry	NR	NR	0	534	13	115
Total		584503	202878	82400	46390	23721	14785

NR=Not Reported

*[Translation]***Revival of Instrumentation Ltd., Kota**

4531. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether entry of multinational companies has been cited as one of the reasons for the sickness of Instrumentation Limited, Kota;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any preventive measures in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to revive the company alongwith the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Competition from both domestic and multinational companies is one of the reasons for the sickness of Instrumentation Ltd, Kota.

(b) and (c) As per policy of the Government, Public Sector Enterprises are also expected to work in a competitive environment.

(d) Package for revival of the company as a whole is under active consideration of the Government.

[English]

VAT Holiday Package

4532. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have been any proposal to launch VAT Holiday package to attract Indian and foreign tourists in the country;

(b) if so, the details of destinations identified for the same;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the same to all the parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of number of tourists likely to avail the facility and the revenue likely to be generated to the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI. R VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd., Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, is already operating 80 package tours to various tourist destinations in the country. Development and implementation of new packages/destinations is a continuous process and additions are made regularly.

(d) During the last one year, 7050 people have availed this facility giving a revenue of Rs. 74,13,862/-to the Railways.

Konkan Railway Institute of Staff Training

4533. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Institute of Staff Training has evolved any new technique to avoid rail accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether its utility has been proved by post research testing;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action plan prepared by the Railways for its all round use in the country; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Railways for using this new technique?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Jabalpur Airport

4534. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided land free of cost for the development of Jabalpur Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether development works like terminal building, night landing facility, etc. have been completed after getting the land;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has provided 30 acres of land for development of Jabalpur Airport.

(c) to (e) Terminal Building has already been completed and is in use. Provision of Runway edge lights, apron & taxiway edge have been planned for the current financial year. Additionally, provision of Approach Lighting System and further extension of runway have also been planned which require additional land from the State Government free of cost and free from encumbrances.

[English]

Survey of Bulk Drug Prices

4535. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has recently done the survey of Bulk Drug Prices in the market;

(b) if so, whether the Bulk Drugs have been sold at prices which are 20% to 75% lower than the Notified prices;

(c) if so, the details, the name of the medicines, the Notified prices and the market prices;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to reduce the prices of the Bulk Drugs so that the prices of formulations are also reduced by the NPPA;

(e) whether the NPPA has come across with the invoices of lower prices submitted by formulations manufacturers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (f) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has not conducted any specific survey of bulk drug prices in the market. However, NPPA monitors the trend of bulk drug prices on the basis of "Chemical Weekly" (a weekly magazine).

In those cases where manufactures do not furnish requisite data to fix/revise the price and the price of any bulk is found to be lower than the notified price as per "Chemical Weekly", NPPA invokes para 11 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 to reduce the prices.

NPPA has come across two instances where the formulators of Analgin and Chloroquine Phosphate have claimed lower prices than the notified price in their form-III applications.

[Translation]

Allotment of Gas Agencies in the Rural Areas

4536. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised a scheme to effect major changes in the existing rules for allotment of domestic gas agencies in order to increase the availability of domestic gas in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining an independent distributorship. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plan of covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized 1340 locations in the country for setting up of new LPG distributorships mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for the same have since been released.

The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of suitable locations, arranging land for setting up of godowns, obtaining statutory clearances, etc.

[English]

Hotel Rooms

4537. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tourists expected during the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India;

(b) whether the Government has made assessment about the requirement of hotel rooms in NCR Delhi during the Games;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has chalked out any action plan to meet the demand of hotel rooms;

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

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to implement the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No estimate has been made regarding the number of tourists expected to arrive in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the Commonwealth Games 2010. However, 90,000 visitors visited Melbourne during the Melbourne Games.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tourism has assessed the approx. 40,000 rooms in the NCR Delhi would be required to meet the demand of the Commonwealth Games 2010.

(d) to (f) Ministry of Tourism is in constant touch with the various Land Owning Agencies like Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Urban Development, DDA, etc. to identify additional hotel sites and monitor the construction of hotels. These agencies and the State Governments of the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have also been advised to follow investor friendly land policies and a single window approach for promoting hotel projects and also for allotting sites on revenue sharing basis, granting extra FSI/FAR for hotels.

Pension for Artists

4538. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides pension of the persons belonging to the field of Arts;

(b) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the criteria fixed to award such pension;

(c) the names of person receiving central pension for 'Man of Arts' at present during 2007-08, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to award such pension to more persons from Tribal communities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Financial assistance is provided under the "Scheme of financial assistance to persons distinguished in letters, arts and such other walks of life, who may be in indigent circumstances and their dependents." To be eligible under the scheme, a person should have attained the age of 58 years and the personal income of the applicant (including income of the spouse) must not exceed Rs. 2000/- per month. His/her contribution to art and letter etc. must be of significance. The Government has bifurcated the scheme into two parts viz. (1) Central Quota and (2) Centre-State/UT Quota. Under the Central Quota the beneficiary is given an assistance of Rs. 2000/- per month by the Central Government and under the Centre-State/UT-Quota the amount of assistance is shared by the Centre and the State Government/UT Administration concerned in the ratio of 3:1 i.e. Centre pays Rs. 1500/- per month and balance Rs. 500/- per month is borne by the concerned State Government.

(c) Depending upon the furnishing of Life and Income certificate, the financial assistance was released to 1091 persons under this scheme during 2007-08, the state wise list of which is placed as statement.

(d) Financial assistance is sanctioned on receipt of the applications and their consideration by the Expert Committee.

Statement

State-wise Number of Beneficiaries to Whom Financial Assistance was Released During 2007-08

Karnataka	147
Andhra Pradesh	125
Orissa	155
West Bengal	45
Uttar Pradesh	158
Uttarakhand	7
Bihar	28
Jharkhand	8
Assam	25

Meghalaya	2
Tripura	1
Tamil Nadu	27
Goa	11
Manipur	62
Pondichery	9
Haryana	19
Madhya Pradesh	27
Gujarat	5
Rajasthan	3
Punjab	3
Delhi	27
Himachal Pradesh	1
Kerala	115
Maharashtra	81
Total	<u>1091</u>

Karnataka

1. Basave Gowda
2. B.S. Ramchar
3. Channa Basaiah Gubbi
4. D.R. Rajagopala
5. H. Mahaboob Ali
6. K.B. Shivaraja
7. Komalamma Kottur
8. K. Veeraiah Swamy
9. L.M. Halaiah
10. M. Shanmukhaiah Swamy
11. M.B. Gangamma
12. N. Narahari
13. N. Sathyavathi
14. Pandit Manikrao Raichukar
15. R. Javara Setty

16. Somashekhara Gowda Kunnatgi
17. Susheelamma
18. Seehanarayana
19. S. Vasantha Krishna
20. V.R. Vrishabhendra
21. A. Sarvothama Shet
22. A.M. Halaiah
23. Arate Manjunatha
24. Abdulsab M. Annigeri
25. Basamma
26. Bharathi
27. Belagallu Veeranna
28. B.M. Sunder Rao
29. B.R. Nirmala
30. C. Kempanna
31. C.B. Patil
32. C.B. Chandrashekher
33. D. Gajanan Bhandari
34. G. Doddasiddaiah
35. G.M. Bhaaskaracharya
36. Ganapati Subray Hegde
37. G.R. Ramachandra
38. G.M. Basavarajashahty
39. Gopal G. Kotiah
40. G.R. Manjula
41. H. Venkataramana Ganiga
42. H.N. Hoogar
43. H.N. Madaiah
44. H.B. Sarojama
45. H. Mariyanna
46. Haradi Mahabala Ganiga
47. Hakkandi Kotreshappa
48. Ibrahim

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 49. Ismail Sultan Gaddekar | 82. PR Srinivasa Moorthy |
| 50. Jyotiba Bheemappa Pawar | 83. Paragi Durugamma |
| 51. Jayalakshmi M. Inamdar | 84. Ramachandra Subraya Hegade |
| 52. K. Gunda Jois | 85. Ramakrishna Nayak |
| 53. K. Susheela | 86. R. Mahadevappa |
| 54. Kashibai Bhootappagol | 87. Ratnamma |
| 55. K. N. Basavraj | 88. S. Nanjundaiah |
| 56. Kalasree M.B. Buden Sab | 89. Somashekharayya S Hiremath |
| 57. Kani Thippaiah | 90. Shareefa Bi |
| 58. Kallappa Irappa Shriaguppi | 91. Shrishail Channappa Pattanshetty |
| 59. K. Rangaswamy | 92. Shrimanath Mallappa Kanabur |
| 60. K.M. Rathnakar | 93. Shreedehar G, Hedge |
| 61. K.R. Mahalingappa | 94. S.A. Yeshwanth Bhat |
| 62. Kallappa Channappa Pattanshetty | 95. Shantarambhau Shripad Sunthankar |
| 63. Leelavaathi | 96. Sridevi Vigneshwar Joshi |
| 64. Laxman Basappa Ghote | 97. Subahadramma Mansoor |
| 65. Laxman Basappa Ghte | 98. Sayadsab K. Kolhapur |
| 66. Mallapa Basappa Ganj | 99. Shivagonda Gurugonda |
| 67. M. Nagendra | 100. S.C. Krishna Murthy |
| 68. Muniverappa | 101. S.K. Mitravinda |
| 69. M.T. Venkatesha Murthy | 102. Shivayya Chandrayya |
| 70. Mahalingamma | 103. Shanthamma |
| 71. Mahalingayya Mallaya Ganachari | 104. Sumitra Shivanna |
| 72. M.S Ramamurthy | 105. Somanathasa Yellusa |
| 73. Mahabaleshwar Shet | 106. Sharana |
| 74. N.S. Murthy | 107. Sakkattu |
| 75. N. Vasantha Kumar | 108. Srinivas Achar |
| 76. Narayan Parramayya Hasyagar | 109. Sadashiv Rudraya |
| 77. N. Chikkavenkatappa | 110. S. Raju |
| 78. Ningappa Maruti Hugar | 111. Susheela |
| 79. Nanda Culcutta | 112. Shivalingappa |
| 80. Prema Basavaraj Patil | 113. T. Sunandaraj |
| 81. Pakerappa | 114. T.V. Raju |

115. T.M. Revanasiddaiah
116. T.H. Hemalatha
117. Vidwan Subramanya Jois
118. Venkataramana Urala
119. Vani Saraswati Naidu
120. Venkatesh Tulajaram
121. Vishakanta Murthy
122. V. Ramamurthy
123. Venkappa Ambaji
124. Vasant Shivrao
125. Yandakurthy Kameswari
126. A.N. Channaabasaviah
127. B. Balraj Master
128. Basavraj B. Maganur
129. Chitrnanjan K. Chatterjee
130. D. Kanaka Durga
131. Hasanab M. Nadaf
132. Jayavant
133. J.V. Indumathi
134. J. Sitaram Shetty
135. K.M. Raman
136. Kalyan Rao
137. K.R. Krishnaswamy
138. B.N. Lakshmi N. Murthy
139. Mahadevi B. Chilamgeri
140. Mallaya Swami Athare
141. N. Narahari Chaturajaya
142. Shivangouda M. Koti
143. Renuka D. Harijan
144. Saheeda Banu
145. T. Diddaiah
146. Vishnua Parasapa Kanchagar
147. Basayya M. Mathapati

Andhra Pradesh

1. Damodara Reddy
2. Sayamala Devi
3. Abburi Venkataswamy
4. Sumathi
5. Boddepalli Apparao
6. Bhusurapalli Adisheshaiah
7. Beara Gopinaidu
8. Burra Subrahmanaya Sastri
9. Binala Achary
10. Arakatta Bungana
11. B. Bichanna Goud
12. Bhaskaruni Rama Rao
13. Bandaru Kotaiah
14. Bhagavatula Ynarayan Sarma
15. B. Hymavathi
16. Bhaskarla Rajeswari
17. Chinta Ramamurthy
18. Chinta Seeta Ramanjanyulu
19. Chinta Venkateswarlu
20. Ch. Syamala Devi
21. Chikamari Venkatcharyulu
22. Daliparthy Dakhina Murthy
23. Dasaradhi Lakshmi Naryana
24. Eaga Srihari
25. Gopanaboina Venkateshwarlu
26. G. Kesavaramu
27. Gopu Prtapa Reddy
28. G.S.R.K. Sastry
29. Garimella Viswanandham
30. Gajjeli Sriramulu
31. H. Suguna Bai
32. Gunti Suryanarayana

33. Illa Venkatarao
34. Josyula Krishna Murthy
35. Jangam Venkateswarlu
36. J. Sarda Devi
37. K. Chakradhar
38. K. Susheelamma
39. Kancherla Basava Kanniah
40. Kndukuri Ganaga Raju
41. Kadakanchi Papaiah
42. Kaleem Siddiqui
43. Kasanichna Narayana Chary
44. Kotu Subba Reddy
45. Karra Yakub Reddy
46. Karri Mutyala Rao
47. Krovvidi Nagul Meera Saheb
48. Korupoju Narsaiah
49. Lanka C. Lakshmi Narsimham
50. M.P. Raju
51. Munnam Nageswara Reddy
52. Mahamkali Srimannarayana
53. Mattapally Narsingha Rao
54. M. Dattatreya Sarma
55. M. Venkata Raju
56. Macharala Laxmiah
57. M. Seetharamulu
58. Medisetty Satyawathi
59. Midisanametla Pichaiah
60. Muthayala Sarangapani
61. Mohd. Suleman Ali
62. Malladi Suryanarayana
63. Majji Vijayamba
64. Mangam Anand Rao
65. N. Raja Jayakshmi
66. Narse Bhadrachalam
67. Nittala Laxman Rao
68. Nidamuri Lakshminarayana
69. Naraganshi Vishwanthan
70. Nutakki Subba Rao
71. Prudhvi Siva Babdha Rao
72. Pusuru Ramamurthy
73. Panyam Venkata Rama Sarma
73. Panyam Venkata Rama Sarma
74. Pittu Venkateswara Reddy
75. Peddoju Chidambaram
76. P. Karmeshwari
77. Panditharadhyula Satyanarayana
78. Peluri Das
79. Polla Dibbamma
80. Pallapotu R. Krishna
81. Pudya Bhaskar
82. Pamulapati C.R. Rao
83. Pridhvi V. Roa
84. Pitchkua K.S. Rao
85. Pashya G. Reddy
86. Pagdam R. Reddy
87. Peram V. Reddy
88. Rao B. Devi
89. Pullela Kondayya
90. Rakandar N. Rao
91. R.P. Jemmy Bobu
92. Spram Krishnamurthy
93. Shaik Nasar Sahen
94. Siripirapu P. Rao
95. Sivangi Chine B. Raju
96. Satly Sammaiah
97. Sarabu V. Ratnam

98. Sriramoni Venkatachary
99. Spram Krishnamurthy
100. T.L. Kanta Rao
101. T.T. Sita
102. Tulapati Babjee
103. Tirumalasetty Panaiah
104. Thodengi Rajaiah
105. Thogati Krishna Murthy
106. Upputuri Subbaiah
107. Velide H. Shastry
108. Vengala Ramarao
109. V. Kotershwari Devi
110. Yanamadala Jayalakshmi
111. Yelewarapu Nageswara
112. B. Sambasiva Rao
113. B. Nagaraj Yadav
114. G.V. Rama Raju
115. S. Sugana Bai
116. Jilukara Rajamani
117. Katubadi Ramadau
118. Kamla Naidu
119. Meruva Chenchaiiah
120. Pedpudi Ranagamma
121. Sundarpalli V. Rao
122. Sri Nivasula P. Devi
123. Tadigadpa Subbarao
124. Yelamakanti Ramchandran
125. P. Ramanaiah

Orissa

1. Aman Charan Sethi
2. Alekha Sahu
3. Bishnu Mohan Nayak

4. Bishwanath Moharana
5. Basanta Samal
6. Basudeba Sahoo
7. Blaunkeswar Rath
8. Bansidhar Mahapatra
9. Bhagirathi Rout
10. Bijay Ketan Mangraj
11. Bhanumati Devi
12. Chitra Rekha Hota
13. Dukhirani Mohapatra
14. Dwarikanath Da
15. Golak Chandra Mohanty
16. Ghanshyam Tripathy
17. Gopal Ghose
18. Gokulananda Swain
19. Ganesh Rath
20. Gopinath Behra
21. Ghanshyam Kar
22. Harmani Padhi
23. Hadibandhu Mohanty
24. Khetra Mohan Moharana
25. Khalid Rahim
26. Kulamani Maharana
27. Kamala Devi
28. Kumar Kabi Arakhita Pradhan
29. Kanhu Charan Swain
30. Kunja Bihari Das
31. Kanchan Tripathi
32. Khetu Mahapatra
33. L. Apparao Patapole
34. Minati Biswal

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 35. Madan Mohan Mohapatra | 66. Basanta Manjari Dash |
| 36. Meera Mohanty | 67. Gajendra Nayak |
| 37. Madhabananda Kar | 68. Gumani Nayak |
| 38. Mukunda Maharana | 69. Jagannath Behera |
| 39. Manjushree Pattnaik | 70. Kailash Chandra Pati |
| 40. Maguni Das | 71. Kedarnath Mohapatra |
| 41. Niranjan Sahu | 72. Muktikanta Choudhary |
| 42. Nityanada Dash | 73. Mayabati Kar |
| 43. Prodimini Pattnaik | 74. Purna Chandra Das |
| 44. Parasuram Pradhan | 75. Parasmani Debadasi |
| 45. Padmavati Panigrahi | 76. Ratan Manjari Satapathy |
| 46. Patika Mangel Sabar | 77. Ram Narayan Babu |
| 47. Ranjit Singh | 78. Shakuntala Das |
| 48. Rama Chandra Patihari | 79. Sundarmani Devi |
| 49. Raj Kumar Kumbahar | 80. Santilata Mohapatra |
| 50. Raghunath Dutta | 81. Satyabhama Satpathy |
| 51. Ramesh Chandra Das | 82. Dukhanasana Behera |
| 52. Rabi Singh | 83. S.K. Ghariobullah |
| 53. Sanat Bhuyan | 84. Madan Mohan Sukla |
| 54. Sarojini Pattanaik | 85. Nisamani Dash |
| 55. Saraswati Devi | 86. Nagendra Nath Ray |
| 56. Surekha Devi | 87. Alhadini Kar |
| 57. Shiba Narayan Tripathy | 88. Babajai Charan Mohanty |
| 58. Satyabhama Majhi | 89. Braja Mohan Dash |
| 59. Sachi Barik | 90. Baisar Sabar |
| 60. Sashilata Sahoo | 91. Durbha Charan Patra |
| 61. Satyanaada Nayak | 92. Gananth Shaw |
| 62. Sushila Mohanty | 93. Jaykrushna Panda |
| 63. Trinath Padhy | 94. Jalabandhu Sahoo |
| 64. Udayabhanu Mahapatra | 95. Jitendra Patra |
| 65. Banambar Parida | 96. Karunakar Puhan |

97. Kailash Chandra Swain
98. Khanduri Charan Behera
99. Khanda Nayak
100. Kunj Bihari Mehar
101. Laxmi N. Prasad R. Telengashi
102. Manimala Devi
103. Madan Mohan Lenka
104. Mahendra Prasad Jena
105. Muralidhara Mohapatra
106. Natabar Panda
107. Prabina Mohanty
108. Padmala Samal
109. Purnachandra Jena
110. Rameshchandra Pradhan
111. Raghunath Swain
112. Sarat Chandra Biswal
113. Surendranath Muduili
114. Simanchal Patro
115. Srustidhar Das
116. Yarun Sahu
117. Brudaban Das Adhikari
118. Bimbadhar Behera
119. Champa Mani Mohapatra
120. Deepak Narayan Singhdeo
121. Direndranath Patnaik
122. Durgacharan Sahu
123. Durlav Chandra Singh
124. Dwarikanath Nayak
125. Durga Rani Bhanj
126. Dussasn Swain
127. Fakir Giri
128. Ghanshyam Swain
129. Gopabandhu Nath
130. Gandharv Charan Kundu
131. Jeetarani Das
132. Kailash Bihar Das
133. Kailash Chandra Mohanty
134. Neelamani Das
135. Prafulla Das
136. Padmanava Behera
137. Ramesh Chandra
138. Shyamamani Dev
139. Sarat Chandra Mohanty
140. Shyam Sunder Behera
141. Ananta Prasad Lal
142. Brundaban Patro
143. Gajendra Nath Tripathi
144. Jitendra Jit
145. Krishna Chandra Mahapatras
146. Padmanava Samal
147. Premanand Mishra
148. Sudhakar Nayak
149. Trinath Charan Sahu
150. Gabavati Panda
151. Golekha Biahri Jena
152. Hemlata Nanda
153. Joykrishna Barik
154. Mandardhar Pradhan
155. Prashant Rath
- West Bengal**
1. Bela Mukherjee
2. Bakul Chakraborty

3. Dwarikanath Mohanty
4. Munni Begum
5. Ashok Kumar Chatterjee
6. Abhay Charan Das
7. Ashok Kumar Das
8. Ajoy Nag
9. Bhagwan Naik Verma
10. Bhaskar Fouzdar
11. Bhagirathi Mishra
12. Baidyanath Halder
13. Babatosh Satpathy
14. Dilip Moulik
15. Dev Kumar Ghoshal
16. Jhutika Roy
17. Meghnad Mondal
18. Md. Ilias
19. Nema Das
20. Paresb Bhattacharya
21. Rameshwar Panigrahi
23. Rabindra Nath Ghosh
24. Swarnabala Kumar
25. Surendra Nath Sarkar
26. Sunil Kumar Bhattacharya
27. Sarbani Mondal
28. Samar De
29. Tapti Mishra
30. Uma Shankar Das
31. Dwarikanath Mohanty
32. Asim Bardhan
33. Badalchandra Das
34. Balram Hajra

35. Eva Singh
36. Krishna paul
37. Kamini Kumar Roy
38. Nimai Bhattacharjee
39. Prafulla Kumar Roy
40. Paresb Chandra Das
41. Ravindra Nath Dutta
42. Sova Rani Ghosh
43. Asishtaru Mukherjee
44. Putul Chakroborty
45. Mangla Kanta Roy

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ali Hussain Bedharak
2. Amar Nath Srivastava
3. Anil Khanna
4. Afzal Hussain Khan
5. Ambika Prasad Shukla
6. Aqueel Ahmad Khan
7. Amna Bano
8. Akhtri Begum
9. Bhar Hussain
10. Babu Lal Shukla
11. Babu Lal Bajpai
12. Bhairab Datt Joshi
13. Badlu
14. B.R. Prajapati
15. Chhail Behari Bajpai
16. Diwani Ram
17. Doodh Nath Sharama
18. Dev Kumar Jain
19. Dhananjoy Awasthi

20. Diwanchand Rahi
21. Fakarullah Hashmi
22. Ghanshyam Ranjan
23. Gajraj Singh
24. Gulab Bai
25. Guruprasad Rastogi
26. Hoshiar Singh Shambar
27. Jhandi (Shanti)
28. Kamla Devi
29. Kailash Bihari Saxena
30. Kalkoo
31. Krishna Saraswat
32. Krishna Devi
33. Kiran Devi
34. Laiqa Begum
35. Laxman Singh
36. Lavkush Dixit
37. Lal Singh
38. Laxmi Devi
39. Maqsood Ali
40. Manik Chandra
41. Mohd. Hamid
42. Muneeza Begum
43. Mohammad Sami Muneey
44. Markanday
45. Nassir Hussain Khan
46. Nasir Ahmed
47. Narayan Tripathi Suman
48. Nami Ansari
49. Prabhawati Singh
50. Preetam Singh
51. Pradumn Panday
52. Pratap Naraine
53. Ram Bholi
54. Ram Roop Swarankar
55. Ram Kishore
56. Razzab
57. Raehmi Bhooshan "Junoo"
58. Radhey Shyam
59. Raj Kumari
60. Radha Krishna Bharwaj
61. Ram Chander
62. Ram Kailash Yadav
63. Shiv Raj Singh
64. Shivrath Singh
65. Shiv Prasad Shukla
66. Suresh Chandra Mehtar
67. Shaida
68. Shiv Murti Singh Vats
69. Shravan Kumar Sharma
70. Shyam Sunder Lal "Shyamji"
71. Than Singh
72. Tara Bai
73. Vishweswar Dayal Aggarwal
74. Gayatri Devi
75. Lakshmi Devi
76. Omarkar Nath Upadhya
77. Abdul Zabbar Hashmi
78. Amna Bibi Khan
79. Bachan Singh
80. Balkishun Yadav
81. Chandrashekhar Mishra

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 82. Firoja Bano | 113. Malati Kausar |
| 83. Hari Shyam Srivastava Gurukul | 114. Abdul Rasheed Khan |
| 84. Ishwari Lal | 115. Abhey Ram Sharma |
| 85. Krishna Kumari | 116. Bhurelal Khushwaha |
| 86. Master Wazeer | 117. Chedi Lal Verma |
| 87. Mankeshar | 118. Chanda Devi Bharti |
| 88. Munni Bai | 119. Farid Khan |
| 89. Pramanand | 120. Jhabbu Mastan |
| 90. Prem Anuragi | 121. Jaheer Khan |
| 91. Ram Khilawan Mishra | 122. Janardan Das |
| 92. Ram Ashre Vishwakarma | 123. Jaya Kumari (Arya) |
| 93. Ram Narain Bajpei | 124. Jugal Kishore Sharma |
| 94. Ram Narain | 125. Maqsood Ali |
| 95. Satyanarayan | 126. Munni Devi |
| 96. Shripal Prajapati | 127. Shivalal |
| 97. Shekh Munshi | 128. Ram Narayan Gupta |
| 98. Zamui Khan | 129. Shiv Kali |
| 99. Jhandi | 130. Sharif Ahmed |
| 100. Kalku | 131. Shanti Ram |
| 101. Medha | 132. Allo Ansari |
| 102. Mammu Khan | 133. Bhure Khan |
| 103. Nathu Master | 134. Binda Prasad Nigam |
| 104. Shaida | 135. Bhudav Sharma |
| 105. Saroj Lata | 136. Chunni Lal |
| 106. Surya Prasad Diwedi | 137. Furqan Ahmad Khan |
| 107. Jaganath Dubu | 138. Smt. Gauhar |
| 108. Kunti Devi | 139. Hukum Chand |
| 109. Vireshwar Prasad | 140. Harcharan |
| 110. Vishnu Devi | 141. Heeramani |
| 111. Urmila Saxena | 142. Kamlesh Gandhi |
| 112. Ram Sharan | 143. Lakshmi Devi |

144. Mohammad Ijem
145. Mohd. Amin
146. Nathu Bari
147. Nathu Ram
148. Noor Mohammad
149. Om Prakash Vikal
150. Pajan Singh
151. Rajendra Kumari Jain
152. Radha Rani
153. Ram Khilawan
154. Razia Begum
155. Rajeshwari Devi
156. Ram Shree Bareya
157. Ramdas
158. Ramjanam

Uttarakhand

1. Ambika Devi
2. Ram Lal
3. Nandi Devi Bist
4. Bholu Dutt Triwari
5. Mohan Ram
6. Ramsharan Painuly
7. Ramchandra Bhatt

Biher

1. Ashok Kumar Roy
2. Bharat Prasad Singh
3. Chandrawati Devi
4. Daud Akhtar
5. Devjan Devi
6. Gobind Ram Sharma

7. Ganesh Mandal
8. Jai Prakash Singh
9. Kanta Shah
10. Kopya Devi
11. Krityananda Roy
12. Laxmi Devi
13. Madhubala Devi
14. Nand Lal Shrama
15. Nityanand Mandal
16. Rana Sardanand Singh
17. Ram Sagar Singh
18. Sushil Kumar Roy
19. Sri Lal Roy
20. Sarta Rani
21. Urmila
22. Yashoda Devi
23. Janardan Prasad Singh
24. Anita Devi
25. Dhruvnath Singh
26. Rajendra Prasad Mandal
27. Robin Shaw Pushp
28. Annapoorna Devi

Jharkhand

1. Basant Kumar Barik
2. Jai Narayan Samal
3. Kedarnath Sahoo
4. Makardhwaj Darogah
5. Mohan Ram
6. Rajendra Prasad Mandal
7. Vishwanath Sahoo
8. Janki Devi

Assam

1. Akshaya Talukdar
2. Azad Taimus Laskar
3. Bharti Devi
4. Charu Kakuty
5. Dr. Akhil Chakravorty
6. Jogen Sarmah
7. Lankeewari Devi
8. Mahanada Das Bayan
9. Puna Ram Rajmedhi
10. Rabindra Nath Bhattacharya
11. Rudra Choudhary
12. Shri Tarini Rajbanshi
13. Aday Ranjan Barthakur
14. Rabindra Chandra Bora
15. Amulya Chandra Sarma
16. Baparam Borah
17. Bhakti Madhab Chattopadhyay
18. Hari Bora Borbayan
19. Kamal Gayan
20. L. Chongtho
21. Nani Baruah
22. Swapan Payeng
23. Dipankar Bhattacharjee
24. Dhaneewar Nath
25. Sonaswar Atoi

Meghalaya

1. H. Kerios Wahlang
2. Sunila G. Momin

Tripura

1. Bhanu Chakraborty

Tamil Nadu

1. A. Rukmini
2. Andi
3. Arumugasamy
4. A. Kumarappan
5. A.H. Seetharama Bhagawathar
6. A. Rangaswamy
7. D. Subramaniam
8. E. Mary Emanuel
9. G.P. Kamal
10. K.R. Subramanian
11. Kamalam Ramamoorthy
12. Kalaimamani Karandi Damodaran
13. K.K. Saminathan
14. Mu. Ramasubramania Sarma
15. M. Bedrappan
16. N. Subramania Thambiran
17. N.S. Ranaramanujam
18. P.R. Thilagam
19. Pichan
20. R. Lakshman
21. R. Lalitha
22. S.P. Khader
23. S. Lakshmi N.
24. Sharda Nagappan
25. S. Sarda
26. T.M. Sreedhar
27. T.N. Somasundram

Goa

1. Alka Mangesh Velingkar
2. Krishna Mashelkar

3. Kishori S. Haldankar
4. Lila D. Haldankar
5. Shiva Pandurang Naik
6. Yashwant Surya Shetye
7. Prasad Sawka
8. Radhabai Y. Kamat
9. Somnath Damodar (Zo) Chari
10. Shubhalaxmi R. Manderkar
11. Suresh (Chandra)

Manipur

1. Arambam Jugeshwor Singh
2. Thangiam Gulamachao Singh
3. Laiphrakpan Kullachandra Singh
4. Namoijam Nodiya Singh
5. Phukrambam Gandha Singh
6. R.T. Ngamwar Anal
7. Sarwangbam Amujao Singh
8. Samom Badam Singh
9. Theyyam Bira Singh
10. Thockchom Ramani Devi
11. Yurembom Mangi Singh
12. B. Gurumayum O Sutajmukhi Devi
13. Kamei Gairekpei
14. Khaidem Bihari Singh
15. Kongkham Ibotombi Singh
16. Konjam Narajit Singh
17. Keshterimayum Ibohail Singh
18. Laimayum Ningol Mema Devi
19. Leitanthem Chacba Singh
20. Lotongbam Birachandra Singh
21. Mutua Tomba
22. Namoijam Nodiya Singh
23. Ngangom Ngoubi Singh
24. Nongthombam Tomba Singh
25. Nongmaithem Kulla Singh
26. Okram Ningthou Singh
27. Oinam Ibohi Singh
28. Puyam Muktarej Devi
29. Puthem Thanjao Singh
30. Shamurallatpam S. Sharma
31. Solbam Tholba Singh
32. Soram Nimai Singh
33. Takhelambam Sajou Singh
34. Thongam Gouro Singh
35. Thanjam Nungsi Devi
36. Wangkheimayum Kokangag Singh
37. Wahengbam Kondum Singh
38. Yaima Singh Salam
39. Yumnam Babudhon Singh
40. Yumnam Dhananjoy Singh
41. Achom Mani Singh
42. Arambam Heirangou
43. Elangbam Joychandra Singh
44. Gurumayum Ravindra Sharma
45. Gurumayum Jadu Shrama
46. Heisanam Ashangbi Devi
47. Khoisanam Dhaballo Khaba
48. Khwairakpam Bhubol Singh
49. Konsam Rasmani Singh
50. Laishram Dhananjoy Singh
51. Leitanthem Heramot
52. Labuktongbam Shyamdev Sharma

53. Mayengbam Sabitri Devi
54. Namoijam Nobin Singh
55. Ngangom Babaton Singh
56. Ningombam Irabot Singh
57. Phairembam Ibohal Singh
58. Shadokpam Chaoba Singh
59. Thongbam Dhaneswor Singh
60. Takhellambam Ibungo Singh
61. Wqngkheimayum Nilachand Singh
62. Huidrom Brajachand Meetei

Pondicherry

1. K. Rajanarayanan
2. V. Dhinakaran
3. Brem Rajaram
4. G. Ramachandran K. Govindaswamy
5. Lakshmi
6. Lincoln Many
7. P.V. Balasubramaniam
8. P. Devaraj R. Kannaiyan
9. Aroulnathan Puduvai Dasan

Haryana

1. Dharampal Jogi
2. Ami Chand Jogi
3. Lal Singh
4. Manphool Singh
5. Nathi Singh
6. Nand Lal
7. Puran Singh
8. Ramkumar Khunda
9. Ram Kanwar Garg
10. Raghubir Singh

11. Shreepal Sugam
12. Shanti Devi
13. Suraj Bhan
14. Shanti Devi
15. Yog Chaitanya
16. Puran Singh
17. Arjun Devi
18. Girdhari Lal
19. Munshi Ram

Madhya Pradesh

1. Devi Prasad Raikwar
2. Hifzul Kabir
3. Har Govind Vishwa
4. Kriparam
5. Mehood Zaki
6. Noor Muhammad Naiyar Damohi
7. Nirmal Narad
8. Nathu Lal Khobragade
9. Pannalal
10. Ramlochan Shukla
11. Narmada Prasad Tripathi
12. Ram Sahay Pandey
13. Ramjas Chokse
14. Anand Kumar Lohiya
15. Babulal Verma
16. Baba Kamruddin
17. Chhaki Lal
18. Dindayal Vyas
19. Hotiala Jain Heti
20. Jyoti Swarup
21. Kalidas Agale

22. Kailash Pathak Anwar
23. Mahendra Kumar Verma
24. Madhav Prasad Soni
25. Mishriial
26. Om Prakash Purohit
27. Vasant Nirgune

Gujarat

1. Indiraben Venubahi Pandhi
2. Mistry Devyaniben Ashok Kumar
3. Manharial Ganeshji Upadhayaya
4. Nasima S. Khan
5. Saroj C. Rathod

Rajasthan

1. Shyam Rai Bhatnagar
2. Arjun Lal Kavi
3. Faiyaz Hussain Ragi

Punjab

1. Manjit Inder Singh
2. Prem Prakash
3. Ratan Shankar

Delhi

1. Ansari Begum
2. Ashok Kaushik
3. A. R. Rajamani
4. Amir Chand
5. Amar Singh
6. Bharpei
7. Chote Lal Gaur
8. Giridahri Lal Zutshi
9. Jagdish Arya
10. Kirti Kumari

11. Laxmi Chaya
12. Ramamurthy Mahajanam
13. Narinder Singh Lal
14. Oma Kaul
15. Peri Devi
16. Phoolwati
17. Ramu
18. Rajkumari
19. Reba Mukherjee
20. Shanti Devi
21. Sharwan Devi
22. Daligram Gossin
23. Virndra Singh Rahtl
24. Majeeda Khatoon
25. Trilok Singh Latwal
26. Anil Sengupta
27. Gyan Wati

Himachal Pradesh

1. Debu Ram

Kerala

1. A.K. Thankappan
2. Ammannur Parameswara Chakyar
3. Pankajam A.S.
4. Andy C.K.
5. Bhergavi Amma B.
6. Chethalal Thankappa Panicker
7. D. Thankamany Amma
8. G. Rajendran
9. G. Kunjuni Kurup
10. K. Rajamma
11. Kochammu

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 12. K.V. Ramakrishna Panicker | 43. V. Hajara |
| 13. Kunju Kunju P.K. | 44. Alikkal Devaki Amma |
| 14. Kalyani KKuttu Amma | 45. K.P. Sarojini Amma |
| 15. K.P. Raghavan Nair | 46. K. Bhaskaran Nair |
| 16. K. Bharathy | 47. K. Krishnan |
| 17. K. Mruthinmayan | 48. M.T. Govindan Panicker |
| 18. L. Chellamma | 49. Mauthyum J.K. Chakkala Puthuval |
| 19. Lakshmi K. | 50. Mulankadakam Raveendran. N |
| 20. M.C. Nambi Panicker | 51. M. Somadas |
| 21. Mampatta Madhavan Namboodiri | 52. Janaki Amma |
| 22. M. Kannan | 53. Edavalath Kunhikanna Poduval |
| 23. M.A. Somanathan Nair | 54. K. Raveendra Nath |
| 24. Neeliyan Veetil Raman Panicker | 55. Professor Wandoor Mammed |
| 25. Narayanan N Kalanilayam | 56. Kavungal Chathunni Panicker |
| 26. N. Sarojini Amma | 57. M.V. Anatharama Iyer |
| 27. Narayana Swamy | 58. C.M. Savithri |
| 28. O.S. Mahin | 59. K.K.D. Nambiar |
| 29. P.S. Karuna Karan | 60. Anandavally Kunjamma |
| 30. P. Valiya Kannan Panicker | 61. Changanaserry Rajan |
| 31. Padmanabha Panicker | 62. C.K. Gopinathan |
| 32. P.K. Vijayabhanu | 63. C. Diwakaran |
| 33. P. Subhadra Vadakkirayerath | 64. C.L. Jos |
| 34. P. Venugopalan | 65. Cherakkal Sankara Marar |
| 35. Sarasamma L. | 66. Devakiamma V.V. |
| 36. Saraswathy Amma | 67. E.V. Shreedhar Bhagwathar |
| 37. Sarasamma Chellappan | 68. G. Vasanthiamma |
| 38. Sreenivasan Embaran | 69. G. Ramachandran |
| 39. S. Gopalakrishnan | 70. Kizhakke Veetil Narayana Mara |
| 40. S. Balakrishnana | 71. Kuttan |
| 41. Thiruvallom Bhaskaran Nair | 72. K. Kesavan Nambiar |
| 42. V.P. Unnipinden | 73. K. Raman Nair |

74. Kottath Krishna Nambiar
75. K. Ramankutty Nair
76. K.K. Leelamma
77. K.R. Rajam
78. K. Kesavan Nair K. Sivaraman
79. Kalanilayam Parameswaran
80. K.V. Eswara Variar
81. K. Laxmi Kutty Amma
82. K. Padmanabha Marar
83. Leela Ravindran
84. M.K. Anand
85. M. Krishnan Panicker
86. Mukkodu Balakrishnan
87. Manku Thampanan
88. Madhavan K.
89. M.K. Rajappan
90. M. Vishwanathan Pillai
91. M. Subromaniom Asari
92. N.P. Karunakaran Nair
93. Narayanan
94. Narayanan G. Kunju Panicker
95. Oyur Kochu Govinda Pillai
96. P.R. Sankaran Kutty
97. Paroth Karunan
98. P. Sudersan Nair
99. Paravoor Ramschandran Gokulathil
100. P. Kunhambu
101. P. Sankunni Marar
102. Parinad K. Surendran
103. R. Velayudhan Pulluvar
104. Radhamani Amma K.K.
105. S. Appu Marar

106. S. Madhavan Unnithan
107. Sarasamma
108. Trikkur Unnikrishnan
109. Thankam Vasudevan Nair
110. Thattamal Vasudevan Pillai
111. Usha Rajan
112. Vaidyanathan P.
113. V.J. Kamalamma
114. V. Narayanan Panicker
115. V. Dhinakran

Maharashtra

1. Akbar Ahmed Siddqui
2. Ankush R. Gothankar
3. Abbas Sulemansha Patel
4. Arvind Kishanrao Kulkarni
5. Abdul Hassan Hajrat
6. Ataulah K.I. Bashir Khan
7. Bhau Raoji Umaji Ghule
8. Bhaskar Keshav Samant
9. Balkrishna Bhagwan Chalke
10. Baburao Laxman Rane
11. Devendra Shanker Gaekwad
12. Bhikaji Kamalakar Tambe
13. Chander Poshetry Kumbhar
14. Jadhav Digamber. Baliram
15. Dada Ghatod
16. Haribhau Datta Ram Ingole
17. Gariba Urkudaji Kale
18. Gulab Yusuf Kalawant
19. Govindrao N. Gathibandhe
20. Otari Gajanan Krishna

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 21. Juvekar Shridhar Shanakar | 51. Sau Shantabai B. Talle |
| 22. Jadhav Mahadev Vishnu | 52. Sawant Jaywant Narayana |
| 23. Savant Jayawant Narayan | 53. Sonkamble V. Vithal |
| 24. Jadhav Banarasbai Digamber | 54. Suryabhan R. Lanjewar |
| 25. Jadav Kallappa Shankar | 55. Shankar R. Yewale |
| 26. Mahadev Atmaram Bhandge | 56. Acharkar S Bhargavaram |
| 27. Maharudra G. DhumaI | 57. H.B.H.P. V. Gurav |
| 28. Mahadev Bansi Dongae | 58. Janardhanji K. Bhone |
| 29. Maaruti Tukaram Shinde | 59. Shakarappa G. Mitkari |
| 30. Manikrao Mhrotrao | 60. Soma Babu Pujari |
| 31. Manikrao Govinda Dupare | 61. Shankar P. Selokar |
| 32. Mohan Janbaje Kalyankar | 62. Dr. Satyanarayan K.P. Sharma |
| 33. Manikrao | 63. Shivdas B. Jangam |
| 34. Munaf Khan | 64. Uttamrao |
| 35. Manohar Dhaku Gaorar | 65. Vinayak Babanrao Hude |
| 36. Madhav A.M. Gopal Pathak | 66. Vijay Vishnu Gothankar |
| 37. Mohammad A.A. Hinanthan | 67. Vishwanath A. Hedao |
| 38. Namdev Laxman Kalmegh | 68. Vikas Wadaikar |
| 39. Nirmal Ashruba Umaji | 69. Wasudev S.M. Dodke |
| 40. Nagappa Dattatreya Adam | 70. Wamanrao R. Ganar |
| 41. Meena Suresh Deshpande | 71. Wanve Vithal Narayan |
| 42. Pandurang Balaji Hedao | 72. Indu Anant Rao Bhorkar |
| 43. Prahlad Mahadev Khede | 73. Kundalik S. Jagtap |
| 44. Rao Saheb Irba Shirale | 74. Prayagbai R. Pawal |
| 45. Pandurang Narauyan Wagdara | 75. Yashwant Dnyanu Pawar |
| 46. Sitaram Gujiya Lokhande | 76. Sattar Mahboob Shikh |
| 47. Pramila Anantrao Mokashi | 77. Sahebrao Lobhaji Pachpute |
| 48. Rukmini Ragho Bhat | 78. Tippanna Sadashiv Mule |
| 49. Shahir Tukaram | 79. Vasant Maruti Kanse |
| 50. Ramchandra S. Patil | 80. Marutirao A. Karande |
| | 81. Wamanrao G. Ingle |

**Recommendations of Dr. V. Krishnamurthy
Committee**

4539. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations of Dr. V. Krishnamurthy Committee in toto;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the main recommendation of the Committee which have been implemented and yet to be implemented;

(d) the number of oil refineries/companies merged with oil companies during 2006 onwards; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) In the with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Synergy in Energy under the Chairmanship of Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL) and IBP Company Limited have been merged with their holding companies Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) respectively. The merger of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) with IOC is in an advanced stage.

Government has approved the building of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) strategic Crude Oil Reserves at three locations at Mangalore (1.5 MMT), (ii) Vizag (1.0 MMT), and Padur (2.5 MMT). Construction at Vizag has commenced while preconstruction activities for the Storage at Mangalore are in an advanced stage. In principle, a decision has been taken to construct 15MMT of Strategic Storage, in phases.

The Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 was notified in the Gazette of India on 3.4.2006 and is a functional body under the provisions of the Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006, which were brought were brought into force w.e.f. 1.10.2007.

The other recommendations are consideration of the Government.

**Monuments Lying Unattended in Andaman and
Nicobar Islands**

4540. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of centrally protected monuments of national importance are lying unattended in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some monuments are under encroachment;

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

(e) the efforts made by the Government to attract the overseas tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) No monument/site in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands has been declared as of national importance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Site and Remains Act, 1958. As such the question of monuments of national importance lying unattended does not arise.

(c) to (e) Questions do not arise.

Indian Spinal Injury Centre

4541. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Italy has assisted the Government of India for setting up of Indian Spinal Injury Centre at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of such assistance;

(c) whether the Government provides support for sponsoring free beds for poor and indigent patients in the said centre;

(d) if so, the fixed for the said purpose;

(e) the number of patients benefited on Government sponsoring free beds during 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the said centre;

(f) whether the Government also proposes to set up some more Regional Rehabilitation Centers in various parts of the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the said purpose during 2007-08, State-wise; and

(h) the time by which such centers will be open for public in such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Italy had assisted the Government of India for setting up of Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC) at New Delhi through Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two Governments on 6.6.1991 for cooperation programme for treatment of Spinal Injuries and Rehabilitation of locomotors disabled in the Region of New Delhi. As per provision of MoU the project was to last for three years from the date of signing the MoU.

As per the provisions of the MoU the then Ministry of Welfare, Government of India nominated ISIC and Government of Italy nominated their Non-Government Organization Italian Association for Solidarity among People (AISPO) for implementation of this programme. Through this MoU, all the hospital equipment for ISIC were provided by Italian Government through their NGO-AISPO.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The criteria fixed for and treatment of poor and indigent patients is enclosed as statement.

(e) The number of patients benefited on Government sponsored free beds during 2006-07 and 2007-08 is given below:—

Year	Number of patients
2006-07	117
2007-08	226

(f) No, Sir.

(g) and (h) Does not arise.

Statement

Protocol for Treatment under Free Bed Category

1. All patients who are advised admission but are not able/afford to pay for it are referred to the medical social worker for evaluation.
2. The medical social worker does the social evaluation and fills up the evaluation performa.
3. Each patient is required to sign an undertaking that the information being provided by them is true and he would be agreeable to suitable action if the information provided is proved to be wrong.
4. Random checks are made by home visits to ensure that the information provided by the patients is correct.
5. The social evaluation performa is then evaluated and moved through the hierarchy of the management.

[Translation]

Providing Urea Under ECA

4542. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide sufficient quantity of Urea to Madhya Pradesh under Essential Commodities Act (ECA); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Government proposes to ensure sufficient availability of Urea at per with the assessed requirement of Madhya Pradesh taking into account the planned supplies from indigenous manufacturers under Essential Commodities Act (ECA) as well as committed supplies under Non-ECA component and the balance from out of urea imported on Government account.

*[English]***Development of Historical Sports**

4543. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received suggestions to provide necessary assistance for development of Village Bandala, District Amritsar, a site of one of Alexander's last battle and Samadhi of General Sham Singh Attariwala as tourist and historical spots;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) On a proposal for excavation at Bandala village and renovation work at the Samadhi of General Sham Singh Attariwala at Attari, the site has been inspected by a team of officials of Archaeological Survey of India. The site appears to have archaeological potential and some trial trenches are needed to be dug to ascertain the cultural sequences. This is proposed to be done in the current financial year.

Certificates to Pilots

4544. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that some pilots have been given fake flight certificates by the Chief Flying Instructor;

(b) if so, the details of this incident alongwith the action taken against the persons concerned; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to prevent such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Reports regarding irregularities committed by the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) of M/s. Carver Aviation Academy were received which were duly investigated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The CFI status of Capt. Ashim Taxali was withdrawn and approval to M/s. Carver Aviation Academy was suspended. The Academy

represented to the Government with all facts of the case. The Government considered the representation and, keeping in view the facts that management of the institute themselves detected the malpractices and reported to the local police authorities and also keeping in view the career prospects of trainees enrolled with the institute and assurance given by the academy of a strict monitoring system, decided to revoke the suspension of the licence. DGCA has been directed to ensure that the monitoring system is in place.

(c) All the Flight Training Institutes have been advised to submit attested photocopies of relevant records of their individual aircraft every month. The applications of their students for their students for issue of licences are required to be submitted with attested copies of relevant flying records/details. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has been directed to ensure a strict monitoring system to avoid malpractices. DGCA is planning to appoint independent auditors to inspect the Flying Training Institutes and submit their report for further action.

Railway Project in Maharashtra

4545. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from the Maharashtra Government to lay new lines gauge conversion in the State and other developmental work such as ROB/RUB, renovation of platforms, stations etc;

(b) the details and present status of those proposals alongwith fund allocated in recent Budget; and

(c) the details of new lines being surveyed and the lines pending in Maharashtra with the Ministry for approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Details of each and every proposal received regarding new lines, gauge conversion and developmental works such as ROB/RUB, renovation of platforms, stations etc. is not maintained. However, details of some of the demands received recently from the Government of Maharashtra regarding new line, gauge conversion and ROBs are under:-

S.No.	Demand raised	Outlay during 2008-09 (Rs. in crore) for sanctioned projects	Status
1.	Wadsa-Gadchiroli (New Line)		Updating Survey taken up.
2.	Khamgaon-Jalna (New Line)		Survey completed. Could not be taken up because of constraint of resources and heavy throwforward of ongoing projects.
3.	Wardha-Yavatmal-Pusad-Nanded (New Line)	0.01	Included in the Budget 2008-09.
4.	Miraj-Latur (Gauge Conversion)	94.80	Kurduwadi-Pandharpur (52 km.) Latur-Osmanabad (113 km) and Osmanabad-Kurduwadi (72 km), Completed. On Miraj Pandharpur (137 km.) land acquisition taken up. Section targeted for completion during 2008-09.
5.	Purna-Akola (Gauge Conversion)	20.00	Purna-Hingoli (81.5 km.) completed and commissioned. Hingoli-Akola (128.5 km) has also been completed and likely to be commissioned by 31.05.2008.
6.	Mudkhed-Nizambad-Secunderabad (Gauge Conversion)	1.01	Completed and commissioned.
7.	Rotegaon-Puntamba (New Line)		Survey included in the Budget 2008-09.
8.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vaijnath (New Line)	10.00	Work on Ahmednagar-Narandoh (15 km.) taken up. For balance portion, final location survey completed and estimate is under process of sanction.
9.	Malkapur-Solapur (New Line)		Survey included in the Budget 2008-09.
10.	Kalyan-Malshej Ghat via Ahmendnagar (New Line)		Updating survey taken up.
11.	Yavatmal-Murtijapur (New Line)		Survey for Achalpur-Murtizapur-Yavatmal, Pulgaon-Arvi completed.
12.	Manmad-Indore (New Line)		Proposal sent to Planning Commission for in Principia approval.
13.	ROB Mankapur in lieu of LC No. 294	00.20	Included in the Budget 2008-09.
14.	ROB at Kharigaon in lieu of LC No. 28	Costing less than Rs. 2.5 cr. Outlay will be allotted by Railway	Included in the Budget 2008-09.

(c) Details of ongoing/new surveys for New Line falling fully/party in Maharashtra are as under:

S.No.	Name of Survey	Kms.
1.	Bellarsha-Surjagad (Etapalli)	130
2.	Chinchwad-Roha	95
3.	Badnera to Washim via Dhanaj, Kamaja and Mangrupur	135
4.	Kalyan-Ahmednagar	240
5.	Karad-Chiplun	90
6.	Pandharpur-Lonad	145
7.	Rotegaon-Puntamba	47
8.	Shirpur-Mhow	185
9.	Solapur-Jalgaon	450
10.	Veer-Harhareshwar	45
11.	Kinwat-Mahur	45

In last 3 years, 2 new line surveys had been completed and Wardha-Nanded line has already been included in Railway Budget, 2008-09. The proposal of new line from Manmad to Indore has been processed for requisite approvals.

Merger of DA with Basic Pay

4546. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether second Pay Revision Commission for CPSUs has recommended for merging of 50% DA with basic pay;

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

(c) whether the benefit of 50% merger of DA would be extended to only profit making CPSUs;

(d) if so, the details the reasons behind depriving the benefit to other CPSUs; and

(e) the budgetary support extended by the Government as a consequence of merger of 50% of DA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The second Pay Revision Committee recommended merger of 50% of D.A. with basic pay as on 1.1.2007 be extended to the Central Public Sector Executives. The Committee also recommended that the merger would, however, be made applicable to those CPSEs which are having paying capacity and can absorb the financial liability on account of merger from their own resources.

(c) to (e) The Government has extended this benefit to employees of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) following 1997 IDA pattern of pay scales that are not loss making and are in a position to absorb the additional expenditure on account of said merger from their own resources. without any budgetary support from

the Government and also employees in the IDA pattern pay scales in the Food Corporation of India.

Accidents at Unmanned Crossing

4547. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of collision between train and car at unmanned railway crossings have recently increased in the country;

(b) if so, the details of incidents of collision between trains and vehicles and other accidents at unmanned and manned crossings occurred during the last three years and the current year till date in the country, division wise;

(c) whether three persons were recently killed in a train-Scorpio collision in Ludhiana as reported in "Dainik Jagaran" dated march 14, 2008;

(d) if so, the details of loss suffered by the Railways and the common people in that accident;

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government to provide assistance to the victims; and

(f) the details of steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. The number of unmanned level crossing accidents has decreased from 72 in 2006-07 to 65 in 2007-08.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) One unmanned level crossing accident took place on Ludhiana-Gill Block Section of Ludhiana-Dhuri Section of Ambala Division of Northern Railway on 13.03.2008 due to dashing of one Maruti car with the train engine causing loss of life of three occupants of the car. Two of the occupants died on the spot and third occupant also succumbed to the injuries subsequently. No damage was caused to railway property.

(e) The above accident was caused due to the negligence of the car driver who failed to stop and cross the level crossing only after assuring that no train is

approaching from either side, as required under the Motor Vehicle Act. Ex-gratia by railways is not payable in such accidents at unmanned level crossings.

(f) Since most of the unmanned level crossing accidents are caused due to negligence of road users, public awareness programmes and publicity campaigns through various electronic and print media are undertaken regularly. Further, Railways on their part take various steps to prevent unmanned level crossing accidents which include levelled road surface at the crossings, proper road signs to warn road users, speed breakers/rumble strips on the approach road and whistle boards for the train drivers to whistle while approaching the level crossings. Joint ambush checks with the involvement of civil authorities are also conducted to check the erring road users. Manning of unmanned level crossings is also done upon their qualifying the laid down criteria for manning as per the extant policy.

Tourism Policy

4548. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take necessary steps for making a new tourism policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The latest Tourism Policy of the Government was formulated in 2002 after detailed interactions with the industry associations, concerned Ministries & Departments of Central Government State Governments and other stakeholders. The main objectives of the policy are to position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and to harness its direct and multiplier effects for employment and poverty eradication in an environmentally sustainable manner.

At present, there is no proposal before the Government to bring out a new tourism policy.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take Paper to be Laid on the Table. Now, Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (1) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. CA 11 of 2008)-Compliance Audit Observations for the year ended March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8605/2008)

- (2) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. CA 9 of 2008)-Financial Reporting by Public Sector Undertakings—Compliance Audit for the year ended March, 2007.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8606/2008)

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8607/2008)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural

Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8608/2008)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Zone Cultural Centre, Patiala, for the year 2006-2007.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8609/2008)

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2005-2006.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8610/2008)

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Eastern Zone Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8611/2008)

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8612/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8613/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): 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 Air India Limited and its Subsidiaries, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Air India Limited and its Subsidiaries, New Delhi, for the year 2006-

2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review by the Government on the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the accounts of the Air India Limited and its Subsidiaries, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8614/2008)

12.00¹/₂ hrs.

At this stage, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): 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 Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, Pune, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8615/2008)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): Sir I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8618/2008)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan, 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 2006-2007, alongwith 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 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8617/2008)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8618/2008)

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8619/2008)

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8620/2008)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineering Projects (India) Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8621/2008)

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8622/2008)

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8623/2008)

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Scooters India Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8624/2008)

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Tyre Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8625/2008)

- (6) Memorandum of Understanding between the Instrumentation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8626/2008)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you for your maiden performance as a Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8627/2008)

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Sponge Iron India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8628/2008)

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8629/2008)

- (4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8630/2008)

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8631/2008)

- (6) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8632/2008)

- (7) Memorandum of Understanding between the NMDC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8633/2008)

- (8) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8634/2008)

- (9) Memorandum of Understanding between the MECON Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8635/2008)

- (10) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Refractories Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8636/2008)

- (11) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2008-2009.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8637/2008)

- (12) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the MECON Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8638/2008)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for theyear 2006-07.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8639/2008)

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (13) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (a) and (b) of (12) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 8640/2008)

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you also for your maiden performance as a Minister.

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd April, 2008."

2. Sir, I also lay on the Table the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Bill, 2008 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 23rd April, 2008.

12.02 $\frac{1}{4}$ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Statements

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter-I of the Twenty-first Report on the subject "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Public Works Department (CPWD)."

12.02 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT
OF WOMEN**

15th Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on the subject 'Working Conditions of Women in MTNL'.

[English]

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate that although I had allowed this issue to be raised, the functioning of the House is being deliberately interferred with. With strong condemnation I adjourn the House to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have given a notice on a matter of urgent public importance. I would request you to give me time to speak on that for two-three minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not the time. I will give you chance after 6 p.m.

14.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 15 of the Agenda. The matters under Rule 377, listed for today, may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to restore the quota of electricity to Kerala from the Central Pool

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to draw attention of the Government towards the problems faced by the people of Kerala on account of reduction in quota of electricity from the unallocated central pool. Out of the quota allotted to the State, 133MW of electricity was cut down from April, 2007 and about 50 MW from December, 2007. At the meantime, the consumption has increased by 150 MW. The demand is likely to increase to the tune of 2,800 MW by the peak season of summer. But the availability including central pool quota will be around 2400 MW, which is short by 400 MW. This will result in heavy load shedding. The Electricity Board is not in a position to purchase electricity at Rs. 8.75 - Rs. 9.00 per unit direct from generating plants. The only way to ameliorate the situation is to restore the reduced quota from the central pool.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to intervene urgently so that the reduced quota of electricity from the central pool is restored immediately.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) Need to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in all the Parliamentary Constituencies and increase the quota of seats recommended by MPs for admission to schools

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, two coupons for admissions of children to Kendriya Vidyalayas are made available every year to the hon'ble Members of Parliament by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on behalf of Ministry of Human Resource Development. On the recommendation made through these coupons hon'ble Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can get two children admitted to Kendriya Vidyalayas situated in their respective constituencies. But the people of those constituencies where there are no Kendriya Vidyalayas are deprived of this facility. Consequently, the hon'ble Members of Parliament representing such constituencies have to face a lot of difficulties. On the one hand facility of Kendriya Vidyalaya is not available in their constituencies and on the other hand they have been deprived of the facility of admission of children to Kendriya Vidyalaya through coupons which is not only a breach of their privileges but is also a gross injustice to the people of the area. Therefore, it is mandatory to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in every district of the country on priority basis on the recommendation of the hon'ble Member of Parliament by relaxing rules in this regard in such constituencies.

The Members of Rajya Sabha can get children admitted to any of the Kendriya Vidyalayas through coupons in the State from where they have been elected.

I would, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to open Kendriya Vidyalayas on the recommendations of those hon'ble Members of Parliament in whose Parliamentary constituencies K.V's have not been set up and those Members of Parliament should be granted coupons to get children admitted to any Kendriya Vidyalaya of the State from the current session on the lines of the Rajya Sabha Members and the number of coupons should be increased to at least ten.

(iii) Need to make Bharwari and Sirayu Railway stations in Chail Parliamentary constituency as a halt station for Chauri Chaura Express, Sealdah-Delhi Express and Janta Express

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, difficulties of passengers have been accentuated in my

parliamentary constituency, Chail in Uttar Pradesh with the cancellation of Toofan Express and Janta Express which run between Howrah and Delhi. Businessmen from the districts of Allahabad, Pratapgarh, Kausambi and Fatehpur have been put to great inconvenience in their journey to Allahabad, Kanpur, Lucknow and Delhi. Four trains including Chauri Chaura, Sealdah-Delhi, Sri Ganganagar Udyan Abha (Toofan Express) Janpad Express have been discontinued with effect from December 1, 2007. Bad weather conditions has been cited as a reason of the above. Trains are resumed after a gap of one or two months. This time these have been resumed after four months which leads to a loss of lakhs of rupees per day to Railways. Hundreds of businessmen commute every day by these trains to business, centers of Delhi, Lucknow, Allahabad, Kanpur from Bharwari and Sirayu Railway stations. Halts of other trains in addition to these should be provided at the Railway stations of Bharwari and Sirayu in Kausambi district of Uttar Pradesh.

- (iv) **Need to set up new medical colleges in the Government sector to overcome the shortage of doctors in the country**

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Non-availability of doctors has a direct relationship to the number of medical colleges in a State vis-a-vis requirement as per population norm. As per the report of National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Gujarat have a large number of Medical colleges while Orissa and some other States does not have adequate no. of such colleges. Private Medical Colleges charge very high fee which becomes economically non-viable for the doctors passing out from such institutes to join Government services. So, such institutions are not the solution. Government should have targeted plan to encourage establishment of new medical colleges fully in the Government sector with State and Centre on fund sharing basis.

As there is huge shortage of doctors, it would be perhaps appropriate for Medical Council of India to introduce certain courses for a shorter period, so that diploma courses for primary level of health services can be introduced in the country to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas. Criteria of number of Auxiliary Nurses, Mid-wife for 3000 population is rather high particularly for tribal districts which needs to have more number of sub-centres.

- (v) **Need to appoint a Committee to look into the problems being faced by the fishermen on the Western Coast (Konkan Region) of Maharashtra**

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): The fishermen on the Western Coast in Maharashtra are almost facing a difficult situation due to shrinkage in the quantity of fish production and deterioration in the quality of fish-catch. The year 2006-2007 has been particularly burdensome for them.

To take the case of Ratnagiri District as a case in point, fishing is the sole profession of livelihood for 104 villages; 82 situated on the sea coast and 22 along the inland back-waters. Around 15,000 families are housed in these villages.

The fishermen employ mechanized boats for fishing and their operations extend upto 100 K.M. for deep sea fishing.

May be, due to some natural phenomenon, there has been a sharp downfall in the fish production during the years 2006-2007 (69000 m. tons vis-a-vis 1,05,069 m. tons in 2005-2006). There has also been deterioration in the quality of fish-catch. This twin effect has taken a heavy toll on the earning of the fishermen. They need instant financial assistance.

Taken as a whole, in the Konkan region this problem is of vast magnitude.

In some ways, fishermen stand at par with the farmers. They have taken out 'Morchas' in sea to draw the attention of the Government to their plight.

I appeal to the Government to appoint a fact-finding Committee to report on the problems of fishermen on the Western coast of Maharashtra. The Committee should submit its report within a fixed time-frame and in the meantime the fishermen may be given a financial package at par with farmers to enable them to cope with the current situation.

- (vi) **Need to make adequate budgetary provision for the construction of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line in Maharashtra with a view to ensure its timely completion**

[Translation]

SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL (Beed): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has

decided to collaborate with the Railways in construction of Ahmednagar Beed-Parli (Vaidyanath) railway line on 1-4-2008. The Government of Maharashtra have expressed their intention to share half of the expenditure to be incurred on the project. The Government have written a letter to hon'ble Minister of Railways in this regard.

Therefore, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to accede to the request of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and make adequate provision in the ensuing Budget by expediting the work on construction of the above railway line and fix a time frame for its completion.

14.04 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
2008-09**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will come to Item No. 16.

The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demand No.59 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Shri Haribhau Jawale has tabled a cut motion to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. If the hon. Member wants to move his cut motion, he may send a slip at the Table within 15 minutes.

The Demand for Grant in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and, if time permits, in respect of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be discussed till 6 p.m. As the Members are already aware, guillotine will take place at 6 p.m.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 59 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

LOK SABHA

Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2008-2009 in respect of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 14, 2008		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
59 Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	249,62,00,000	68,72,00,000	1248,09,00,000	343,61,00,000

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, thousands of employees of Akashwani and Doordarshan have been on strike for a number of days and three of them are on fast unto death.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak when your turn comes.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, condition of these three persons is very serious. They may die if the hon'ble Minister does not intervene immediately as their health

[Shri Mohan Singh]

has deteriorated considerably. That should be considered as a matter of urgent public importance and the hon'ble Minister may talk to them and convey a message before this debate concludes. It is the topmost priority of the day to save the lives of at least those three employees who are on fast unto death. The Minister should take some initiative.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Lakshman Singh, Shri Subhash Maharia, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Verma, Dr. Satyanaryan Jatiya and Shri Ajoy Chakraborty have associated themselves with Shri Mohan Singh ji.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are going to discuss the Demands of Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. This Ministry is equally important like the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs which look after the security of the country. This Ministry is such, which have impacts on mankind or society in different ways. There are various means like Radio, Film, T.V., Print Media, Electronic Media, Dance, Art and Culture which impress upon the wisdom and entertainment of the mankind and this Ministry is the root of all those mediums. If the human beings do not possess good values and the society is not protected properly, then other things will have no meaning for them. So, from this point of view this Ministry is very important.

I am pained to say that the way budget system of this Ministry is developing, it seems that the functioning of the ministry is not satisfactory. Somewhere the Ministry is totally non serious to its functioning. I am not saying so merely to make allegations. The data in respect of the budget of this Ministry before us also reveal this fact. I want to tell him that there is a difference between the demands and the budget estimate of this Ministry. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, it had demanded Rs. 6067.40 crore, at that time its budget estimate allocation was made to the tune of Rs. 4381 crore. Thereafter, if we look at the revised estimate, we find that it got Rs. 3328.70 crore while the actual expenditure incurred to the tune of Rs. 2808 crore which means that this ministry is not serious in any plan. When we look at the 11th Five Year Plan we find that the demand was twice or four times of the budget allocation made for it. In the matter of actual spending, the demand was six times, when they were having discussion with the Planning Commission, Dasmunshi Ji you please pay attention to what I am saying. It seems that perhaps at that time you were

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and it may be possible that you were not much serious towards this Ministry. The Ministry had produced 101 plans out of which 43 were withdrawn. It is like that we say in Marathi that 'Khirafat Beantri hai, dena hai. They thought close was being given so the speeches were produced in phased manner. Otherwise they have considered the viability of the schemes. Because of that 43 schemes have to be dropped. It would be better if the hon. Minister make it clear in his reply as to what happened to the expenditure that was made on it.

The Ministry had submitted a proposal for Rs. 16829 crore out of which Rs. 5529 crore were sanctioned. I am talking of 11th Five Year Plan, I want to give details of their non-seriousness with some data. For the first year, budget estimate of the ministry was of Rs. 475 crore, revised estimate was of Rs. 400 crore and the actual estimate was of 372 crore rupees which means it is getting reduced. For this year, Rs. 700 crore have been allocated out of which Rs. 99 crore have been given for Commonwealth Games can speak at a great length if I start speaking on the proposals which they have submitted. All these figures show their non-seriousness in some way, I will also talk about the small activities that are carried out by his diversion because I am a mother and a grandmother and I have an affection with the children. I think that something should always be done for the children. Children film society has been established under his Ministry. They had chalked out a plan for big construction for the purpose of children at Hyderabad for this society. But the extent of non-seriousness was such that no attention was paid towards it. For this purpose Rs. 2.71 crore were allocated out of which Rs. 41 lakh were spent in a whole year too and the funds were released speedily in the last 15 days from 01 February to 15 March as they felt that it could not be constructed in Hyderabad so it be built in, Mumbai. However, they were not getting space there. Thus they were in dilemma. So in these last 15 days Rs. 1 crore 95 lakh were disbursed rapidly. They had not thought over it whether it would help in building it and quality can be maintained. Such kind of non seriousness ministry showed in this matter.

Secondly, at Film Institute, Pune, there was a plan to build first global film school but in five years nothing was done. Nearly Rs. 2.58 crore were earmarked for this purpose but the things turned in such a way that it was made School of International Standing. I am unable to

understand that if they are not serious about a scheme, then why do they devise it? Priya Ranjan Ji, what you have done, I do not understand. I think that in these five years you have not looked at all these things seriously. Somehow National Film Development Corporation is functioning well.

As I said at the outset of my speech that this ministry is in a way or other affecting each and every aspect of human life. Considering its importance, I would like to say something about the FM radio. For that you are opening different diversions collaboration with private parties. You are taking interest in the establishment of new channels with private partnership. In earlier days radio used to be an effective medium for people living in villages which provided not only entertainment but it also featured achievements of the government, discussion on the schemes of the government and provided information to the people in a better way. As Binaka Geet Mala started gaining popularity on radio Ceylon we started Vividh Bharti and tried to make it popular so that people could remain interested in it. It also used to broadcast 'chaya Geet' and 'Hawa Mahal' but I would not dwell deep on it. However, if you look at Radio FM, the language that they use to make its news catchy is somewhat impalatable. I am not saying that it should be banned but there should be some control.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be a code of conduct for it because the kind of language that they use is not acceptable. I can not cite even an example to substantiate my statement. Some such language are used to make it attractive or it is called Radio Mirchi. My only submission is that the government are establishing different channels throughout the country but we should also think over regarding its code of conduct. There should be an element of control on it because even today radio is being listened in remote area. Initially, I had the impression that with the advent of TV some would listen to radio but the situation is not so. Even today radio is popular in far flung areas. People also listen to these grants that is why it is important for as to give a thought on it.

Secondly, I would like to make a mention of Press. Government are talking about electronic media monitoring center. I think that there is no progress in this regard as yet, it should also be established. Electronic media are of two types. I am going to tell about 'journalism', Journalists may feel offended from me but there is a role

of journalism and print media. We call it as the fourth pillar of democracy and it should remain so. Actually, ill-gotten money is being pumped into these two types of media. It is my experience that with the rising land price land mafias have become active and they find press as the medium to further invest the money. The ill-gotten money is somehow being invested in print media. Talks are also going on regarding the foreign entry in print media. It is important to think over it seriously otherwise these aspects would never remain connected with originality. If foreign capital happens to enter into it, our country, our culture and our democracy will not be remain untouched. This requires to be deeply brooded over.

At the same time, I would like to say that we do have electronic media monitoring center but it seems that we are not paying much attention towards the news channels. These channels are required to be made accountable. There is a Press Council. How the Press Council can be strengthened, whether the electronic media comes under its purview, I do not know completely about all these things but whether we can bring the same under its purview. Whether there can be a code of conduct especially for the news channels. The means can be desired as to how we can monitor them. The monitoring does not mean what they should telecast or not telecast, they should also understand this thing. Now a days, the way the news channels telecast news that shows that they have nothing to do with the news. If we see breaking news we find that it has got no relevance. Earlier breaking news had not a meaning that means that some major incident has happened at the national level or the international level. That was the meaning behind breaking news. But now-a-days incidents like woman Teacher was beaten up, that too, due to bogus sting operation and similar other news are made breaking news. I do not think it fit to quote them. News channels are giving more focus on shows than the news. We are living in twenty first century. But somewhere it seems that sorcery, witchcraft, the position of stars and the suggestion as to wear this ring on that are getting more importance in the news channels in this 21st century.

[English]

What are all these things happening?

[Translation]

Whether our role will be limited to that of an observer in these matters? We have become so much helpless. It

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

is not necessary to think over all these matters. My other colleagues will discuss youth and sports officers. The standard of sports has declined. Players are being purchased to perform via fashion shows and walk on the ramp. How are all these things happening? I have failed to understand. If cricket players are performing in fashion shows instead of playing in the field, should the players be compelled to do such things only because they have been purchased by someone? And the same things are showed repeatedly by the news channels. If someone's clothes slipped, that becomes a newsitem. It is, however, hard to understand what type of fashion show it is. Fashion show is organized for showing clothes apparels but they do not wear clothes. It is also hard to understand how the clothes of only such people get slipped off their body. Our children continue to see such things like slipping of clothes throughout the day.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura):

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh Ji please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar): By saying such things, She is misleading the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The observations of whosoever speaks without my permission should not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: You do not divert the issue.

[English]

I am not against fashion shows.

[Translation]

We also believe in fashion, we too, try to look smart. We have experienced and witnessed all these things.

We do not want to wear clothes absurdly and at the same time I would not like any man or woman to live absurdly. We call it able (absolutely) in our area. We should live smart and look smart as well. I am not opposing Vasundharaji, is she has demonstrated some of the clothes made in her state, in a decent manner. I mean to say that is said that fashion show is meant for demonstrating clothes, but we do not see clothes. My objection is to that point. Whatever little clothes happened to be there, they slipped off the body and the same is telecast again and again. Have we become so much helpless? Let us think over it also and I do not want to linger on this matter.

I would like to say one more thing. You are talking about monitoring, whether the private channels can be monitored? The way the shows like reality show, Indian Idol are being organized and sms are being invited, it has become a source to earn money. The Judges are called. Their opinion has got no importance and their judgment has got no value. This is nothing but exploitation in a way. I have been told that a beauty contest for girls of the age of thirteen years is likely to be organized. Girls enjoy and make merry in this age. At home we teach them not to bother about clothes but to play and make merry. We tie their hairs and we allow them to go, play and relax but here a show is organized for the girls of the age of 13 to 14 years and they are given tips how to look more and more beautiful. Where are they taking the country to? Whether the entire House will continue to be helpless in this matter and say that let them go where they want to go. Let us think over it. What should I tell about the T.V. serials, you can understand it by yourself. All these things are required to be monitored at some or the other level. His ministry should take all these things into account and keeping these things in view, what action would he like to take. As I have said at the outset that he is not taking interest in formulating schemes, his ministry does not want to spend money, no interest is being shown in strengthening Children's Film Society. Film institute is not being given its due status. The film institute at Pune has been famous for producing actors of high standard but there is no proposal for this institute in the demand. I want him to pay heed towards these things. I conclude here because there are so many members who would express their view? on this issue and there is no need to repeat the same thing again and again.

At last, I would like to add few more lines - Priyaranjan ji your portfolio is entertainment, I want to

*Not recorded.

say that it must be so but it must be entertaining to all. I mean to say that it should not mean entertaining all but it should mean pleasing everyone. Be it T.V. or P.M. channel or any other channel all of them are denigrating and destroying our values. We will support him. I have been told a few days back he had brought a small Bill and I felt that there would be something good in that Bill. But increasing or reducing age for someone will not suffice.

[English]

I just do not know about it.

[Translation]

I am not levelling charges against him. He brought a small Bill but reducing or increasing somebody's age is not going to strengthen Prasar Bharati or any other government organization. He will have to do something different for that purpose. But what he-proposal to do see that our values do not denigrate? At the same time, I would like to say that if Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is really desirous of creating good values and disseminating good thoughts as well as encouraging the talented artists. Whether under the public or the private sector he will have to implement stringent laws, rules and regulations quite strictly and for all that he will have to be very strong and strict and make his ministry strong by soliciting the cooperation of all the concerned. Only reducing or increasing budget will not suffice as everything cannot be done with the budget only. But at the same time I would request that budget should not be reduced. Whatever few schemes you have got those should be implemented vigorously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want that the reply of hon. Minister should come at 5.00 o' clock, therefore, those hon. Members, who want to lay their written speeches on the table can do so.

[English]

It will save some of our time also.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): How much time does the hon. Minister want for the reply? I am asking this because at 6 o' clock guillotine is there. Does he require one hour for replying to the debate?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think that one hour will be sufficient for him.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, he may start his reply at 1730 hours.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): I do not know whether the discussion on the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be held or not.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We settle for 5.15 o' clock. We request the hon. Minister to complete his reply within 45 minutes.

SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH (Rajnandgaon): Sir, through you, I support the Demands for Grants placed by the hon. Minister Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, before this House. I request the House to support and pass these Demands for Grants.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the right to information in twentieth century is the most powerful tool of a common man. With this tool, he can fight his battle on his own. I think that where the society is empowered the right to information and where the public relation and means of communication are powerful and available to the common man, that country will be more strengthened. I also think that through better means of communication a common man can do a continuous and online participation. Therefore, our best manpower will be formed on the basis of the strength of means of communication. Hon. Minister and the UFA Government have introduced many new programmes through Prasar Bharati and given a new dimension to Doordarshan and All India Radio, and that certainly affects the common man of our country. Our means of communication, especially All India Radio and Doordarshan have done a good job for the people at grass root level. As of today, there is a tough competition of professionalism in which private channels; F.M. channels etc are presenting such thing before us, which is very shabby and harmful to our society.

Sir, this may be a matter of concern and national debate that our Dooradarshan's and All India Radio's programmes prove to be weak in the competition with private channels. These things time and again appear in Lok Sabha, in newspapers and on other platforms but it seems that our Doordarshan and All India Radio are weaker in this regard but private channels are giving good service. At the same time the programmes presented by private channels to our society, are to some extent anti-national and against our society and we can raise

[Shri Devwrat Singh]

objections to all these things through this House that functioning of our Doordarshan is not good, and technically not sound. We can also allege All India Radio. But our Doordarshan and All India Radio provide protection to our culture, literature, folk arts, children's talent, rural talent, highlight the problems related to our agriculture and environment, and all small things of our society, it also protects our local and rural ideas, small and folk artists, and not even a single private channel comes forward to protect all these things.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the members of the House will agree that today the programmes in which small talents participates and which presented by Doordarshan, there were never brought forward by the private channels. Only Doordarshan and All India Radio bring forward the rural talents and the problems related to our soil and remote areas of our country.

Sir, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister that he has played a pivotal role in bringing the communication revolution in the country. This is a good symbol during the last four years that the services of Doordarshan and All India Radio are being extended on a regular basis, which provides better service to this huge nation. I think the budget allocated to the Ministry of hon. Minister is very less. Today, the problems of Doordarshan and All India Radio are only of financial nature. But even then the network of Doordarshan and All India Radio have been widely expanded in the leadership of hon. Minister during the last four years. 142 new high, low and very low transmitters, about 160 cable head ends and eight new studios have been established during last four years. If hon. Minister had provided more financial support, these services would have been more expanded.

Sir, today a new question arises that so many things comes out about the quality and transmission system of the programmes presented by Doordarshan. 17 studios and 30 small studios have been digitalized in the able leadership of hon. Minister so that they can be transmitted on international level and programmes can be of international standard. Certainly, this would be very encouraging for Doordarshan. Doordarshan has launched Urdu channel and Rajya Sabha channel and it is a very good initiative. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and this Government through you, that today India is ready to mark her presence at world level. In the era of globalization, people want to know and understand India and in this situation, Doordarshan has taken initiative

to launch a new channel which will be broadcast at international level and it is really a welcome step.

Direct channels of Doordarshan are always in demand amongst people. This is a welcome step to increase the channels from 30 to 50 and along with it this is also a welcome step to establish 31 new FM transmitters, 36 new All India Radio transmitters and 17 new relay centres of All India Radio.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that our country is obsessed with cricket but recently they are deprived of watching a good cricket as BCCI has taken a decision to cancel the rights of Prasar Bharati and transferred it to a private channel on the basis of income and it has affected the income of Prasar Bharati. I want that Government of India should take a decision in this regard. Hon. Minister should move a proposal in this connection so that BCCI can be pressurized that whatever cricket match or in whatever playground India is playing, every citizen has the right to watch that match. This can be possible only when Doordarshan has the broadcasting rights. Sometimes private channels create obstacles. If television channel is interrupted, then Prasar Bharati should have rights to re-broadcast that programme.

I congratulate hon. Minister and this Government to expand the agricultural programmes up to village level either through agro science centres, agricultural universities or through chaupal programmes, either through Doordarshan or Prasar Bharati. The need of the hour is to expand these Programmes as more as possible. This is a good step of Doordarshan that at present it is trying to establish a private agency in which private institutions will be brought forward. But I would like that after this move, farmers should be given training for this so that they know about the diseases and the type of insecticides needed. If Doordarshan can be a platform to express the things, then, it would be beneficial for the farmers because a lot of farmers do not know about the new diseases in this climate-changing scenario.

It will be beneficial for the farmers if they are made aware of crop diseases with the help of Doordarshan. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for starting Rail Exhibition which has been named as Azadi Express. We have sent the important events of freedom struggle of the country through the above rail and it has a good effect on our minds.

Sir, today our film industry is in trouble. Approximately 400-500 films are produced in a year. You will find that out of it majority of the films go flop and even cannot recover the cost incurred on making them. The enhancement of budget meant for National Film Development Corporation is also a welcome step. In this budget, some amount has been earmarked for the film industry first time so that good films can be produced. Good producers and directors do not get money for making films, therefore, a provision has been made in the budget to provide financial assistance to them. Due to shortage of funds with the directors, art films are not being produced. I would also request the hon. Ministers to enhance the budget meant for the purpose. There is a need to create a corpus so that the producers of art films could make good art films. The hon. Minister is going to set up a Centre of Excellence, Animation and Visual Effects Centre at the national level. Definitely, it is a very good step. The Directorate of field publicity under your Ministry make exhibition of 'Bharat Nirman' programmes. I request the hon. Minister to take this exhibition to all the Lok Sabha constituencies with the help of field publicity directorate so that the people could become aware of the works done under the Bharat Nirman Yojana.

Presently, the employees of the All India Radio and Doordarshan are on strike. It is also worth mentioning here that we will not be able to do justice if we fail to sort out the problems besetting the people associated with the mass communications. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to constitute a committee in this regard which can well understand very well the grievances of the All India Radio and Doordarshan employees and sort out their problems. Technical posts and the posts of artists are lying vacant in the All India Radio and Doordarshan. There is a need to fill the vacant posts of the All India Radio and Doordarshan from the national level artists. They should get a chance of Government job. The hon. Minister has reduced the excise and custom duty on digital camera. It will definitely help in improving the quality of telecast. In the private sector, people will purchase good quality cameras and make good shooting and thereafter telecast it. Doordarshan and Prasar Bharti both need budget for the maintenance of sophisticated equipments because a lot of equipments are out of order due to lack of proper maintenance.

Sir, a lot of programmes have been started by the private TV channels to promote our musicians, literati and child talents. But these private TV channels do not

have any concrete policy. They can call anybody to take part in their programme. There are no norms in this regard. Even, we can not say anything about the artists who have improved his talent from the programmes organized by the private TV channels. I would like to give an example. Zee TV organized a programme Saregama. A girl named Sunita of my home town bagged fourth position in this programme. She has to sign an agreement with the zee TV. The person who participate in that programme and win, is bound to the channel for those services. The above mentioned girl cannot perform in any programme for a period of three years. She has to give half of the amount to the zee channel to be earned from the programmes in which she will participate. It has been seen that the winners of such contest like Saregama, Indian Idol are bound by some contract by the respective TV Channels who aired that programmes. It is a national scheme which should be banned. If these TV channels give platform to an artist and bind him by some contract for a period of three years, it is definitely a check on freedom of expression and also a ban on his capacity of art. I request the hon. Members of Parliament, literati, artists and musicians in all the Doordarshan and All India Radio so that the quality of the programmes is maintained. Hon. Sumitra Mahajan said that porn scenes are telecast through programmes. Such scenes are telecast which have adverse effect on our children as well as the entire. There is a need to put some checks.

Lastly, I, through you, would like to tell the hon. Minister that there is a need to put some checks on these private TV channels. If you view programmes on commercial channels from 7 pm to 11 pm you will find that these programmes put an adverse effect on our society. Especially Saas-Bahu serials and social serials have an adverse effect on our society. The Government have to enact stringent laws so that these channels telecast such programmes which are compatible to our society and culture, the hon. Minister has a good knowledge of this subject.

Lastly, I would like to say one more thing that programmes relating to our culture and literature should be encouraged continuously as these are a part of our heritage. The onus to promote such programmes lies with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, which the hon. Minister is executing very well.

I would conclude my speech by citing a line—Paani our Tammnao ki ek Tassir hoti hai aage Badhna. We have also to move forward but at the same time we

[Shri Dewwart Singh]

have to keep in mind that there is no harm either to our country or our culture and they are woven fine together.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I am glad to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-09.

I think the main objective of the Ministry, especially of the Department of Information and Broadcasting is to create good environment, set up policy framework for the healthy development of mass media, to keep the people informed about the Government policy and the programmes, to educate and motivate people for greater participative involvement, to serve as a constant link between the Government and the press.

The Ministry is assisted in its activities by 14 attached and subordinate offices. The most important among them are the Central Board of Film Certification; the Children Film Society; Director, Film Publicity; Director, Advertising and Visual Publicity; and Director, Film Festival. The Films Division is another major Department in the Ministry. Their main objective is to provide and distribute documentaries, animation films, short cartoon films, etc. It means that the Ministry has a vital role as far as education, information and cultural activity of our country are concerned. Besides that, cinema, radio, TV channels and short films are all strong instruments in the mass media. So, here comes the importance of the Prasar Bharati.

The Prasar Bharati had come into existence ten years back. A lot of changes have taken place since then. We should not forget that we live in an era of globalisation, privatisation and new liberal policy. There may be positive and negative effects of this policy. So, we cannot underestimate its negative effects, especially in the mass media. So, there should be some changes or amendments in the Prasar Bharati Act, especially in view of growing challenge from the private operators. When we are discussing this Ministry, it is our duty, especially the Parliament, to see how far our functions have gone. We have to see whether it has positive or negative effect and whether we succeeded in spending the money properly that the Parliament has sanctioned.

I fully agree with hon. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan. In 2002-03, the sanctioned amount was Rs.823 crore and the expenditure was Rs.674 crore. In 2004, the sanctioned amount was Rs.841 crore and the expenditure was Rs.495

crore. In 2005, the sanctioned amount was Rs.895 crore and the expenditure was Rs.390 crore only. In 2005-06, the sanctioned amount was Rs.1037 but the expenditure was Rs.807 crore only. In 2006-07, the sanctioned amount was Rs. 844 crore and the expenditure was only Rs.701 crore. Last year, that is in 2007, the expenditure was only Rs.252 crore and the sanctioned amount was Rs.390 crore. I think only Rs.390 crore were sanctioned because of less expenditure in the earlier years. The budget estimate for the year 2008-09 was Rs. 1497. 74 crore. In this connection, we want to get a clarification from the Ministry why the Prasar Bharati or the Ministry has failed miserably to achieve the targets. On the one hand, the budget estimates are high and on the other hand, the expenditure is very low. It is the situation when a large number of projects are waiting for the funds. You see the Satyajit Ray Film Institute in Kolkata or the Pune Film Institute, Pune. When the hon. Minister, Shri Pailam Raju was the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, we had the occasion to visit these institutes.

When we visited the institute we were told that they had no teachers and no infrastructure, though students from different parts of the country were there to study. The position still is very bad. When the Department has the funds, they are not able to spend it. With regard to the Satyajit Ray Film Institute, a comment has been made by the C&AG. It says that the activities of the institute had to suffer and remain limited to running one Post-Graduate course with 40 students. The plans for short-term courses will never be implemented. Even when there are funds available with the Ministry, they are not able to implement them. In one of the Reports that I have read about the Ministry says that the Ministry had to bring in foreign experts to assist them. At the same time, the private persons run it in a better way. But the Department has to get the assistance from abroad to run cinemas, or cover the news and such other things. Some introspection is essential as to why such a situation has arisen in case of the Prasar Bharati and this Department. There should be an amendment brought about to the Prasar Bharati Act, otherwise the objectives of this organisation would not be fulfilled. It so far could not evolve its own style that was expected of it and also it is not yet financially viable yet. The employees are unhappy. There is no realisation of the real spirit of autonomy. It has shortage of programmes. There is lack of imagination and there is no quality. In some cases the Board has not been fully constituted yet. When I make these criticisms about the Department, I would also like to

mention that the Azad Train Exhibition is really a very fine achievement of the Department. It has already visited 70 stations all over the country. The *Kranti Yatra* is also a very good programme. The exhibition on the 100 years of *Satyagraha* is also an important exhibition. These of course are landmarks. But I would like to simultaneously add that the goal with regard to the Prasar Bharati has not yet been achieved, especially keeping in view the challenges from the private persons and all that.

Sir, it has been ten years since Prasar Bharati has come into existence. Around 40,000 employees now want to go back to the main Ministry. In the Report of the Ministry it has been said that the Ministry is lacking in staff and that around 8,450 posts are vacant. We understand that this is a very strong mass media which is entrusted with the task of projecting Government policies and also highlighting and focussing on social issues, educational issues and various other informative issues without taking a partisan view. But many of the posts are vacant. The work load has increased. There are now about 30 channels, 60 production facilities, but funds for the software production has decreased. They need funds to develop better broadcasting systems. On the one hand they complain about non-availability of funds, on the other hand, they are unable to use the funds that are available for their daily use.

Sir, casual staff and artists of the AIR are discriminated against the DD casual staff. When I was a Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology, I used to receive a number of complaints from these workers who worked on a casual basis. They work day and night, but they are not accorded the same status as that of the DD casual staff. The Group of Ministers was supposed to take up this issue, but nothing so far has been done. In this connection I would like to point out some of the issues of the Akashvani and Doordarshan. There have been a number of demonstrations by the employees of these two organisations and a negotiation was assured by the Ministry and the Prasar Bharati saying that their issues would be fully looked into. After convergence, the Engineering and the Programme employees only were granted upgraded pay scales. At the same time, the performance of the administrative employees is really vital and they are working in the administrative set-up. But they were not granted the upgraded pay scales. There is no justification for that. They are all working in the same institution but when they came to the Prasar Bharati, what is the justification for not giving the same status for

them? I will ask the Minister concerned about it and I do not know whether he knows about it or not. ... *(Interruptions)* The concerned Minister assured, within these two years, that the Government is going to look into the matter and the Group of Ministers will be taking it into account. There was an agenda for it but it was not discussed... *(Interruptions)* I take it seriously because from 22nd April onwards, the Akashvani employees are on indefinite hunger strike. So, I request the Government to take up this issue because they have been demanding on this issue for a long time.

Either it is Prasar Bharati or Doordarshan, we should take an independent stand because it is the Government which is giving funds and it is deciding on policy issues. It is really unfortunate to say that, in West Bengal, there was a feeling or panorama that it was related to Nandigram issue. We know that regarding Nandigram, there are different views by the Congress or the CPI(M) or the Left Parties. But as far as Doordarshan or Prasar Bharati is concerned, how is it possible to give such things to the people? That is also against the Government. I do not take it that it is the case of West Bengal or the Central Government or Prasar Bharati. But when we take up the issue, as stated by the hon. Member, they have the freedom. At the same time, that should be utilized. Their main objective or issue should be national integration or the status of the nation. In some cases, we say that there is the right of expression or the freedom of expression. Of course, I do not underestimate the freedom of expression. But these unrealistic views that we project, wrong information that we give may really lead to communal feelings or clashes sometimes and other unwanted incidents. The Government should take that matter seriously.

There is the electronic monitoring system brought out by the Government. But I do not think it is possible for the system to manage because the electronic media, national media, the State media and the local media are mushrooming. There is no control at all, as stated by the hon. Minister. There are many indecent telecasting women like the fashion parade or the propaganda. As far as private owners of channels are concerned, they have no social obligations. What they need is the profit or the money. Nowadays, we watch the advertisements during the serials in the television. There is 50 per cent of news and 50 per cent of advertisements. I fear that after some years, the news items may be 25 per cent and advertisement will be 75 per cent. That is the trend that we see especially in the private channels. So, the

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Government has to take strong steps in this regard. There are about ten million viewers everyday, be it the case of Prasar Bharti or the All India Radio. So, their importance is very clear. The Government has to take strong steps to control the media and it is on this basis that I said it in the initial stage. ... *(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

Compared to other television channels, Doordarshan is doing a better job. So, we have to praise and protect the Prasar Bharati and the Doordarshan. I do not underestimate their importance because it is only the Doordarshan and the Prasar Bharati which are playing a vital role. I have pointed out the shortcomings. Now, we can watch Lok Sabha Channel because it takes up very serious issues, though it also shows films and serials. But that is not the case as far as private television channels are concerned.

We have to think about globalisation and liberalisation. Of course, the Government supports globalisation and privatisation to a great extent. As stated by other hon. Members also, we have to see its effects on our mass media, culture, education, etc. So, the Government has to take that issue into consideration.

Initially I said that there is a big gap between the expenditure incurred and the Budget sanctioned. We have allotted Rs. 1,497.74 crore for the next year. How is the Ministry going to spend it? I would like to know whether there are any good plans or not.

I would request that all these issues have to be considered.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-09. As the hon'ble Members expressed their views, there is nothing wrong in it as far as it needs to be considered, Lok Sabha T.V. Channel has been introduced in Lok Sabha. The hon'ble Minister is the Deputy-Chairman of the Committee. I have also the privilege to be a member of that Committee. Similar discussions have taken place many times in the meeting. It seems from the views of the hon'ble Minister that he wants to do something for the channel to encourage it, be it Doordarshan. We have seen him closely as the

Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. It is true that as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, he has given his ample time in running the house. It may be that he has not given much time for Prasar Bharati but he has improved it a lot. We have discussed in details about Prasar Bharti with the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Ministry of Law and Justice and have given some suggestions. Today in a true sense, this department can be termed as a mirror of the culture and civilization of the society. Everything has been discussed here, be it the programmes of Doordarshan, All India Radio or all electronic media and their good and ill-effects on children, all has been discussed here. But the main point is that and I think it has been discussed during 'Zero Hour' in the house time and again that the advertisements that are telecast even in the middle of news are so obscene that we can't see them with our children and family. The hon'ble Minister should take note of that and put a ban on it. The other thing is that Sumitra Mahajanji has told us in details about fashion shows, that should be done. But if it is in consonance with our culture and civilization nobody will raise any objection to it. We will welcome it.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister to a North-Central Cultural Centre in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh, which is run by the Central Government and headed by an IAS officer. Crores of rupees have been given to this centre but no record is kept about its expenditure. The local representatives are not given any information about any programme. Reputed artists perform in the programmes of the department but only for the fun and frolic of the local officers and the people and local representatives are totally being neglected. The families of those officers come, hire the artists they want and enjoy a lot. It is the only centre in Uttar Pradesh and it should provide such programmes for the people which may strengthen our culture and civilization. A lot has been said about FM and FM band. But when we visit our constituencies it is often seen that a song being broadcast on radio installed in our vehicles stops suddenly even for five minutes and as a result it spoils the entertainment. He should also pay attention to this and if there are such equipments in Doordarshan which have become obsolete and need repair, should be replaced.

Now-a-days programmes are being aired through satellite but they can not be seen in rural areas due to weak signal. In such areas foreign channel can be seen clearly but the programmes of Doordarshan and All India Radio can't be seen due to weak signal. Attention should

be paid to this. The programmes should be full of patriotism and social values. The songs of old movies are good to listen as they do have some meaning. It has good impact on society. Now-a-days a lot of such programmes are being telecast on T.V. which really spoil the ethos of family. Such programmes should be banned. You have set up a Censor Board for that. The Censor Board should at least see the adverse effect of such programmes on society at large. It should be telecast after due consideration. When Ramayan was telecast recently the roads bore deserted look and people watched it even by leaving their work. It will be good to have such type of programmes.

Through you, I would like to say that we get delayed information these days. For this, I urge upon that be it All India Radio or Doordarshan, it should telecast national and regional news at least after every half an hour so that the people know what is going on in the country or State. There should not be any advertisements in between the telecast of news/then only, we can enjoy it. The same can be laid about Breaking News. If an incident takes place anywhere it should be telecast first by stopping all the programmes. Now-a-days different programmes on astrology are being telecast on different T.V. Channels. What has happened to these T.V. channels. On the other hand programmes on crimes and horror-shows are telecast which may given rise to crimes as some youths have committed crimes by getting inspired from such programmes. We should see its adverse impact on the society. A channel telecasts a programme about a particular medicine saying that it will stop hair loss and one would have long hair. It is also said in the programme that black people will become fair and people of short-height will become long. This type of unnecessary propoganda should be stopped.

Folk songs are famous in rural areas. Therefore, programmes of folk songs should be telecast and their duration should also be enhanced. 'Bhojpuri' folk songs are very famous and they should be telecast. Ours is agriculture based country. 'Krishi Darshan' programme is telecast on Doordarshan. Whether it is aired on Doordarshan or Radio, it's duration should be enhanced. Farmers should be made aware of the crops to be sown according to the season by inviting scientists and experts in such programmes. I urge upon you to introduce a new channel exclusively for agriculture as India is agriculture based country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude now, as other members of your party will also speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I will conclude by saying one more thing. Today, hon'ble Mohan Singh ji said in the house that people of his department are staging 'dharna' at Jantar-Mantar. Their condition is so serious that they can die. He may direct his officers to accede to their reasonable demands and make them end their fast.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry and conclude my speech.

*SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Hon. Deputy Speaker, at the outset let me thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I extend my support to this Demand for Grants on behalf of our party, Dravida y Munnetra Kazhagam.

Broadcasting in India has witnessed vast improvement and expansion ever after the introduction of cable TV in India in 1992. There used to be collective viewing of TV in the villages where the villagers gathered in a common place in the village to watch the community TV sets. When compared to that the changes we now witness are manifold. It is astonishing but true that even villagers can keep pace with city dwellers in TV viewing with the advent of cable TV.

Introduction of DTH is a milestone in cable TV transmission. Even people in the rural areas can receive quality picture now. It is found to be more clear than even cable TV.

Entertainment is given priority in many of the TV channels. Only few among them give importance to informative and special programmes. Still there is a need to expand educational programmes. It is necessary to keep the masses informed of the social changes brought about through development activities. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to strengthen educational broadcasts.

In Tamil Nadu the Government led by our leader Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has started distributing colour TV sets from 2006 free of cost to families living under below poverty line. Now the Government of Tamil Nadu headed by our leader Kalaingar has extended this benefit

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri E.G. Sugavanam]

to all the families that have got family ration cards. Wide spread availability of TV set has brought about a revolutionary change. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take this scheme to all other states in the country and bring about a revolution in the spread of Information and Broadcasting.

Cable TV operators charge exorbitantly and they threaten the public who raise objection to heavy charges. To obviate this problem Hon. Chair Minister Tamil Nadu has nationalized cable net work transmission. The Government cable TV can now few cable connections at economical rates. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to consider expanding it to all the states.

Film Industry contributes to tax revenue of the Government in a big way. In the last two years alone more than 50,000 crores of the rupees have been earned in this field. But the living condition of the workers in the film production units must improve. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to set up a Fund to ensure social security for the workers and artists in the Film Industry.

The guidelines given to the Censor Board must be streamlined. Excessive violence and public display of obscenity must be restricted. Depiction of national leaders and physically challenged people in a poor light must be avoided in our films and TV programmes.

The quality of broadcasting and telecasting must improve. State owned Radio and Television Organisations must overcome shortage of staff and must go in for increasing staff strength and enhancing programme quality. Ever after setting up of Prasar Bharathi the service conditions of staff have become uncertain and even those who have been recruited as Government servants are left in the lurch. As the employees of Doordarshan and Akashwani are like a link between the state and its people, they must be extended with all the pay and perks on a par with Government servants. The grievances of these employees must be redressed. For more than 20 years Programme Executives have not got even a single promotion because of the wrong policies of the Government especially the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

It is a welcome move that more and more FM Broadcast services are permitted in the private sector. In between the entertainment programmes they must relay news bulletins also. Community radio must be encouraged. Television must pervade through all the villages cent percent.

Cinema Industry is investment oriented and film making calls for huge investment. But unscrupulous elements are bringing out illegal VCDs and make money causing huge loss to the original movie makers. I urge upon the Government to take severe action to prevent the menace of illegal CDs.

Film festivals and Film Award functions must be organized in different parts of the country. There must be Film Festivals in all the four regions of the country every year.

I also urge upon the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to modernize our broadcasting stations. Old gadgets are used still resulting in poor quality transmissions. Hence Information and Broadcasting Ministry must step up measures to go in for modern equipment and state of the art technology.

The state owned media appears to promote just one or two sport events. This must be changed. All the disciplines of sports must find place in TV broadcasts. Even our national game, Hockey gets a step motherly treatment. Hence Information and Broadcasting Ministry must promote all the important sports events.

Chennai city is emerging as a hub of information and communication technology and also as a centre of multi media. A film institute or a communication institute of international standard must be set up in Chennai. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to set up a Mass Communication Institute there.

Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri in my constituency may be provided with broadcasting stations and ensure fullfledged broadcasting from those towns that may benefit the backward rural areas surrounding them.

Film Industry must be recognized and accorded the status of a fullfledged industrial sector. Liberal credit facility through Nationalised Banks must be extended at reduced rates. I also urge upon the Union Government to look into the long felt demands of the doyens of the Film Industry. I also urge upon the National Pothigai Tamil TV Channel as a full fledged 24 hours channel.

The Government of Tamil Nadu is encouraging the film makers who promote Tamil in our state. Similarly every state must be encouraged to promote their language and culture.

In metropolitan cities like Delhi, Cineplex and multiplex have emerged and charge exorbitantly Rs.300 or 400 per ticket. The Government must take care to see that public viewing and collective viewing of films are encouraged and they are not beyond the reach of the poor people. Films that promote places of tourism importance must get incentives. Wild and pet animals used to be star attractions in films earlier. Now animals can not be cast in movies that easily. Even mere showing of animals like pets call for permission from Central Animal Welfare Board. This unnecessary restriction must be lifted.

Extending my support to the Demands for Grants to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, let me conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity to participate in this important debate. I stand to support this. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has its own importance. This is a very important Ministry. Through this Ministry we not only provide a means of entertainment on large scale for crores of people but also a large network of information which keeps people up to date. During the 60-61 years we are marching forward through Media, Print Media and Electronic Media. With the entry of private channels in the field of media, competition has increased. I think it has certainly brought about a big revolution in the field of entertainment. With the entry of private channels, we are facing challenges from a number of companies in the field of radio and television. We are trying to face these challenges. Hon'ble Minister is trying his level best to compete with the private channels and do something better in the field of radio, ever since he has taken charge of the Ministry. I accept the fact that even after various effort Doordarshan and Radio have not been able to compete with Private Channels.

The manner in which these Private Channels are trying to create adverse impact on the society and about which many hon'ble Members have discussed, I do not want to go into details. Today matter of concern is whether we will become helpless? This is the point to ponder. We have not been able to control it through Cable Act. It is discussed in every session of Parliament that obscene scenes are being shown, scenes having adverse impact on the society are being telecast, but we have become mute spectators, we are taking no action. Whether the Government will get helpless? Whether there is not any provision to take action, whether we cannot make any changes in the Act to check the efforts to create adverse

impact on the society. You please consider it. There are a number of reasons responsible for change in the mentality of younger generation. Different kinds of crimes are being committed, the stories that are cooked up by the Private channels and telecast, instigate our children to commit theft and dacoity. India has its own culture and civilization. History is witness to it. Efforts are being made to attack this age old culture and civilization. Particularly women are shown in a vulgar manner. How can you see it? Good people immediately switch off their TV sets, but others glue their eyes on TV sets which adversely affect our society. Thus it is harming our culture and civilization. Whether you cannot check it, whether you will let the foreign channels function unrestrained? You please take concrete measures to check the adverse impact of these channels on society. Why the Cable Act is not being amended by brining a new Act?

This is an age of entertainment and television is the center of entertainment. With the advent of television, people are visiting Cinema Halls in lesser numbers and they get enough entertainment at home. They feel more safe at home. Everyone needs entertainment. We need entertainment for mental satisfaction. We get enough entertainment through TV—be it Government or Private Channels. In the coming days it is going to be a big business. During the last three-four years people are getting attracted and involved in it. New Print and Electronic Media is coming up, people both from the country and abroad are getting into this business. I think it is going to be a business worth one lakh crore. It can get even bigger. We should take it from this point of view. Why the people are not getting attracted towards Doordarshan programmes, we should look into it. How we can make it popular? He is trying for it and some change has taken place, but the way he is trying, I think Doordarshan has not been able to compete. Today people's interest has increased. Through Doordarshan, news and entertainment programmes are reaching villages, though there is not enough power supply there and a number of other problems also exist there. Even Frequency does not reach there, therefore lesser number of programmes are being telecast in rural areas, Government should make arrangement so that this facility reaches every village. Our country has a population of more than 100 crore, there are thousands of villages, we should make arrangements and policy to take it to villages. Radio is popular even today, news and other programmes reach there through this medium, but it is not happening so nowadays. He has given permission for FM and other channels, there is no problem in it, but I think we should

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

improve the standard of Vividh Bharti to make it attractive. We should make policy to prepare new educative programmes and take the same to the common man. This can be done through Radio, so I think we should consider it.

Sir, a number of foreign channels like BBC London, CNN attract more viewers. I want to ask whether we can compete at international level through Prasar Bharati? Government should pay attention towards this aspect.

Our Hon'ble Minister is dedicated and able and has potential to do something and he also wants to work, then why doesn't he improve the Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan so that people may watch Doordarshan instead of BBC and CNN. I think he should pay more attention towards making our channels more and more popular. These programmes should be educative and should reach common man. I would like to make one more request that he has introduced a number of channels. Programmes and news are being telecast in Urdu language also. Besides, there are other regional languages, you may do so, we would not comment on it, but there are three to four crore Bhojpuri speaking people in this country. Bhojpuri is also popular in four-five other countries. Bhojpuri speaking people are there in the other parts of our country like West Bengal, Meghalaya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and their number is increasing in these areas.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): A stamp has been released in Germany. *

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Yes, stamp has been released in Germany. It is in Mauritius, Fiji and Dubai also. Bhojpuri is popular in many countries. Why you are not promoting it, promote it and it will increase your popularity. People will see it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am the only Member from my party to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have been given more than allotted time for your party.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You are always generous, please be generous today also. You are very kind to me. I am going to conclude. I was submitting that Bhojpuri films have become very popular. Bhojpuri

films are being shown in the country on a large scale, so I think if you make arrangement for Bhojpuri Channel, it will be a commendable work. If you act according to the wishes of crores of people, your popularity will increase, people will praise you. There are a large number of Bhojpuri people in Bengal, they will also be in your area. So you should strengthen your voters also.

Therefore, I would request you to start a channel in Bhojpuri language. At the time of creation of Prasar Bharati, it was said that it would work quite independently, there shall be no interference of the Government in it and it should be so. Although, Prasar Bharati intends to work independently, but somehow or the other we use it for our advantage. We understand that our UPA Government does not indulge in this practice and it should not be doing such things, let it work independently. But, I would like to say that earlier news were telecast through Doordarshan and other new private channels, but now a days there are less news on these channels. Today snakes, scorpions and mad persons are being shown on these channels. What is this happening? They are having a bad effect on the society. Ghosts, sadhus are being shown. Someone is moving his head, doing strange things. What kind of stuff is shown on T.V. You must also be watching all this. You must stop all this. We do not want to see such things. But they say that it is commercialisation. Whether money is everything? First of all, look at the society; also look at its impact on the society. Today there is a race among the channels, but most of the channels are destroying the news and spoiling the society by showing such things. I do not want to name any channel.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I would like to request Hon'ble Minister, to control such channels. You can see the things like sting operations. Look at the number of sting operations today. But, what is this happening? Before commenting on others, one should look at himself. Make a comprehensive law to control all these things. So that all these things and fictitious and obscene stuff, which is having bad effect on the society can be controlled. Our Indian culture is thousands years old culture. Our Indian civilization and culture is popular abroad but we are destroying ourselves through foreign culture. Therefore, I understand that he should take a concrete action against all these things and take steps to make Doordarshan a successful channel and internationally renowned one. You should promote our Radio and Doordarshan, so that

people stop watching other channels and watch only your channels. Do something like that.

With these words, I would like to say that instead of showing programmes which divide the society, programmes should be shown to unite the society. Do something to make Prasar Bharti number one. With this, I support Demands for Grants and conclude.

*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi) Information and Broadcasting Ministry for a long time used to function as the eyes and ears of the Union Government spreading its arms to the length and breadth of this vast Country and it is now seen to be shrinking. Due to non expansion of its seven media units, due to go slow procedures in the matter of recruitments and due to non-progression in constructing new buildings for various media units it appears that the functioning of Information and Broadcasting Ministry has not increased commensurate with the increased spurt of activities in the modern Information & Communication era.

Both the state-owned Radio and Television are broadcasting programmes in such a fashion that it is evident that they are functioning without adequate funds and are unable to engage better talented outsiders. Both Akashwani & Doordarshan used to attract a vast majority of our people and they now continue to function without being able to put up a matching competition to the emerging private TV channels and Radio Broadcast. Only in few places the state owned media are well received as there is no alternative.

In a vast populous country like that of ours it is essential that the vital control over media especially news media must be in the hands of a democratic government. Even in USA, a great power in this unipolar world it is not that easy to establish a media organization like Radio or TV stations or channels. But in India we find the mushrooming of TV Channels and FM radios which is both good and bad. We can allow healthy competition but we cannot forego the rightful place that must be there for the state owned media which alone can be more accountable to the public in the democratic body polity.

In a country like India where people of various hues coexist and people from different cultural backgrounds live together speaking different languages scope for

misunderstanding must be minimal. So the media must be more responsible and careful. So when we allow private sector in broadcasting it must be entrusted with well meaning organizations and it would be better news broadcasts are carefully monitored by the state while allowing free hand to the private sector in broadcasting educative programmes and entertainment programmes. I express this view without suggesting censorship but with a concern to ensure that this country remains integrated preserving its unity in diversity. Capitalistic forces must not eat away the vitals of our constitution especially the ideal socialism that is there in the preamble of our constitution. Hence I urge upon the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to tread its path carefully.

The state owned Radio and TV have now been entrusted with Prasar Bharati. Not much has been done except for stripping off the employees their status as government employees. The Programme Executives who were selected as gazetted officers through Union Public Service Commission have been made employees of a corporation overnight due to which they stand to lose many things. Since there was a long delay in deciding their status even the first promotion has been denied to many of the Programme Officers for a long stretch of time which unimaginably remains to be a long gap of more than eighteen years and twenty years in the care of many. This is totally unfair and unacceptable. The Union Government that has got to be a model employer must not shirk its responsibility. The employees of Akashwani and Doordarshan have not been covered under the sixth pay commission though the Union Cabinet took a favourable stand. This must be taken care of at least during the time when the high powered committee goes into the sixth pay commission report.

The Union I&B Ministry runs a Film and TV training institute in Pune. Considering the fact that both in Tamil Nadu and Kerala many films are made and also the fact that the film industry there is as old as the Bombay film industry, there is a need to establish a Film and TV institute in Tirunelveli that will benefit all the southern states especially Kerala which is known for producing many Art Films and new wave movies with Social consciousness.

In a democratic country it is necessary for the Government to ensure that all the measures of the government reach the people and it is also necessary that the news about them must reach the masses ahead of the implementation of various schemes and projects

*English translation of the speech laid on the Table in Tamil.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

In the light of the fact that many a Socio-Economic changes are taking place in this era of globalisation and economic liberalisation, the government must not let go its pivotal role in holding both people and media together in its arms. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to encourage State Governments also to handle the affairs of media broadcasts if it is very necessary to shed its burden.

Cable TV network and private channels must not be allowed to exploit the gullible masses. They also must be ear-marked with a role in the duty to empower and enlighten the people of the nation and private players must also carry the National programmes put up by the State media organizations at least for certain fixed hours to share their role in Nation Building. I urge upon the I&B Ministry not to shirk its responsibility and diminish its importance and relevance.

[English]

*SHRI KIREN RIJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I support the demand for grant under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Ministry is going very slow in North-East in with regard to expansion.

I would like to request the Minister for Information and Broadcasting to kindly sanction the posts for special news bulletin programme in All India Radio for some smaller tribal dialects in Arunachal Pradesh.

Why Government cannot grant the sanction for creating of news bulletin for some tribal people. This Govt. talk about tribal welfare so much but the policies are going against the tribals.

The State Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh also requested the Ministry. I have already ask the Ministry many times. The Hon'ble Minister also assured on the floor of the House. But nothing is happening to fulfill the demand and dream of the tribal people of Arunachal Pradesh.

If this demand is not fulfilled then we will term this Govt. as anti-tribal and anti-Arunachal.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I must congratulate the hon. Minister that after many, many years, the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting could be discussed in the Lok Sabha.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Albeit it is a fact that his party's leadership has not been fair to him and has deprived him of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, yet as a young person, we have admired him from a distance. He has been a constant fighter against adventurism and opportunism of all kinds and especially from the Left in his home State. We admire him for that and we wish him all success in his able war against Left opportunism.

Sir, it is a matter of great concern that when the Ministry had proposed for the 11th Plan, an outlay of Rs. 16,829 crore, a meagre amount of Rs. 5,529 crore has been allotted to this Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

It is an extremely sad incident although it has to be admitted that the demand of Rs. 16,829 crore was four times of what was allotted in the Tenth Plan. That amount at that time was Rs.4,831 crore. It is about six times of what the Ministry could spend. Unfortunately, the Ministry could spend only Rs.2,808 crore in the Tenth Plan. It speaks volumes about the executives, about the bureaucrats and about the way the Ministry functioned in the last Plan.

But it is said, never say die, and we hope that under this present administration—I would not use the word, regime—hopefully, a change will come about, especially because the media and entertainment industry in this country is growing at a whopping 18 per cent, which is much higher, nearly double of what the Indian economy is growing at. The size of this industry is estimated to double in the next five years, and to help in this growth, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has to be extremely industry friendly.

15.41 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

We have heard many hon. Members of Parliament criticizing fortune forecast, criticizing star gazing, criticizing movies, which is all fine, to say that this is bad, and only show us things that will teach us how to save ourselves from HIV-AIDS or stuff like that. We admit that, as a public service broadcaster, both Doordarshan as a television network and All-India Radio as a radio network.

We have immense responsibility. But whether these responsibilities are being well-cared for and whether the Ministry is aware of its responsibilities is a big question

mark. A simple thing is that till February, 2008, Prasar Bharati Board had seven vacancies. The Government could not fill up the vacancies. Surprisingly, there was not even a DG of AIR and Doordarshan. Similarly, when we see the development taking place in the sector of media, we find that the whole world has migrated to HDTV, High Definition Television. It will definitely mark a paradigm shift if Doordarshan could get on to the HDTV platform.

I have been a Member of the IT Committee for the past four years, I know that the Committee has been recommending that Doordarshan and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have to concentrate and move ahead. It is unfortunate that in our 43rd Report, the Committee had very strongly recommended that HDTV is the next step forward to go to meet the future, and it should be taken care of. But a year has passed by, and nothing has been achieved in this field.

I would like to mention something about the Children's Film Society of India. At one point of time, it was decided that the CFSI will set up an integrated unit at an integrated place where they will produce; they will exhibit; and they will do all ancillary works at Hyderabad. Nearly Rs.7 lakh was spent on that. But, unfortunately, although everybody in the Ministry knew that CFSI is a very small establishment and it has majority of its people in Mumbai, yet when you wanted to migrate to Hyderabad, nothing really was done in Hyderabad, and today CFSI is as it was 10 years or 20 years ago.

The world is changing. We are in the 21st century. It is essential that we educate, we inform and we entertain our children also. How do we do that? Are we giving enough importance to the Children's Film Society of India? We are not doing it. I would take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister that he should sincerely think of taking it out from Hyderabad. I am not speaking against Hyderabad or Andhra Pradesh. But I am saying that in these nine years since no response has been received by your Ministry, I would invite you and our Government, Biju Janata Dal Government, led by Shri Naveen Patnaik, would be happy to invite you and we would request you to put up a CFSI integrated project at Bhubaneswar or any other place that you think is suitable in Orissa like Sambhalpur or even Kalahandi. It would go a long way in not only helping the eastern part of the country but you will be able to attract lots of talents from Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh which is a huge part of this country, to

come and work there. You will only encourage them and you have to think in these lines.

Sir, another point that I would like to mention is about the international channel of Doordarshan. There are two channels of Doordarshan—DD News and DD India—which could actually compete. Many of us are speaking against CNN or speaking against BBC. I would consider that we have arrived at a stage, we have arrived at an age where we have to respect competition, not denigrate them. It is necessary that we understand why are they successful. When the same leaders in this House speak against CNN they must realise why are they watching CNN or even BBC. They are watching it themselves because those channels seem to be more dependable. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I need more time. Today, fortunately, for Doordarshan all the private news channels have become, kind of, repetitive. If a boy falls into a well that is big news for all channels for the whole day. If a lady is brutally beaten up by some of her neighbours, that is news for the whole day. That is fodder for these channels for the whole day. I have travelled to different countries. People there, not only people of Indian origin but people of those countries are interested to know what is happening in India. You take the example of North African countries, Central African countries. You take the example of all the five CIS countries. Right from North Africa up to Indonesia and Malaysia—all these countries love Indian programmes, they love Indian movies and they love Indian songs and culture.

Sir, in today's world when you are fighting the Left, we also say that imperialism of that kind must be set aside. This is an age when you have to be imperialistic in your culture. The Indian culture can completely destroy every culture—not destroy, but I would correct myself—can overtake every other culture and you can beam programmes to all these countries and they would love to watch Indian programming which unfortunately we are not able to do.

In all the CIS countries you cannot watch any Indian TV channel unless you take Indian cable operator's connection or Indian satellite dish antenna. We should also think how we can make the international channel of DD proactive, how it can reach other countries and how you have to negotiate with other satellite operators that they beam these two channels and we spread our cultural imperialism through that. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, you promised me more time. The FM was supposed to be for the public at large. But today what do we see? The FM has been cornered by two-three industrial groups. They are getting an access or free run throughout this country just because they have millions and millions of dollars. Those people now calculate only in dollars. Only you, as a Leftist leader, and I, as a common man, think of Indian rupees. We have the highest regards for you. The BJD as a group has the highest regard for you.

Sir, you and I calculate in Indian rupees, but they calculate in US dollars. They have billions of US dollars, and they can buy properties all over the country and all over the world and they are also taking over FM in large numbers. I would request the hon. Minister to look at this policy once again to bring into the FM sector, at least, a sensibility and a sort of level-playing field where small operators – who are socially more responsible – come in and play a socially more vital role.

Today, only the rich and the famous have a say in India. When you are giving out FM stations, you are either looking at the big money people or you are looking at your political supporters as is very evident in Orissa itself where out of three stations, two belong to big industrial houses and one belongs to a Congress supporting organisation. It is indeed a sad case, and I would expect and request the Minister that a time has come when he has to think of allowing colleges, universities, journalism institutes including your IIMC to have citizens band radio or FM stations at a very low affordable cost whereby they can carry the Government's message. Government is a perpetual thing, and I am not saying UFA or NDA, and I have not specified any political groupism. I am only saying that the Government's message should reach in a more effective manner to the people.

It is essential that a realistic view ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have covered all points. Therefore, please conclude your speech.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I will mention a couple of points more, and I will conclude my speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let Shri Suresh Prabhu speak now.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: The DD used to have programmes on literary giants of different States, and today those programmes have been stopped. We do not know the reason for these programmes being stopped. Is it a lack of sponsorship or initiative taken by your officers and bureaucrats? You have to look into this issue also.

Recently, there was a huge social *diwas* in Orissa called the *Ashok Ashtami*, which is not only celebrated in Orissa, but in many parts of Eastern India also. There were more than three lakh people congregated in front of the Lingraj Temple in Bhubaneswar on *Ashok Ashtami* day, but surprisingly, DD, Bhubaneswar did not have a single line about that news. On the contrary, DD goes out of its way to cover some silly social programme with some silly dancer from the movies or some theatre personality who has no social relevance at all.

On the one hand, while we are criticizing film personalities and the movie culture, we have to admit two things. We lack in social leadership because of which we have nobody else to fill up the vacuum, which if the film industry is not there today, could be filled up. On the other hand, we have to admire the film industry for what it is doing for the image of India. Outside India, people think that all these MPs, politicians run after women as these are beautiful women who are capable of coming into movies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suresh Prabhu, you can start your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Yet, in reality, we know that it is not that everybody is a millionaire in India and everybody is not driving big cars. But, unfortunately, the Government also has to realize that the voice of the poor masses and the middle-class has to be heard, and you cannot ignore them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, since you are insistent, I will cut my speech short as I respect you. Therefore, I will mention very briefly to the hon. Minister that my constituency Dhenkanal has had the good fortune of having an IIMC put up there by one of his predecessors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can this debate continue if you do not cooperate with the Chair?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: It is a very good institute, but no attention is being paid to IIMC. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that IIMC, Dhenkanal should have a full-time principal. It does not even have a full-time principal. There is only one person in-charge, who is doing a good work. Even IIMC, Delhi does not have a principal. Therefore, I would request that IIMCs both at Delhi and Dhenkanal should have full-time principals. They must be given the full Faculty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Suresh Prabhu, you can start. All normal methods have failed. This is a difficult job. If you do not cooperate, how can we conduct this business?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, it will be done.

The Minister should also ensure that good Faculty is given to these Institutes so that these Institutes become successful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have any additional points, you give them in writing. You need not take the time of the House.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: When Doordarshan started in 1972-73, when again there was an I&B Minister from our home State of Orissa, there was a studio in Sambhalpur in Western Orissa. Western Orissa has been a neglected area of this country by the federal Government. I would request this hon. Minister that the Doordarshan Station in Sambhalpur should be immediately reactivated and upgraded. It should start functioning as a full-fledged Doordarshan Station from this fiscal year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Suresh Prabhu, you can start your speech. His further speech will not come on record.

I tried my level best several times. Please conclude. With all respect to you. I tell you, please conclude.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I am concluding, Sir.

The Censor Board is another bone of contention. Nobody comes to know what the criteria for selecting the members of the Censor Boards in different parts of the

country are. Who are the members? How are they chosen? Are they chosen with political motives? Are they chosen because of their social standing? Are they chosen for their qualification or specialization in fields concerning media or films? Who are they? This question troubles many people in this country. Today many hon. Members were shouting that there is obscenity in media today and there is nobody to check. This is one small example.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the difficulty in concluding? I do not understand this. People who cannot control themselves, what can they do?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I take you as my guide. When you are here, you are our guide. We respect you, Sir. You are our role model, Sir. Everybody accepts that, Sir. Even your colleagues accept it. As a role model we respect you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Kindly do not be cruel to me, Sir. I represent a backward State of Orissa.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is obstructing the proceedings of the House.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, at the end I would like to say that today a stage has come when the newspaper industry in this country is mortally in threat of death. All small and medium, especially regional, dailies are about to close shop because newsprint prices have gone up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The microphones will be off now.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is not being recorded. You are doing a futile exercise.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What can be done?

... (*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, we are discussing about the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting but some part of the speech of my predecessor was not broadcasted at all. My friend, Shri Tathagata Satpathy was mentioning about our Minister, several of his portfolios were taken away. Therefore, he was feeling sorry for him. But just to remind him and others, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was an Information and Broadcasting Minister before she became the Prime Minister. Shri L.K. Advani, the Prime Minister-in-waiting, was the Information and Broadcasting Minister in 1977. I am not suggesting anything now because the field is already crowded and there are too many candidates. So, I am not suggesting anything and there are too many suggestions already.

I would like to start my speech by saying that I would request the Minister to please go through the mandate of this Ministry. The rules of business very specifically prescribe and stipulate that amongst several things that the Ministry is supposed to be doing, one of the most important things that the Ministry is mandated to do is to involve the people in development activities. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this Ministry has fulfilled this mandate. What are the activities that were undertaken by the Ministry to make sure that common people of India were involved in the development activities?

I was going through the Annual Report very carefully. I did not even find a mention as to how this has been fulfilled. It is a piece of matter of omission - what should have been done, what has been stipulated in the rules of business and the other one, which is not mentioned, which should have been now part of the Ministry's job; it is not just Radio, not just Television, not just print media but also one of the most emerging media of reaching out to the people is the Internet. I was just wondering - is this Ministry supposed to be doing this or not? I do not find any mention here. So, I would request the Minister to actually look into the emerging source of the media, through which we would like to go to the people.

Mass media is one of the most important part of the Ministry's responsibility. In fact, Shri Satpathy runs a very successful newspaper. He was trying to highlight the problems of the small and medium sized newspapers. I would say that there are a large number of newspapers,

periodicals and publications which are published at district and sub-district levels, taluk level and above. Hence, I would request him to play a special role and emphasis on how to take the cause of the small and medium sized newspapers because they are the ones who really reach out to the people. They are the ones who are close to the people, working from small places. Therefore, I would request him to do that.

I was just listening to at my colleague who is from the Left parties; he was mentioning about the freedom of expression. This is one of the most important things, about which, each one of us is proud of. We all become the Members of Parliament and actually enjoy that freedom of expression. But it is the job of the Ministry also to ensure that this happens. I was just thinking into one interesting fact that when Tasleema Nazreen was in India, the Government told her that she can practice literature but not religion. Then, the Dalai Lama was trying to say something and he was told to practice religion but do not practice politics. So, one person is supposed to practice religion and the other person is not supposed to practice religion. How does this freedom of expression really gets manifested? I would like to really know from the hon. Minister because there is a very confusing signal as to what the Government is trying to say to the people.

16.04 hrs.

[DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA *in the Chair*]

The issue related to expression of freedom would form part of the Code of Conduct. The Ministry devises this Code of Conduct from time to time. I would request that it should be done in a manner that would not infringe the inherent freedom of all the print and other forms of media because this is an extremely important thing. In the garb of using the Code of Conduct, we should not try to bring it as a codification of rules, which will not allow people to say something which they would like to say. The job of the Ministry is to actually come out with guidelines and procedures at a time when some of the important unfortunate events that take place. For example, the death of the Head of the State and the Government. How to handle it? This is something that goes into this. I would request the Minister to look at something different from this.

I would like to remind the Minister about the way the whole media was working—without even running the commercials for a long time when incident happened in

the United States. In India, if there is an earthquake or some other natural calamity how media should handle it is something I would request him to really look at it. It should be in a manner that would not touch the sensitivity of the people who are affected as well as it should not portray the wrong image about the country. So, this is something with regard to the code of conduct.

I would like to remind the Minister that sometime ago we passed a very landmark legislation in this House which tries to bring the political reform in India and its framework. One of the things said there was that all the political parties will have a right to have Air time on television. The public television was offering that and we are in fact doing it. Under the law private television is also supposed to be providing time to all the political parties but the rules for that have not been framed. I would request the Minister to really come out with this. This will provide a great opportunity for all the political parties to express their ideas and views. In fact, this will really address the key problem that we face today. Elections mean use of lot of money. If the Minister can really come out with this, he will be doing a great service to our people.

When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he declared Konkani as one of the Scheduled languages. I would request the Minister that having done that, the next logical step—he being a great leader - would be that he must ensure that Konkani programmes are really dedicated and there should be a special channel which should run these programmes.

While I am talking of the national issues let me also remind the Minister about my own constituency- I am here because my constituents have elected me. In my constituency, unfortunately I find that transmitters are so weak that many people are not even able to see the programmes. So, Sindudurga and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra should receive special attention, as other districts are receiving. We should try to provide high frequency towers for that and I would really request you to do that.

My other suggestion and my request to the Minister would be—this is the mandate of the Government - that all the Government programmes should reach the people. That is what he should be doing. PIB is doing that job. You have got a media out-reach programme to make that happen and I congratulate you for that. For a healthy democracy I would request you to also allow the

Opposition Parties to take part in this programme. They can come out and say what they say here. This is a very healthy way of reaching out to the people. You can say that this is not a programme of just one political party but a programme of the country. Particularly with regard to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme which the whole House had passed unanimously, why can all the political parties across the spectrum actually not reach out to the people on this programme?

I would wind up because I know my friend has taken a little more time. I would compensate for that. There are employees who are agitating and are on hunger strike in Jantar Mantar. Sir, I am concerned that none of them should lose their lives. I would request the Minister, who had also been a trade union leader sometime ago—in fact he started his political career as the Chatra Parishad leader—to please send some officer there. It will be a good idea if the Minister meets them, talks to them and tries to settle the issue.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: First of all, I would like to convey my congratulations to the hon. Minister for being chosen as the Best Parliamentarian for this year.

After a long time, this subject has come up for discussion in this House. I shall try to conclude my speech within the stipulated period. So far as my knowledge is concerned, the Department of Information and Broadcasting is a very important and vital Department of our country. Strong mass media is not only one of the pillars of our Indian democracy but also a pillar for the freedom of Press, freedom of speech and freedom to exercise our democratic rights.

Sir, now-a-days, our Doordarshan and Akashvani have to face tough competition from the private TV channels. Everybody was very much worried about it right from Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan. Other Members have also categorically narrated that the films and programmes which are being shown by the private TV channels are very much obnoxious for the country and are injurious for the country. They are spoiling brains of our children. This is a fact.

Doordarshan must be popularised by showing culture, heritage and education of our country. Now-a-days, a cricket tournament is going on involving Kolkata, Mumbai, Hyderabad and other teams. But I am sorry to say that not only film artists but also political leaders are all in Kolkata and print media and TV channels are showing

[Shri Ajoy Chakraborty]

that they are jumping at joy after Kolkata team. It is being shown by the private channels but they do not show hockey or football or athletics or other sports. So, Doordarshan has to face tough competition from these private operators.

Sir, you know better than me that the private TV operators and the private TV channels are showing full vulgarism. They are showing it in the name of advertising the show and they are showing practically naked woman in private channel. I do not want to name that channel but in the name of freedom, they are showing vulgarism, sex, crime and everything. They are spoiling the minds of our boys and girls. That is also reflected even on the streets. The number of abductions and kidnappings is increasing day-by-day due to the performance of the private TV channels and operators. So some regulatory authority should be set up. There should be some code of conduct. Some regulatory method should be adopted by the Government. I think the whole House would support the hon. Minister, if such a Bill is brought before this House, unanimously because we have to fight and combat this vulgarism, sex and crime. It is because our heritage, culture and history are being forgotten by the young people.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another thing. I am a resident of the border area and the hon. Minister is also a resident of the border area. Both of us are living in the Indo-Bangladesh border area. In those areas, we do not receive Doordarshan transmission or Akashvani transmission but the Bangladesh transmission is very strong there. Same is the case with the Pakistan transmission. It comes very clearly in our televisions. Their signals are catching our radio also. So, our transmission in the border areas should be improved. This point has been raised so many times in this House by so many of our colleagues. They have put questions to the Minister concerned in this regard.

Another thing is that Foreign Direct Investment is coming in this sector. Already the Government of India have cleared 37 projects. I do not know what will be the utility of FDI in these projects which are meant for our people.

So many of my friends here have already submitted that the employees of the Akashvani and Doordarshan have started an agitation for resolution of their demands and five of them are sitting on an indefinite hunger strike in the Jantar Mantar. Everybody is very much worried

about it. I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly visit them and assure them that he would look into their demands which we think are just and fair. He should intervene in the matter and try to fulfil their demands thereby saving the lives of the employees who are sitting on an indefinite hunger strike.

Sir, I would not dwell on everything as many of my friends have already mentioned about them. But I would like to mention a point about the implementation of the Universal CAS. It has not yet been implemented though the Government assured that Universal CAS would be implemented. In the absence of this Universal CAS, the cable operators are taking undue advantage and are indulging in unfair practices by doing anything they like. The Government should intervene in the matter.

Sir, finally, I extend my support to the Demands of this Ministry. I would also like to request him that he should take stringent steps against private TV operators who are indulging in broadcasting vulgar programmes. There should be some regulation for this. I hope the entire House will join the hon. Minister in his effort for upholding the heritage and culture of our country and also saving our young minds.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is going on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I thank you for allowing me to take part in the discussion. Through you, I would like to tell the definition of this Ministry to Dasmunshi, we often address him as Dada, so that he will think that whether he is acting according to that or not. Definition of your ministry is that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting plays an effective role in providing people free flow of information through the traditional methods of mass communication such as Radio, Television, Films, Press, Printed Publications, advertisements, Dance and Plays. The Ministry fulfills the needs of people of all age groups. It draws attention towards the issues of national unity, environment conservation, healthcare and family welfare, eradication of illiteracy and issues related to women, children, minorities and other neglected sections.

This definition of this Ministry is very good, but I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, whether Doordarshan is following all these things? Doordarshan has lost its credibility. Now, Doordarshan does not present

the view point of common people, rather it has become the mouth piece of the Government. Whenever, we view Doordarshan, we only view government programmes there. All the works done by the Government are shown on Doordarshan. It seems that Doordarshan is working, totally against the things given in its definition. Therefore, first of all, Doordarshan has to regain its lost credibility.

When we talk about All India Radio, it is the cheapest, easy and powerful medium for listening news and songs even today in the far-flung villages. People enjoy listening to songs and Chitrahaar and other programmes on Vividh Bharti. But, hon'ble Minister, is there electricity in the villages today? People are deprived of Radio and Doordarshan's programmes due to non-availability of electricity. The programmes, which are being telecast on Doordarshan are old and stereotype. You should change their outlook. The programmes related to farmers are very old-fashioned. Today, we have got techniques, we are using new techniques for our crops, but your Doordarshan is not telecasting that. Voice quality of Doordarshan programmes is also not upto the mark. Why people are attracted towards Private channels, why they watch them, why they are installing Dish Antenna, it is because their picture and voice quality is better. Neither you can see nor hear clearly on Doordarshan. So, improve the quality of Doordarshan. At many places, where Doordarshan Kendras are working, either your officials are not there or not having sufficient equipments. Available equipments are not sufficient enough to telecast programmes on Doordarshan. Many Members of Parliament have spoken to me on this issue. In addition to this, please also put some control on Private news channels. We cannot be satisfied by only giving speech in the House and saying that where our future generation is going? If people preaching about Indian culture and values say something and show some thing else, then the future generations will never forgive us.

You must stop round the clock news channels. These channels do not have news. They start showing daily predictions at 7 o' clock in the morning, and if somebody viewed this, suppose if I see this, then my whole day goes heywire. If there is anything wrong in the prediction, then in fact, whole day gets affected very badly. Dada, stop this; what is the need of news round the clock? The country is getting ruined by commercial competition.

You are leading the country towards devastation by purchasing the Cricket players. Our traditional games should be telecasts on Doordarshan to make them popular

among the children. No one is telecasting Hockey, Kabaddi, or Kho-Kho, everybody is running towards cricket and what is this 20-20. If players have earned money, so whether they purchase players and show their talent. If they have money, why do not they go to the villages, educate poor girls and get them married.... (*Interruptions*). Hon'ble Minister, try to put some control over it.

The kind of vulgarity shown in our country is also very disturbing. Many persons are saying that such vulgarity is coming from abroad, it is absolutely wrong. We have lost 60 years in learning good things from abroad and still we are yet to learn. Why we have not learnt the discipline of England, why we have not learnt the five-day working capacity of abroad? If they celebrate two-day weekend, they also work very hard for five days. Why we have not learnt these good things from abroad? Instead of blaming abroad, we should look at our own shortcomings.

We are Human beings and our eyes want to see such things, which we do not like. But, if such a channel is tuned unintentionally, then we watch that with keen interest and curse ourselves later on. How can we stop those children whose parents are in Service or politics. How much attention can be paid by them on their children. How much restrictions can be imposed and how many channels can be locked as to not allow children to watch them. However, the Government can do much in this regard, and for this there is a need to muster up the courage. All the members of Parliament will support you, just bring in a bill to this effect and impose a ban in this regard. Sir, don't get afraid of Media. About media I would say that during the 27 years of my career in politics and at the time of contesting elections, Media has always written about my defeat and not the victory. Every time media has written that I would lose the elections.

The hon. Minister should not be afraid of the media. Media has lost the credibility of its tidings. Indian democracy is the world's strongest democracy. If there is any fourth column of that democracy, it is our media. Media has lost its credibility to some extent. If there is any department which can restore the credibility of media, it is the department of Information & Broadcasting. Any news has the news value only when it comes on time and with credibility and honesty. Let the sting operations take place. Let the sting operations be continued against the persons who resort to corruption, unscrupulous

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

activities and bribery, but the news in this regard, should be subjected to verification. What wrong the lady teacher had done, who was being telecast repeatedly on television with the intention to assassinate her character. It would be better to refrain from such type of news.

There is a rat race for commercialization in the print media. The newspapers are also becoming colourful. Sometimes, we happen to come across such type of news and I would speak without naming anybody that if a child is born in some family which happen to be a big shot, then it appears in the newspapers, is it news? That should be the news, where the Government or some social activist has done some fine work. Such a big incident happened in America in which the whole building collapsed and the people were killed but the news of the debris not being lifted up even after the passing of one year has never appeared. If the President of that country hides somewhere, no news appears against the same. If the same incident happens here it becomes a news that the Prime Minister has hidden somewhere, gone somewhere and not facing the public. What should be the status of the news and what type of news should be? The news should be meaningful which paves the way for development of the country so that our country becomes strong. We are talking of Bharat Nirman. Bharat Nirman will not take place by showing the obscenity. I would like to say in the House that first of all ban the serials of Ekta Kapoor. Who give the permission? Our Indian values are not the legacy of those big people who commit wrongful deeds. This India is Mahatma Gandhi's Bharat where eighty percent people live in villages. What the Ekta Kapoor's serials want to depict? The women are watching serials leaving their household chores? The only curiosity is what the mother-in-law will do now, what the daughter-in-law is going to do now, and nothing else is there. These type of things should be stopped. It is not good for the country. You are supporting us, get this thing banned.

Hon'ble Minister, Sir, I would like to raise one more issue before you. Why Doordarshan will not telecast the news like the one of today which showed 200 Members of Parliament protesting against the rise in prices in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue in the Parliament. Just because, the opposition has protested, you will not telecast it. We are the Members of the opposition and elected representatives, so you telecast the news on TV that 200 Members of Parliament got together and made protests. Doordarshan should not be treated as a tool in

the hands of the Government. You have strengthened the Prasar Bharti and also increased the royalty for the films being shown by it. What benefit it is leading to? If the film is being shown after taking higher royalty, then it is leading to loss and it is not going to be beneficial. Its' programmes must enjoy full freedom. These should not be subjected to restrictions. On papers, these are far from Government control but actually there is Government control. It should be free from Government control. Give them the opportunity to work.

Finally, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that I don't know, how the atmosphere being created by these TV channels in the country will go away and how these channels whether private or something else will be banned. Good and healthy news and the news promoting rich culture and values should be telecast. The channels depicting our country's ancient legacy and ancient history should be promoted and those showing obscenity and vulgarity should be banned. With a spirit of determination and an honest intention irrespective of to which party they belong to and what they write against the Government or our party. The one who remains honest with the people serves the people, he will always be Member of Parliament and remain in the Government. Therefore, I would like to say that you work for the country leaving aside these concerns. I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for 2008-09 presented by our young and energetic Minister.

Sir, we know that healthy policies introduced by our Ministry have resulted in the booming growth of broadcasting sector. The annual growth rate in television is projected to be 22 per cent and on the radio side, it is projected to be at the rate of 28 per cent over the next five years. Though there are 110 million TV households and 132 million radio sets in this country, there is almost a void in terms of policy guidelines and legislations pertaining to this sector. A framework was set in place by this Government defining the terms and conditions for seeking permission for uplinking the channels from India and the setting up of teleport and other infrastructure.

Sir, our public broadcaster Prasar Bharati through All India Radio and Doordarshan provides maximum coverage to the population and is one of the largest terrestrial networks in the world. In a country where illiteracy rate is high, the social responsibility of Prasar Bharati is immense. I appreciate that a number of initiatives were taken by our UPA Government to further expand the network of Doordarshan and AIR and to introduce new channels and services and to expand the DD bouquet over DTK. A total of 142 transmitters including high, low and very low power transmitters, 1 60 cable headends and eight new studios have been set up by Doordarshan during the last four years.

Sir, there is one TV studio at Madurai started very recently. I appeal through you Sir that that studio should be upgraded and more programmes should be entertained from the Madurai studio.

Sir, I would like to congratulate our Government for telecasting Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings. These broadcasts get wide appreciation from the viewers all over the country. But in certain places the cable operators are not providing these Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha channels. So, action should be taken against those cable operators.

Sir, visual media has been playing a major role in creating public opinion in the country for the last so many years. This trend witnessed in the country has both welcome and unwelcome features. Message to the people gets across very fast through visual media. But minus points of this media is increasing day-by-day. There is a rat race among certain visual media to break news. This rat race creates problems for the well-being of the community. For example, when communal and caste clashes take place, the print media, by and large, maintains balance and normally does not reveal the identity of those killed in clashes. This behaviour, a welcome feature, has helped to bring about normalcy. But certain visual medias very often do not behave responsibly and many a time reports events which lead to aggravation of tension. In the name of investigative journalism the visual media conducts parallel investigations and comes to certain conclusions. While I salute the visual media for exposing skeletons of undesirable elements, these investigations come in the way of independent judicial action.

There is a need for a regulatory body for the visual media on the lines of the Press Council. We know that

the Government cannot interfere in these affairs but the visual media channels should come together and create an independent set up which is most urgent and necessary. The visual media also should shun violence and excessive sex in their programmes. Glorification of drunken people and smokers should be avoided completely in the interest of the well being of the society especially for the younger generation. Steps should be taken in the right manner to avoid such scenes.

I wish to thank our Government for giving permission to start a Multi-System Operation Licence for the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government Cable Corporation has come out with the idea of serving the people in the cable area. At the moment, the cable system is serving the people and collecting a lot of money from the common people. By way of this new system, the consumers will be benefited by paying less charges.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH (Bikramganj): Sir, today I rise to participate in the discussion on the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-09. This Government has made several promises with regard to Information and Broadcasting but couldn't fulfill them at all. The private channels are spreading obscenity and the Government is not taking any concrete steps in this regard. The programmes promoting obscenity pollute the Indian civilization and culture. The voices are raised on this issue everytime in the Parliament but the Government does not take any concrete step.

Private cable operators do not telecast the Lok Sabha channel in the small cities of the country because of which the crores of people in the country are deprived of watching the proceedings of the Parliament and several cultural and historical programmes. Strict legal action should be taken against such cable operators.

There is a huge lack of co-operation at the Government level to encourage the small and medium newspapers and magazines. Even today, the publisher of such newspapers and magazines are running from pillar to post for getting advertisements of the Government departments and Ministries. Wherever, the cable connectivity is not available, DTH service should be made

[Shrimati Meena Singh]

attractive to telecast programmes for the people through free to Air channels. The programmes to be broadcast on Doordarshan and DD News should be made more attractive so as to make them competitive with private channels. The Private channels keep on broadcasting fresh news as Breaking News, whereas DD News channel broadcast 24 hrs old news.

The village people still listen to radio programmes attentively. The Government should make more proper arrangements to broadcast cultural and historical programmes through Radio because Radio is still the most accessible means of entertainment and with in the reach of common man.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

As you know, the hon. Minister is seeking the approval of the House for an expenditure of Rs. 1910 crore - Rs.700 crore of Plan Expenditure and Rs.1210 crore of Non-Plan Expenditure. The Budget estimates for this year are just 18.6 per cent above the Budget levels of the last year. These enhanced Grants required by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are justified in the light of the yeoman service rendered by this Ministry. As you know, this Ministry plays a pivotal role in facilitating access to the people of a variety of information and thereby it acts as a medium of information to the people, gets education to the people and tries to fill the gaps in literacy levels of the people. By taking and creating awareness among the people about the various Government programmes, it helps the people to appreciate the efforts of the Government.

Therefore, keeping in view the performance of this Ministry and the requirements of expenditure in the future, I think the House should appreciate this expenditure of Rs. 1910 crore. Members from the other side were unduly critical of the functioning of the Ministry. Perhaps, they do not want to highlight some of the very essential, some of the salient achievements of this Ministry in the recent past, especially after the hon. Minister, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, has taken over. Some new initiatives have been taken. Consequently, today the Ministry, as a committed organisation is with a robust and sound health. For instance, the Ministry has made surplus earnings in the last four years consecutively. This amounts to Rs. 1086 crore. So, this has been the surplus revenue

over the expenditure incurred by the Ministry. That means the Ministry has become an earner of revenue as well as a spender. The Ministry and the various instruments and institutions under the Ministry have registered a growth rate of 18 per cent. While the Indian economy has registered a rate of nine per cent this Ministry and its organisations were able to make a growth rate of 18 per cent which means it is substantially contributing to the growth of economy, employment generation and income generation in the country, a fact which the Opposition Members have failed to take into account. This is a significant contribution that the Ministry has made.

Thirdly, I also compliment the Minister for introducing 28 new programmes for this year. Under the Plan schemes, he is introducing 28 new schemes. Some of the old schemes have been scratched because we have introduced a system of zero-Budgeting and the Planning Commission said that these schemes may not be profitable and relevant in the future and, in their place, they have introduced 28 attractive programmes which also deserve our appreciation.

After the UPA came into office, for the first time, a number of laudable schemes have been implemented by the Government, not only in terms of promoting economic growth but also ensuring social justice to people. This is a Government which has introduced a revolutionary scheme, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, which has not been implemented by any country in the world on such a large scale on which we have implemented. This year alone, we are spending Rs. 14400 crore and the beneficiaries are in the rural areas. How do we communicate many of the schemes that have been implemented by the UPA Government? We have strictly adhered to the Common Minimum Programme. When we have evaluated, we have found that out of 150 schemes that we had promised to the people, we have completed so far 123 schemes of a laudable nature which have a tremendous impact on the rights of the people in the countryside. But many of the people are not aware of these programmes and in the absence of this awareness, people would not be able to take advantage of these schemes. Now, who fills this gap of taking these programmes to the people? The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, through mass outreaching programme, has conducted a number of programmes in AIR and Doordarshan as a result of which the people have come to know about it and they are in direct contact with the officials who are implementing the programmes and,

therefore, they are able to get good benefits.

So, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has done this publicity work on behalf of the Government which cannot be measured in quantitative terms, but in qualitative terms. Its outreach has been considerable. Then, the initiative of the I & B Ministry in terms of upgrading the Film and Television Institute of India into a Global Film School and also the programme of the Ministry to launch an International Channel are all novel and useful measures that the Government has taken.

Sir, while appreciating the Government for doing so, I would also request the Minister to take into account the following few suggestions which I will put before the House very briefly.

There is a system called TAM rating. This TAM rating is run by a cartel, by a private company in this country which is exploiting the entire masses of this country. I would wish that this private ownership must be taken over by the Government and it is the Government which should determine the advertisement rates.

Then, the Government should control the private cable television networks in this country which are playing havoc with the people. They are charging any rate which they like. They do not come under any licensing system and they escape all our provisions of licensing. They are creating problems in the rural areas. The cable television networks must be told that they should give priority to regional language programmes.

The third issue is that there are a lot of vacancies of officers in the middle and higher levels in various stations of All India Radio and Doordarshan. These vacancies must be filled up immediately and whatever economy measures that the Government has introduced in terms of employment of people must be withdrawn in the interest of the large amount of workload that is beset with them.

Sir, as far as the Union Territory of Puducherry is concerned, I must say a few words. Presently, the All India Radio Station of Puducherry is working with an interim FM Service of 3 KW power. The new 10 KW power FM Transmitter has to be immediately supplied to Puducherry so as to increase the coverage and to satisfy public demand.

The employees and multi-crore assets of All India

Radio and Doordarshan should be with the Government and the Prasar Bharati Board should act independently on the lines of Indian Railways. The experience of the last 10 years clearly indicates that the Prasar Bharati, in the present form, is neither financially viable nor professionally well equipped to face the challenges of the present broadcasting trends. Hence, financial support by the Government is highly needed to discharge the national duties.

Now, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is facing a stiff competition from the private sector and if this competition has to be overcome, there is only one way and that is to enhance the quality of services that we offer. So, the quality of the programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan must be enhanced and they should be in a position to arouse the interest of the people in the programmes rather than having monotonous programmes where the listeners will be listening to some discourses or some kind of features. Instead of that, you can go in for some discussions or question and answer sessions in All India Radio and Doordarshan. So, we have to think on innovative lines to improve the quality of the programmes. Then, a number of institutions are working under this Ministry and their functioning must be evaluated and monitored by the Ministry so that we get better benefits out of these institutions.

Then, whatever films are sent by the Films Division to the cinema halls are not being exhibited by cinema hall owners in many places in the country. So, they must be asked to exhibit those films sent by the Films Division. Now, the Children Film Society of India has been established and we have almost abandoned the proposal of opening it in Andhra Pradesh because we are not able to get land. I think the Government is trying to get some land in Maharashtra now. So, that institute must be started so that it will make a great contribution towards the development of children in this country.

Sir, Olympic games are nearing and I think Rs. 99 crore has been allocated for the I & B Ministry for the coverage. I think the Ministry will have to expedite the work in connection with the Olympic Games so that we are able to give a good coverage.

I hope the Information and Broadcasting Ministry is heading for a bright future. I wish the hon. Minister would take all the steps needed and keep this as an internationally reputed organisation.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Thank you Sir. I am here to support the Demands for Grants 2008-09 of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I am very happy that you have given me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

Sir, I can say that it is a very effective and meaningful Ministry because it is not only for the educated people but also for the uneducated people who are living in the villages and in the rural areas. It has to give information and has to give a life model to the interiors also.

In every field, I feel, there are plus and minus points. But I am not here to describe or criticize on any matter, but I would like to put my points very clearly. Nowadays in all fields, there is competition, whether it is private channels or Doordarshan or in the field of entertainment or print media or the electronic media. Everybody is competing with each other. I feel that the competition should be very healthy. But it seems that it has become 'private channels versus Doordarshan'.

As far as private channels are concerned, so many hon. Members have given their views with regard to how they are conducting their channels at the private level, what are all the commercial ingredients in their programmes and so on and so forth and they have their add-on points so that they can attract people and that their TRP improves.

I would like to know what does the Doordarshan do to attract the common people so that they do not have to watch the private channels. Doordarshan is available in the interiors, but if we see their programmes or the news.

[Translation]

Modernization programmes through which changes are to be brought about in the rural areas aimed at ameliorating the lot of farmers are not being telecast. They do not feel like watching the same old and oft-repeated news or any other information all the time.

[English]

The minus point is that there is no sufficient electricity in the interiors. I have seen in the villages, as I frequently go to my constituency, Rampur, that the electricity is hardly available during day time. The electricity comes just before the people are about to sleep and the children are also in the sleeping mood. They just get one or two hours of sleep and again there is no electricity in morning. If this is the case, how will they get education?

I want to mention about the print media also. The print media is mirror of the society.

[Translation]

In the morning, we like to go through the newspaper.

[English]

There should be transparency.

[Translation]

The information we intend to convey to the people and news about good developmental works are relegated to the fourth or fifth page of newspaper while news involving crime or any interesting model with her coloured picture receives coverage on the front page. Here is also it is not getting that importance and credit which it deserves as per its news value. It requires improvement. I would also like to say that

[English]

Electronic Media is playing a very vital role.

[Translation]

We listen to various talks.

[English]

whether it is a crime report or whether it is an entertainment programme or it is traditional programme or whether it is only giving news.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to add one thing that entertainment also require a change. They are giving news. The trend of giving news which criticizes somebody and is repeatedly telecast and which cannot reform society and get facility from the media in the name of sting operation should also be changed. It must be condemned. I would also like to speak about private channels which show commercial advertisements are also required to be monitored by a media-monitoring centre.

Sir, there should be a team for monitoring of the news they compile. Nobody is concerned about the veracity of the news compiled with a tinge of exaggeration and these are shown to the people.

[English]

But it is affecting good people also by showing wrong news.

[Translation]

I shall not cite names but mostly political people are involved. Some good people also want to work.

They shall stop working if they are misrepresented.

[English]

That is why, I would say that whatever entertainment it may be, the media.

[*Translation*]

a monitoring centre is a must to monitor the news produced by them.

Sir, I would like to say about All India Radio. There is only one means of entertainment in villages....

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Sir, please give me a little more time.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude within two minutes.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Then, I shall not speak....
(*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak you, you are a good orator and speak volumes in lesser time.

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Thank you Sir. [English] this subject is a very vast subject.

[*Translation*]

Therefore, I would not be able to complete it within two minutes.

Sir, as regards Akashvani, I would like to say that in rural areas Akashvani is still the only means of entertainment for the people. I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister and also appreciate him.

[*English*]

Sir, he is a very efficient Minister and he is also very affectionate. He is introducing FM but in limited areas they have introduced. The other areas have also to be considered for introducing FM.

[*Translation*]

Coverage of Akashvani and the P.M. Radio should also be extended to those areas where Doordarshan programmes are available. I am talking of rural areas and not of the urban areas. I have requested the hon'ble

Minister on a number of occasions regarding my constituency of Rampur but the Minister has not acceded to my request. He has not done anything for my constituency.

16.58 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I would request the Minister that if not for me but for other interior villages F.M. is very essential. The F.M. is in a great demand there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the allocation of funds they have made for Prasar Bharati are aimed at strengthening it. It comprises of many Divisions which require attention. They allocate Rs. one crore to the Film Division and after that there are partnerships. As regards full expenditure of the film, they have to be in the Partnership. Now a days can one think of producing a good film with a budget of only Rs. one crore. I would therefore, wish this fund to be increased. The matter regarding Children Society is pending for years.

Children society was to be founded very soon in Andhra Pradesh. For that also I would request the hon'ble Minister to complete the same expeditiously as production of several films for children is highly required. The recent film- 'Taare Jamin Par' produced by Aamir Khan Sahib is very good film. I want that such films should be produced for children and particularly senior citizens should also be taken care of as was shown in the film 'Baghban'.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the film 'Baghban' has conveyed a very good message. The same kind of films should be produced by following an interesting formula in the 'Film's Division.

[*English*]

The Script has to be very proper and meaningful to the society.

Sir, there is one more thing, which I want to bring to the knowledge of the hon'ble Minister.

[*Translation*]

I would like to tell this about the film industry.

[English]

I am fortunate enough to be associated with the film industry. I am happy to contribute myself to the film industry. This is an entertainment industry, which is generating so much revenue for the nation.

[Translation]

But Sir, I have to say it with regret because despite according status of industry to it.

[English]

When the film industry was suffering I was the first parliamentarian, who had spoken for giving it an industry status.

[Translation]

Whenever we talk of budget, there is no allocation in the Budget for this industry. Whenever, allocations are made in the Budget by the Ministry of Finance; no package is provided for the film industry while crores of people are working in this industry. Crores of workers work on daily wage basis. There are technicians. There is the Camera department. There are light boys in it. They work there in difficult circumstances. The persons who bear the light find it very hard to earn their livelihood. They have to work for hours.

[English]

This is very different kind of an industry.

[Translation]

The artists earn money when there is a peak period but after that they do not get. Their condition becomes very pitiable when the craze for them wanes. We can have a glimpse of their predicament from many examples. There are innumerable examples from Meenakumari ji to Savitri ji in whose case money was collected from people to perform their last rites. I have to say with a great agony that their economic condition was so pitiable that their last rites had to be performed with the money collected as donations from the people.

Sir, no such provision to benefit the film industry has been made in its status. There must be a package for the technicians engaged on daily wages basis. The aged artistes should be provided pension for their subsistence.

Rs. 7 crore allocation made to the RACE institutions earlier has also been reduced to 3 crore 7 lac rupees.

There should be intake of more artistes and technicians in this institution,,. Many people in the country are employed in the Information and Broadcasting industry and a number of people are dependent on it for employment.

Sir, 're-makes' are banned in a number of States in the country. I wish a Committee of Parliament be constituted to see as to which States have banned the 're-makes and why? I would like the 're-makes' to be made everywhere and that should be in toto there for this industry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. I must compliment you on your speech.

Now, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, the Hon'ble Minister will take 40 minutes for the reply. By 60' clock, in any case, we have to conclude. So, you may kindly see as to how we go about it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have kept that in mind; and I got that enquiry made.

Any hon. Member, who wishes to lay his prepared speech, he may do so. It will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do support the budget but at the same time I would like to put-forth some points... *.(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right. You have a time of four minutes to speak. Please conclude your speech within four minutes.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Sir, if you interrupt, I will forget what I want to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are so articulate.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Sir, I would like to make a few points. The present system as well as old system of broadcasting have differed substantially. People now say that we have progressed a lot, our children too are moving very forward and we have become very modern. But, if a survey is got conducted, we would come to know as to how much we have progressed in a particular field. I like the time when there used to be only the Doordarshan and we used to watch only a film in a week. We used to watch the 'Chitrahah' twice a week and at that time, very genuine news was telecast which was seen by all the family members.

I would like to say something to you about a few points. Now-a-days, there are many private channels, some of them are meant for news only, some for serials only and some for games only. These channels are sanctioned for particular programmes to be telecast by them. But, later on, they mix other things with their particular programmes for which they are meant. For examples, sports channels telecast something else, serials channels telecast something else, similarly, news channels telecast something else. I would like to know as if any enquiry is conducted into what these channels telecast after they are given sanction to telecast particular programmes? I would like to know whether any survey has been conducted so far to find out the reasons behind the children falling pray to crimes, drugs and various other physical disorders today? T.V. is also playing a vital role in this regard. Now-a-days, T.V. remains on in homes the whole day and the children keep watching it. Parents try to prevent them from doing so, but, as soon as they are out of the house, children again turn on the T.V. Now-a-days, television is responsible for making us learn how to resort to commit crime, take drugs. We would feel ashamed of watching news at T.V. at 11 o'clock in the night as we would prefer to turn it off rather seeing those news. Not only the children but the elderly persons also get frightened while being attentive to what the person anchoring the programme says.... How can I express? I would like to ask you to see to it what type of news they telecast, while you sanction it. Some T. V. channel/telecastes a news related to some rape case and shows obscene C.D. related to that case. The concerned TV channel keeps telecasting the same scene round-the-clock. Is obscenity not spread in such a way? Why don't you ban such type of things?

I would like to say that Indian women are presented with a totally changed character in present day's T.V. serials. Present day's Indian women are presently fond of wearing sarees, jewellery and inflicted with a sense of taking revenge. Whether these T.V. serials reflect the true personality of women of Indian culture? These serials have their adverse impact on the public, especially on women. I have seen in many households that husband and wife were quarrelling furiously with each other. Women are purchasing jewellery and sarees by emulating these serials and are being inspired from a sense of envy.

Sir, I would like to put up a point about media trial whether it is you or the law that sanctions media trial prior to conviction. The courts also get affected due to this and the media holds a person criminal before being awarded sentence and get convicted. I would like to ask whether it is going to be banned or not? Media gives a clean chit to a person of being a saviour or criminal before the trial by the courts. The concerned person is proved as criminal before the decision of the court. It is a very serious problem. Many families get adversely affected from it and the entire life of many people gets ruined. At that time, when the Court asks them to seek apology the media say sorry in two small lines. When a person has to be convicted, the media telecasts the related case round the clock. It is a very complex problem. Humanity is being strangulated by such incidents. Would the news channels showing obscenity and leading the children astray by way of such obscene culture, be banned or not? This is my point.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

[English]

I am sorry I can give you only four minutes.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): I raise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the year 2008-2009.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate and thank the Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting for implementing new Advertisement Policy of Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity in October 2007. Originally 60% of all advertisements will go to big newspapers, 30% to medium newspapers and 10% to

*The speech was laid on the table.

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

small newspapers. As per new Policy, for small newspapers it has been raised from 10% to 15%, for medium newspapers - it is 30% to 35% and 50% to all big newspapers. This policy certainly will help small and medium newspapers.

For the first time in the history, the people of this country are able to see the proceedings of Lok Sabha and Rajaya Sabha LIVE through the respective TV channels. This is a welcomable setp taken by our Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and our Hon'ble Minister for I & B.

I want to bring certain facts about the private TV channels permitted by I & B Ministry. Nearly 273 Indian Channels, 7 foreign channels are permitted and another 50 foreign channels are permitted to downlink in India. Hence nearly 330 channels are broadcasting various programmes in this country. Out of 273 Indian Channels, some of the channels are very badly criticising ~~of~~ certain noble professions like legal profession, medical profession and judiciary also. It is unfortunate that in the TV serials Advocates are shown as rowdy and anti-social elements, Judges as corrupt people. These are demoralizing the institution. I am humbly requesting the Government to issue suitable instructions to all TV channels to ban these kind of scenes.

Furthermore, I want to mention about vulgarity and obscene contents being shown in "FTV" and "MTV" foreign channels which are seriously affecting the minds and sentiments of the youths in our rich cultured country. These channels are to be banned forthwith.

After assumption of UFA Government at the Centre, our Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee has launched the Lok Sabha Channel and throughout the country, people are able to watch the daily proceedings of the house LIVE. But it is unfortunate in most of the areas, the private cable operators are not allowing Lok Sabha Channel and DD, Rajya Sabha channel in their respective cable network service. As per the notification of the Government of India dated 6-11-2002, it is mandatory that the entire cable network in the country must carry both the channels. Hence, I humbly request the Government to take necessary steps to direct all private cable operators to compulsorily carry both the channels in their network.

Furthermore, I want to bring certain facts in this august House about the administrative employees who

are serving in Prasar Bharati. After enunciation of Prasar Bharati, an autonomous corporation only Engineering and Programme employees alone were granted upgraded pay scales for getting absorbed in Prasar Bharati. The remaining Administrative employees who perform vital functions in personnel and financial administration were not considered. They are in warpath and continuously agitating for their legal rights. It was referred to Group of Ministers. Till date, they have not called for any consolations and their demands have been not been considered. Hence, I humbly request the Hon'ble Minister to take necessary steps to resolve this issue amicably at the earliest.

Sir, over the years, film industry in the country has seen unimaginable developments. The producers are investing crores and crores of rupees for producing a film. This industry generates huge revenue to the Government in the form Entertainment Tax. However, in the past years, due to invasion of pirated CDs in the market, the industry is greatly suffering and the new films, which are produced and released in the cinema halls cannot run for longer days. This has resulted in huge lose to the producers, the industry and also the Government is also deprived of the revenue of Entertainment Tax. Hence, the Government should take urgent steps to prevent piracy in the cinema industry.

With these words, I am concluding my speech and supporting the demands for grants.

"SHRI DIP GOGOI (Kaliabor): Sir, As you are aware that in the north east children are being engaged in insurgent activities, to bring them to the National Mainstream we need the help of Media in a big way, whether it is Print Media, radio, Television or Cinema etc. The role of particularly Hindi Cinema is a positive one and I should say it is a vehicle of integrity in the remote part of North East. I would appeal to the Minister to encourage films, which particularly highlight the futility of violence in the long run. Of course unemployment is a very serious problem in the North East, and also the sense of isolation. There are few people. Particularly the educated section who are exposed to the other parts of India; through education. But by and large most of them are suffering the agony of; isolation and neglect. That is why to highlight the; importance and beauty of the area the government should engage the different media. Of late as part of look east policy of the government North East have been opened up to neighboring nations such

*The speech was laid on the Table.

as Moreh in Manipur and Nathula in Sikkim. We are also demanding the opening up of Steel Well Road which runs from Assam via Myanmar to Kunmin of China a distance of more than 1700 kms. This will transform North East as the gate way of south east asia . I remember that once our Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has said that one day North East will be an active bridge between South East Asia and Neighboring countries

Here I would like to suggest to the Minister, I & B to encourage setting up community Radio stations in the remote part of North East to cater the needs of small areas as a peace building efforts. It would be an effective measure for counter the insurgency in the area. Also, I would suggest to allow M.Ps. to provide funds to these Radio stations out of their Local Area Development Funds.

I am thankful to the chair to allow me to participate in the discussion.

*DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Prasar Bharati is a major public sector enterprise on par with BSNL. It has the biggest network but it is poor in manpower. A great inequality is visible in the employment-employee ratio after the transformation of Prasar Bharati free from the direct control of the Government. Akashvani and Doordarshan are facing stiff competition from the private sector. To face this challenge, competitive efforts should be taken for better performance. There is a virtual ban on recruitment of personnel. Around 25,000 vacancies of transmission executives and programme executives are now existing in AIR. Programme section of AIR is now running with the help and support of casual employees. Many of the casual employees have crossed the age limit for UPS'C posts. Such casual employees should be recognized as part of Prasar Bharati and their assignments shall be apportioned in a manner which will ensure minimum wages. Though the Ministry was kind enough to upgrade the pay scales in respect of most of the categories of programme and engineering staff of Doordarshan, the core professionals like cameramen, video editors and graphic artistes, are neglected. They possess high technical qualification and perform hi-tech jobs. They are small in number -only 563. The Ernakulam Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal has passed a judgment in their favour and I hope the Ministry will

redress their grievance.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir I rise to support the Demand for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, 2008-09. A large number of issues have been raised in the House by the various other members. I think that they did not remember that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is a very important Ministry. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was also the Minister of this Ministry, and she tried to strengthen this Ministry. She cared to introduce several new things. Not only television but also Radio were made accessible to all over the country, whether it is village; town, township or remote areas of the country. It is also a part of entertainment.

Everyone who spoke was of the view that they used to listen this and that programme, whether it is Hawa Mahal or any other programme. FM radio network was spread all over the country. People are entertained with the cultural programme like Chhaya Geet, Vividh Bharti, FM, Radio Mirchi. These are not only the means of entertainment but also they are means of spreading Indian culture from one place to another, because India is united. It is not possible for every one to go everywhere to watch all things. We know the culture of places like Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi or Kashmir and the States falling between Kashmir to Kanyakumari including the culture prevailing in Southern States through television, I would not like to repeat all those things that have been quoted here. Whatever expansion are made in it.

[English]

Expansion of network of DD, and new Channels, expansion of DD, Budget of DD, DTK etc.

[Translation]

Lot of expansions have been done in it, I would like to mention some of them.

[English]

- * For expansion of terrestrial coverage of terrestrial coverage of Doordarshan, 24 HPTs, seven LPTs and 19 VLPTs have been commissioned;
- 160 cable headends have been set up in uncovered areas of North Eastern States;

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Sebastian Paul]

- 92 LPTs have been replaced by new automode LPTs;
- Eight new studios have been commissioned;
- 17 Major studio centres fully digitalized and 30 smaller studios partially digitalized;
- DD-Rajya Sabha and DD-Urdu Channels have been started;

[Translation]

Lok Sabha is also telecast by this channel.

[English]

- * Mobile TV service started in Delhi with a bouquet of eight channels;
- * The capacity of DD-Direct Plus has been increased from 30 to 50 channels;
- * Special package for expansion and improvement of AIR and Doordarshan services in the North-East and Jammu and Kashmir have been approved.

[Translation]

In this way, a number of radio channels have been introduced. I would like to conclude after giving two or three suggestions as a number of points have come up and the Chair has also asked me to conclude. A number of women not only from Delhi but also from other places also have complained that Channels from other countries whether it is from China or any other countries, they show cartoon network and as a result of this the children shirk from physical work or games and remain glued to TV set. This is affecting their eye sight also and they don't give time to their studies. They are forgetting their culture and learning to fight among themselves. I would like to urge the Minister to stop their airing of Chinese cartoon channels like Zetix and CCN, so that children stop watching these channels and engage themselves in physical exercises and games because a number of complaints from parents of children are pouring in.

Some Channels should be introduced for poor children who are not able to afford tuitions. Such children should be imparted education of every subject whether Mathematics, Hindi, English, or Science through T.V. Channels or private cable operators. Tuition through TV Channel be given to students of every class so that children can learn lesson with the help of their parents at home itself and thereby improve their education.

I would like to underline a very important fact through the DD news that there are many shortcomings noticed in our building which is being sorted out. I had a talk with the Minister earlier. He told me that female staff don't attend night shift duty in our T.V. Channels but today if you happen to switch on news channel you will find that there are lady news Readers on TV screen, late at night i.e. at 12 O'clock or even at 1.30 a.m. and their make up women also remain there. Such things should be stopped because they don't have any social security at 12 in the night or 1 A.M. because they can't go back to their home after their duties. There is no means available to drop them at their homes nor is there any proper space to stay at the work place in the night. There may be a sofa set lying in a small room where toilets are infested with cockroaches and there is no light even. I would like to urge that such things should be corrected.

With these words, I express my thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak on the subject and hope that Hon'ble Minister will take note of my suggestion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good suggestions. I am sorry I had to restrict your time. Now Shri Ramakrishna Kusumaria to speak, literally for three minutes.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Khajuraho): Sir, Hon'ble Minister is working for information broadcasting, there is a need to make it more useful. If we utilise it for education the news channel should reach to common people and rural areas. When we look towards we find ourselves far behind, and we cannot compete with other channels. Radio and T.V. are media of dispersing news in villages. People watch the programmes telecast through television and people express their views after viewing it. I submit that there is an urgent need to ban obscenity to protect our culture, Today, we cannot watch Television with family members. These programmes contain a lot of advertisement which people find very difficult to bear. That is why I request that the people must get inspiration from news such TV programme should be telecast which inculcate inspiration among viewers. There is a shloka in Shrimadbhagwat Gita Yatyada Charati Shreshstattdevetaro janah, sa Yat Praman Kurute Lokastadanuvartate." Our programme must provide what is best and which people may adopt. It would be better if hon'ble Minister Shri Priyaranjan who is associated with work of refining people give his attention for the protection of our culture.
..... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dada, it is not entertainment, it is about refining people.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Sting operations etc. have damaged the image of our country. We should show good programmes which exhibit decency.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is left after quoting the Shloka. It contains everything.

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Besides, due to lack of coordination among private operators, and big channels, the real news fail to come up. So there is a need to have a control over them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry that I could give you only little time to speak.

[Translation]

*SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka): I would like to express my views on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. During the telecast of movies on various channels now-a-days, the advertisements are shown for most of the time and sometimes we even forget-which movie we are viewing. The advertisements should be limited to a minimum prescribed time and the gap between two advertisements should be of half an hour.

Horror movies are badly affecting the health of children. It should be stopped. The character of woman is shown in a very deteriorating state. It should be checked. All good work done by our countrymen should be brought to the notice of the common people. The programmes involving those who prefer own interest to the interest of the country should be stopped.

Village based programmes should be telecast. Youth should be encouraged through youth based programmes. Thanks for showing religious programmes.

The Lok Sabha Channel should be popularized in the country. Since 1952, we have been sitting in Lok Sabha. By doing so, we have brought glory to the country. Our brave countrymen sacrificed their lives for freedom. There should be programmes which are based on such characters and these programmes should be shown over Lok Sabha channel.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Prasar Bharati, engineering and programming staff of Akashvani and Doordarshan have been accorded higher wages and pay scale, but the administrative staff there also play a role in the functioning of Doordarshan, they assist in the functioning of Akashvani also, but they have not been getting any benefits for the last ten years. They have been agitating since the year 2005. On 21st November, 2007 as assurance was given to the representatives of the employees that their problems would be presented before the Group of Ministers for their solution. From 11 March to 13 March, they also observed a relay hunger strike, even then their demands were not settled. The Minister had stated that their problems would be put up before the Group of Ministers by 3rd April, but it was not included in the agenda. Five of their employees have been observing fast-unto-death at Jantar-Mantar since 22 April. I request you to kindly settle their problems when today's proceedings are over as per assurance given by you in the House so that they could call off their observance of fast unto death. Please announce it in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to reply to the debate.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I have given notice to speak. Can I, at least, lay my speech on the Table of the house? MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, I have invited you to lay it.

*SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grant. While supporting it, I would like to make some pertinent points with regard to Prasar Bharati. Sir, it is acknowledged that there are three crucial issues relating to Prasar Bharati. The identity, funding and functioning of this organization.

In order to establish the identity it is imperative to ask answers to some basic questions, whether there should be a public services broadcaster and what should it be doing?

One of the basic objectives of the public broadcasting system should strengthen the democratic process by providing information, strengthening the patriotic zeal. The rich heritage of our country and so on, Promoting debate

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

and discussion on all vital issues, and providing platform for interaction between the common man and the policy maker. Market forces can not be expected to take care of these objectives. Broadcasting has unique influences on society on its value system, social norms, interpersonal behavior and cultural identity.

But in this context the question arises how to combat the market forces in the present functions? The only meaningful manner is correcting the market deficiencies are through the strong and dominant presence of public broadcasting.

This requires a high degree of commitment to the mission and policy by the Public Service Broadcaster.

Now I am coming to a specific problem with regard to the administrative employees working in Prasar Bharati. Hon'ble Minister is well acquainted with these problems. It is reported that the extension of upgraded pay scales to them on par with engineering, and programme employees was principally accepted by Hon'ble Minister of I & B in August 2005. It might be referred to GOM. But till today nothing has come out.

In such a situation after several programmes observed time and again, recently the employees are seating in hunger strike upto death. They are seating at the complex of Akashbani New Delhi and the agitation continues across the country.

I request to Hon'ble minister to respond in course of his reply in this august house itself and call them for a fruitful seating and negotiation.

Sir, The Process of large-scale commercialization of broadcasting began in the 80's in our country. A reduction of budgetary support, combined with pressures to raise more revenues to fund expansion, forced pace of commercialization. This resulted in a reduction on public service programmes as the prime time was reserved for commercial programming which earned the most revenue. Radio underwent a similar process, though to a lesser extent.

Public service broadcasting is essential in India, but it must be seen as a right to all citizens.

*SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (Mormugao):
Sir, I rise to support the demand of the ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The healthy policies

introduced by the ministry have resulted in the booming growth of broadcasting sector in the country. It is heartening to note that the ministry came with guidelines which were not there earlier pertaining to this sector as at present, there are about 110 million TV households and 132 million radio sets in this country. So the guidelines and policies are very important.

Sir, the ministry has expanded the network of DD & Radio with respect to new channels and increasing the coverage to about 36% of the population of this country. Sir, we appreciate that the Ministry has enacted the Sports Broadcasting signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharti) act 2007. This has enabled the public to freely enjoy sporting events both at national and International levels.

My state is indebted to Hon'ble Minister Shri Priyaranjan das munshi for declaring Goa as a permanent venue for the I.F.F.I. It is a decision which every Goan has welcomed, feel proud of.

Sir, however I have a request with Hon'ble Minister, Goa with its cultural assets needs a full fledged Doordarshan Kendra, 24 hour news channel on lines with other states. The smallness of the state should not be a bias to come in the way for its upgradation.

Even though, Akashvani and Doordarshan have a phenomenal growth. They face challenge from private channels like zee, star and radio mirchi etc. as their performances are more innovative, dynamic and glamorous where as prasar bharti channels/ doordarshan are less attractive and therefore the viewer appreciation ratio is low. What is indeed is that they may make sufficient efforts to improve presentation quality and to be competitive to generate higher revenues.

Sir, Doordarshan Kendra panaji like other major cities has doordarshan set up with the latest equipments. One hour 15 minutes transmission is originated daily from DDK, Panaji. It can fetch more viewership, if the news section is started here. All the technical facilities are available however independent news wing has to start along with all the associated sections.

[*Translation*]

*DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, here we are discussing the budgetary demands in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The speech was laid on the Table.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

As the name of the Ministry itself indicates, it is supposed to make the common man and every section of the society fully aware of the developments taking place everywhere. The range and accountability of the Ministry is vast. Hence, it is necessary to take every possible measures for making the information channels efficient and thus ensuring its autonomy. There is a need to give a fillip to the newspapers and the magazines. Proper circulation is important for newspapers. The more is the circulation of the newspapers, the more is the degree of accountability in the development of the individual and the nation. Hence, such newspapers need be rewarded and honoured. Likewise, there is a need to formulate an encouragement policy for regional and linguistic newspapers. There is a need to undertake special measures and accord proper importance to the medium and small newspapers.

There is relevance of radio even today. Modern technical measures should be taken to make it an effective medium of informations and programmes. Sanction for FM Radio station at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh has already been accorded and immediate steps need to be taken to set up the radio station.

Television is a modern and an important audio visual device of communication which produces immediate effect and affects the masses. Hence, it is necessary to take measures to make it more vigilant and cautious.

Sir, I earnestly hope the Government will undertake measures to make this important medium of communication or Indian arts, education, culture, history and dignified traditions invariably meaningful ranging from individual to national and international relations.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Thank you, Sir. First of all, I am thankful to all the hon. Members. Almost 17 hon. Members took part in the debate, and they have suggested a lot of constructive things. But at the outset, I appeal to the Administrative Staff of AIR and Doordarshan (ADASA) Organisation Employees — who are sitting on hunger strike — to immediately conclude their hunger strike and break the fast. It is because Shri Mohan Rawale had concluded with this issue.

First of all, I would like to mention that I have inherited this disease from the NDA regime, and not in

the UFA regime. The employees went on some protest during the NDA time that led them to the court, and the court gave a direction that extra pay protection, besides the Pay Commission recommendation, should be given to Programme and Engineering side. At that time they did not go to the court to challenge the order. On the other hand, they tried to sit on dhama. The then Minister, I do not wish to take his name as he was my distinguished predecessor. He is no more alive. He suspended them and took action against them. You people did not take up that issue at that time and that is why it has come to this stage now. When the Group of Ministers first considered this demand that they should be treated as employees on deputation with full status of Government employees, a new development occurred and they demanded that they should be given pay parity of ten years before. The bulk of the other employees then said that if these people get this benefit now, they should also be given a one-time jump. It is a very ridiculous situation. I did have interactions with them three times. I told them that they should wait since the proceedings of the Group of Ministers are yet to be concluded and I am to argue their case. However, it is very unfortunate that they have resorted to this without waiting for the conclusion of the proceedings of the Group of Ministers. I appeal to them with all respect, I am sending my Joint Secretary, to break their fast immediately. I shall sit with them on 29th again before I go to the Group of Ministers on this issue. However, I again remind Mohan Rawaleji.

[Translation]

You have done this and then you went away after handing over the same to us. You did nothing.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Assurance was given by you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Deliberations of Group of Ministers are yet to be concluded. How can I say anything before that?

MR. SPEAKER: Mohan Rawaleji may have instigated.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I would request the distinguished Members of Parliament to talk to NAFED also which controls 25,000 employees who have taken this benefit. There are other categories of employees also. I would request them not to try to break the major

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

organization in this mechanism. Try to talk to them and persuade them. I am here to help them. Our Government has the clear mandate that on the issues of employees we must always be liberal and sympathetic and not victimize them as was done during the NDA time.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Let us first ask them to call off their strike.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down as the time is running out.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the mover of this debate, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, is not here now. She politely made a charge against the Government and the Ministry that we are not serious, that we are casual in dealing with things, and that because of that a lot of schemes have been dropped and a lot of them have been changed. I would like to put it on record that when we went to the Planning Commission for the final approval, some old schemes which have no relevance have been deleted and some schemes have been clubbed together. Instead of three, they became two. Therefore, I would like to say that we have not dropped any ideas; we have rather reinvigorated the scheme and gave it a new dimension.

I would like to inform Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan and her Party about the achievements made so far. The NDA Government had only proposed the concept of community radio but could not implement it. My distinguished colleague Shri Sharad Pawar is here. On the direction of the Prime Minister the Group of Ministers met and we had evolved this further and on 19th February 2006, the policy on formation and expansion of community radio network was announced. It is now the demand of the day everywhere in the country. The last station I have inaugurated was at the Jadavpur University. More and more requests are coming in for setting up such radio stations from several institutions including Krishi Vigyan Kendras in various Districts, NGOs and many others. I should claim that the UPA Government took this revolutionary step for the expansion of community radio network, which the NDA Government could not do. Therefore, I would say that we are serious enough in our work.

I should also inform that the long-pending demands of the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the North-Eastern States, which had been ignored by NDA Government, have been attended to by this Government. This Government provided a special package for the North-Eastern States in May 2006 with a provision of Rs.122.55 crore for software and Rs.134.30 crore for hardware. It was a revolutionary step in the North-East which made a number of improvements in the HPTs in Port Blair, Kokrajhar and several other places. The North-Eastern region, which was totally ignored during the NDA regime, was taken care of. For Jammu and Kashmir, a special package was cleared by our Cabinet in May 2006 which provided Rs.143.32 crore.

We have been hearing the complaint from the people of Jammu and Kashmir that while they cannot hear or watch Indian broadcasts in our territory, they can hear the Pakistani television and radio programmes. From the 15th of August, 2008, we shall not hear this complaint because all the equipment needed to ensure this would be installed and will become operational from that day.

Therefore, you would find as to what change our Government is making and what NDA Government has made. Shrimati Sumitra ji has unnecessarily levelled these charges. I do not like to accept these charges and I politely inform her and ask her to try to see the achievements. This year being the year of completion of the 60th year of Independence; last year, for the completion of Centenary of the Mahatma Gandhi's *Satyagraha*; this year also, we are celebrating the 151st year of the war of Independence although not completed. Taking all these things into account, Rs.56.96 crore earnings have been made after long years by the Publication Division alone by printing the classic documents of *Satyagraha*, the national revolutionary fighters, and various other literatures. I would like to inform the House that the Publications Division is earning profit not only on the *Employment News*, it has also tied up with the IIT, Kharagpur, which is giving us additional revenue now in the Ministry's, Publications Department. I would like to inform with all humility that while you tried in your regime to wind up the NFDC, the National Films Development Corporation; when you tried to close down the Song and Drama Division; when you tried to close down Photo Division; we kept them not only alive but we have also given more strength and made more expansion. So, the approach and the vision between these two Governments should be understood first.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please do not refer to me.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Not you, Sir. Please do not take it personally. By your sustained initiative and efforts, the Lok Sabha Channel occupied a greater horizon in transmitting the Parliamentary proceedings, which is most constructive. With your initiative and with the support of the entire House, the Lok Sabha Channel is now being talked about by all the people in the country as the national movement programme. The way you have occupied and encouraged the Lok Sabha Channel, I tell you, Sir, with pride that it is a special thing not only in India but also in the whole of Asia, there is no parallel to this channel so far as the Parliamentary proceedings and the history of Parliament are concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to all sections of the House for their kind support and my particular gratitude to you, Mr. Minister, for your wholehearted support.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to make a simple and an important correction. It is not only in Asia, but also in the whole world, it is the only Channel, owned and run by Parliament. There is no other channel in the world.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Now, I would like to inform the hon. Member, Shri Suresh Prabhu, who is not here, that in Bangalore also, a 30-minute Konkani programme is telecast; in Sindhudurg and a place called Ratnagiri, we started long back, every day we telecast programme. In Panaji, from 6 to 7.30 p.m., do release the Konkani news item; every Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m. In Ratnagiri, in regard to the telecasting and radio transmission, the hon. Member has asked me to improve it. I would like to reply that it has been improved from LPT to HPT, without his knowledge. I think, he does not visit his constituency frequently. I would like to inform the hon. Member that next time, I would take him personally to show him as to how it has been improved.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that these are the few achievements, humbly and with all modesty, I claim that this Government has been able to achieve through this Ministry.

Now, I come to 24-hour Urdu channel. It is not only because of the minority population, the Urdu channel

programme and the software, the way it is being developed now, I would tell with honesty, even the people of Pakistan say that if they have this kind of software, they would have been benefited. This is the way, objectively and impartially, in a different dimension, we conducted the channel. But I admit that much more software is required. I hope to get money by the end of this year. Doordarshan has already taken steps to strengthen the Urdu channel. In this matter, I sought the advise of the eminent Members of Parliament to form a powerful Urdu Channel Advisory Board and I got the name of the distinguished Member of Parliament, Shri Habib Tanwir, and a few other names, on which I would act before the 15th of August so that the Urdu Channel gets a new dimension. It was not there at the time of the earlier Government.

Another thing I would like to talk about is that earlier the display of the games of national importance, like the finals of Hockey or Cricket, our National Team's performance in major Tests or One Day, was limited to the Private channels for which we have to give money. With the help of my great friend Shri Sharad Pawar, the BCCI President and also the Minister of Agriculture who had to take the brunt, we have been able to accommodate the people in general in the terrestrial channel to watch all these things. I brought a Bill in this regard and Parliament has approved it. Yet, I do feel that something more needs to be done. I am approaching the Planning Commission to plan DD Sports on the terrestrial network so that private channel will not object if I can show it on terrestrial network. It will take at least Rs. 1200 crore. If I get the support, I will do it. If I do not get the support, I will have to cry before Shri Chidambaram. What else I can do!

I would now talk about the DAVP. I think Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan is not here. We all talk of newspapers; small and medium. What was the approach of the UPA? The UFA Approach was to increase the advertisement value to the small and regional newspapers; give paramount importance to the language dailies; do not give that much importance to the English dailies, a bigger daily. We have done the exact thing. We have increased from 10.52% to 12.56% for the small and from 24.53% to 31.12 % for the medium and for the big we brought down from 64.95% to 56.32%. For English, we brought down to Rs.27.53 crore and this has resulted in an increase of Hindi and other languages to Rs.63.41 crore. This is the approach of the UPA. So, the approach and the vision should be understood first before you singularly

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

take up an issue to criticise us. The vision and the approach of the NDA and the UFA make it clear as to how much we are concerned.

I accept the complaint made by Shri Tathagata Satpathy. Yes, due to hike in the price of the newsprint, new small and regional newspapers are facing a crisis. Next week I am having a meeting with the Commerce Ministry in this regard to address the issue and to ensure more justice to the small and regional newspapers so far as newsprint is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: But there was no reporting of Parliament.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am coming to that, Sir.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Minister, I have an important point. You are talking about the newsprint.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Newsprint is not in my domain. It is in the domain of the Commerce Ministry.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yesterday, there was a debate on the Demands of the Ministry of Rural Development and not a single word has been printed anywhere. If that is so, why do we give newsprint to the newspapers? That is what I would like to point out.

MR. SPEAKER: I am glad that once we have been able to agree with each other.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Why should we give them the newsprint? Unnecessarily they do not print anything.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I fully share your concern. In this House the most important debates on Defence and Rural Development had taken place. Even the debate on Price Rise got little coverage but Defence and Rural Development exhaustively... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But not Sharad Ji's speech.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: That is only English media which is ignoring. And, that is all that we have noticed here. Regional media does cover these things.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I can assure the House, Sir. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I do not agree with him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Do not have a quarrel between BJP and BJD here.

MR. SPEAKER: You do not read his Paper.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I have noticed this issue. I am really shocked that this has happened. I believe not in confrontation but in dialogue and persuasion. Next week I have planned to take up the full proceedings, all the debating points which the Members took up today which are addressed to the electronic media and the print media. I am going to call a meeting, only to show respect to the Parliament on all these points, with the concerned agencies in the I&B Ministry and after that we will decide what kind of things we can evolve because I believe control, regulation, and interference are not the solutions in a free country. We must talk to them. We must persuade them. Through persuasion many things have been done. Through persuasion we have avoided great crisis which have come before the nation. We will not resort to force. We will go for discussion. That is the approach of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. I would just come back to the issue of vulgarity.

MR. SPEAKER: They will face harsh treatment.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Again I would make a request to the hon. Members.

[Translation]

Karuna Shukleji is sitting here. I am giving her a data and she should not be worried to see it. I had fully stopped the telecast of some channels for some days during my tenure. I would like to say about them.

[English]

Sir, 280 notices and show causes were served and we took immediate action against many channels. This is what we did in comparison to many other things in the earlier regime. I can say it with facts.

[Translation]

The teacher about whom you are saying this,

[English]

before the court took any action, the Ministry took action of at least banning the Channel for the first month. Then, of course, we are duty bound to hear their

complaint and then respond to things. So, it is not that we have not acted. Rather sometimes people accuse me that I have become a moral police officer but I am not. I am trying to respond to the passion of the people, the students, the youth and the children.

I come back to the matter of children films which was raised by Shrimati Jayaprada and many Members here. In the UPA's vision, for the first time, we have abolished even Rs.2 ticket for seeing children film which was not done earlier. When the Chairperson of UFA went to inaugurate children film festival, she declared it and we are acting till now on that assurance. Now children could see children films without paying any money. This was also the decision of the UFA Government. More money than what was provided in the last ten years has been provided for children films because talented people should come and produce films for children. That is our vision.

Now I am coming to the Institutes. Again Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan quoted a wrong figure. In the Tenth Plan, there was no concept of increasing the support to Satyajit Ray Film Institute or to give Asian model or an international level training centre to Pune. It has been done in the 11th Plan in our regime and full money has been allotted. So, please verify your figures with facts and do not go by the wrong information.

I saw the Satyajit Ray Film Institute in the presence of our distinguished Members from Bengal. Six times more than what was allotted in the earlier six years has been given to it. The equipment which we have hired are not available in any part of India in a private studio. We have hired and bought these equipment for Satyajit Ray Institute. The only thing is that for new courses, I have to approach the Planning Commission. If they approve that cost, certainly we shall start it. But I would tell that it is going ahead and no less a person than Shri Buddhadeb Dasgupta has agreed to Chair this Institute with new vision. Therefore, we are not doing politics but we are doing the job for the country with a new approach.

Insofar as programme is concerned,

[Translation]

Karunaji said that every Government decision is made known. I feel that she has not checked it.

I will invite him some day. He should spare one-hour time. I will invite him at tea. Please recollect during the

last five years of NDA regime when our leaders or some others would speak, it was not shown even for a minute. Today, you watch both the cassettes and you will know the things. When the people at the (opposition move some adjournment motion or deliver some speech, it is given much coverage. But during NDA regime not even a single minute's time coverage was being given. I have examined both the cassettes. Therefore, I invite you to come some day and note that how objective our coverage is. We never interfere in Prasar Bharati. But one day we interfered. I said that the children wanted to know how would Prime Minister Manmohan Singh hoist the flag and who hoisted the flag last time. We showed all. How Vajpayeeji hoisted the flag, how Lal Bahadur Shastriji hoisted the flag and how Morarji Desaiji hoisted the flag. We showed all because we wanted to show our countrymen, how the former Prime Ministers of the country hoisted the flag?

[English]

This is the objectivity I learnt in UP A which was unfortunately not there in NDA regime. I am sorry to say this.

[Translation]

I will not take much time because the time is less. But I would like to express some points before you. How effective was the film festival during the UPA regime, you please listen.

[English]

Sir, the Cannes film festival is one of the world's most well-known film festivals. Our Government and our Ministry have been able to create a world opinion in that festival to honour India's 60th year of Independence. The festival organised an Indian show; there was an Indian scene and also an Indian desk separately this year. This is unheard of. This was done only to honour India. This has been the level of our persuasion.

Sir, two other things happened in the Cannes film festival. They had accepted some of our films in that show to glorify India's contribution to the film industry in general. It was not done earlier. It was the effort of this Government.

Sir, I would like to mention a point about film archives. The film archives and other things were totally ignored

by the NDA Government. Did they ever think of devising ways to preserve valuable materials of the film division? The hon. Prime Minister and the UFA Chairperson in a private dinner advised me that such materials should be preserved, irrespective of party affiliations, in a proper manner. It is for the first time we allocated funds for this purpose and I would like to inform the House that three-fourths of the works of the archives have been completed and 90 per cent of digitalisation has been done. Not only that this Government has also formulated the concept of moving images to keep history alive in the film division complex at Gulshan Mahal in Mumbai. We have allocated huge sums of money for preserving the images in the museum. That is being done by the agencies and I would like to request the hon. Members that whenever they visit Mumbai, they should at least once visit the museum to see for themselves as to how it was 10 years back and how it is now. This is how this Government is paying attention to every aspect.

[Translation]

How Sardar Patelji broke coconut at ship, you will watch its live coverage. If you want to watch how Morarji Desai took oath, you can do. If you want to see the dialogue delivery in old films, you can do. We have done all this in such an excellent way that one who even watches he says such a beautiful work has never been done before. This is UPA's vision, believe it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can even see the Dandi March by Mahatma Gandhi in our Parliament museum.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I would like to mention another thing here. For the last 20 years the prize money for the various film awards presented by Government was very meagre. For the first time we have increased five times the value of the prize money for various awards. How come the prize value of a prestigious award like the Dadasaheb Phalke be worth only rupees one lakh? The content of the award also has changed. Besides, from this year we are giving life time achievement awards. Shri Tapan Sinha from Bengal, Shrimati V. Saroja from Tamil Nadu, Ms. Lata Mangeshkar and Shri Dilip Kumar from Mumbai have been chosen for this purpose this year. This also is a creation and achievement of this Ministry. There are no two opinions about the selection of the persons for this life time achievement awardees. It is not correct to say that we

have no approach and no vision. On the other hand, our vision is completely different.

Sir, on the issue of Bharat Nirman, I would not like to make any comparison. In Bharat Nirman, how many times does one see the face of the Prime Minister? How many times does one see the face of the Ministers in Bharat Nirman programmes? But we all know in the India Shining programme what all faces we saw. The cassettes are there to show that. So, please try to understand the objectivity and transparency with which this Government is functioning. That is the work of the Media...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)

So long as India will remain and so long as the Sun and the moon will continue to rise in this planet, you cannot write off the names of Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru from the history of this country. What can I do about that? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may please address the Chair.

All other submissions are unauthorized and hence not to be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am proud that there are some freedom fighters in India ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not address him. Address the Chair, please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am feeling proud that irrespective of parties, there are some great martyrs in the country. There are some families who did good work for the freedom of our country irrespective of parties and sacrificed their lives for the country. We cannot write off their names only on your request or suggestion.

*Not recorded.

I think, you should have congratulated the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for one work.

[*Translation*]

Everyone said that on getting up in the morning, channels telecasting ghost stories and astrology are watched. Why don't we watch Doordarshan and listen Mahatma Gandhi's voice. Everybody likes the immortal voice and the satyagraha message given by voice. Everybody likes the immortal voice and the satyagraha message given by Mahatma Gandhi. If you do not pay attention to it, what can we do? Therefore, I tell you don't worry it will continue.

[*English*]

I promise the House that on some of the issues which have been raised, I will call the concerned agencies and I will debate with them. Our Cable Network Regulation Act requires some intervention. I agree with Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. I shall have a look into it. I will talk with the Ministry of Law and the State Governments. It is because part of it is under the State Governments so far as monitoring is concerned. I cannot bypass the State Governments and do it only unilaterally sitting at the Centre. We have done a great job in the area of MSOs in the Cable Corporation of Tamil Nadu. The poor people are getting it at a cheaper rate. We have given at a cheaper rate in CAS areas and we shall expand it in much more areas. TRAI has already given its recommendations. But I hope that within the time that we have in our hands, we shall accomplish much more in the media sector and the film sector than what you could dream of in the NDA period. This much I can tell you honestly. It is not a quarrel. Please bear with me and have faith in the Ministry. We are not doing politics. We are explaining the truth and I will tell you the credibility which is the last point which I always talk of.

With the permission of the Chair, with your indulgence Sir, I would tell that the hon. Speaker one day conveyed to me that before he goes to sleep, he hears the DD-News and the Radio news. I request all of you to watch every Channel. Do not insult any Channel. No Channel is bad. Some channels are objective. Some channels are *sansari* and some Channels are breaking news 20 times but we should know against whom we are fighting. The House should know it and I need the protection of the House.

TRP is a game plan. It is not a regular mechanics. In the 100 crore population of India, about 6000 houses are selected in the big metropolitan cities that are operating the meter and giving the rating ignoring the entire Bihar, entire North-East and ignoring the entire Eastern UP. You see what is happening! That reading goes up and down to the stock market to increase the rates. And Doordarshan is fighting for that. I am the only Minister who came, intervened and held meetings and immediately after that, before I left for Mumbai, I got five threatening calls. The Member of your own Party - I will not take her name because you will expel her from your Party - provided me the first information as to how the manipulation is going on. She was also threatened by phone. This is the mechanics you have built and I am trying to fight it out. I hope I will be successful and to show to the whole world that transparency will prevail. At the end of the day, I would like to conclude by thanking profusely the staff of Prasar Bharati for giving news on time. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Nothing except Bhojpuri will be telecast.

[*English*]

You take the case of only Assam. The National Games are held. Children are in panic as to whether to go there to participate or not. Yet they send their children to participate in the National Games. It is not the Private Channel which covered it. It is only Prasar Bharti which has covered it. This is how they are functioning and working.

[*Translation*]

What Ram Kripal Yadavji has said about Bhojpuri channel, I would like to tell him that a channel depends upon the language and discussion is on with the M/o Home Affairs for its schedule. Even then, I am telling you that I have pursued a private channel to start a Bhojpuri channel as well. But for telecasting it on Doordarshan, I will emphasise it the most sought after date can be 15 August.

Sir, a discussion was raised for a programme for farmers.

[*English*]

I am thankful to the Minister of Agriculture. They provided a lot of money to do this programme. We have to increase the frequency of the agricultural programmes and the *krishi* activities. A number of channels are there

where *krishi* programmes are telecast. But I will request the Prasar Bharati Board to examine whether select-hour *krishi* channels could be considered for the rural people who are not in the field at that time. If they are shown during the day time, they will not be able to watch it because they will be in the fields. How will they know about them? So, these are the achievements of the DD and the Prasar Bharati.

For the first time, we are fighting against piracy. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted a good Act. I give utmost importance to the film industry and the piracy issue. The FICCI and the CII gave me a good report. Shrimati Shabana Azmi headed a Committee. We got its Report. We shall hold a plenary in Mumbai and take a policy decision in this matter so that piracy could be fought both through technical device of digitalisation and also through administrative device of the State Governments. This is all I can submit today. MR. SPEAKER: You can speak for another five minutes' time. Otherwise, I have to take up other Ministry's Demands for Grants.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Our Ministry did not behave in a partisan manner. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to accommodate the hon. Members.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Let me inform the House that because of the transparency in the bidding process, which our Government did with regard to FM radio - I repeat that because of the transparency in the bidding process during our Government's time - we have achieved the great goal of earning more than Rs. 1,500 crore as revenue only in the bidding process of FM radio. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: What about the monopoly in FM radio? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In regard to big monopoly operation in the FM radio, I agree with Shri Tathagata Satpathy that this unfortunate trend is going on. We have to address this issue very aggressively and progressively.

At the cost of my being blacklisted in many pages of media, I tell you that I am going to have a new device where the whole thing could be shared with every section and not with just select houses. It is true that in various names they bid and grab it.

I will request hon. Members to spare two days' time during the next Session to see the Information & Broadcasting Ministry's production of Kranti Yatra. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): There are a number of posts which are lying vacant. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have said that the GoM is to dispose of this issue within a week.

In regard to Kranti Yatra, I would like to request hon. Members to come and see as to how it has been produced. You will not be able to believe the kind of work done by the common artists who are not well paid. Yet, I claim that it is a great job. I will take the hon. Speaker also, but in the next Session.

It starts from the Battle of Plassey, then it goes to Sepoy Mutiny, the First War of Independence; then 15th August. The whole thing is produced in a light and shade way in a great manner. Many experts came and told me to improve it. We plan to do the improved version. We will take all MPs to watch it. ... *(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): What about the documentary on Bhagat Singh's Centenary?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Several documentaries and other things have been produced.

I want to inform the House officially now that the National Implementation Committee assigned a task to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of making a feature film in remembrance of the First War of Independence. A Committee was constituted consisting of Shri Shyam Benegal, Shri Yash Chopra, Shri Javed Akther and Shri K.L. Jadav, historian. They, after a comprehensive discussion - we did not interfere - have taken a decision and the film is going to be produced very shortly. The title of the film will be "Tathia". In this regard, Rs. 25 crore will be contributed by the Government of India and Rs. 25 crore will be contributed by the private producer with total return of the Government money to the Government and make their money on

their own. The process has started. I want to tell you that in the film world, our name is at the peak. In African market, in European market and everywhere else, there is a demand for Indian movies and films. Our news staff are real ambassadors in this country so far as cultural point of view is concerned. ... (*Interruptions*) Yes, some films are a flop. We cannot take the blame. The Ministry does not make films, but some very good and better films are coming. I promise and I assure the House that NFDC is launching a new programme to invite new talents, and of the past again by investing money to create new art films and creative films in the film horizon of the country. While NFDC was going to be closed by the earlier Government, I kept it revived and my dear colleague, Shri P. Chidambaram, at least considers some money to be put here. We are all grateful to him. ... (*Interruptions*) I express my gratitude. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: We are grateful.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I will request Shri Chidambaram in front of you, Sir that if the Ministry of Finance extends a liberal hand for the next six months, we will show wonders in the Ministry of I & B so far as films and NFDC are concerned. ... (*Interruptions*)

As far as employees' issues are concerned, the Government discusses them. I cannot discuss the ground proceedings in the House. I will take it up in the final meeting of the GoM and the Chairman, Shri Shivraj Patil, is very much sympathetic for this Prasar Bharati issue and the other issues.

Therefore, once again I would request the House to the fasting employees to break their fast and allow me to talk to them on 29th and to report to the GoM objectively. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, they are on the fast. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Please listen, no assurance can be ensured. The only assurance is that I talk to them on 29th and report back to GoM objectively. This is my assurance. ... (*Interruptions*) I will do it as quickly as possible. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What you have not done, Rawalji you should not speak about that. You did nothing.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been appreciated.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the daily wage earners.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government do not determine daily wages in private industries.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want your Demands to be passed or not?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: The film industry has been recognized as an industry by the Government.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You take less money, they will get more.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Time here is essential.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He will call you to tea or something.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Time element is there. Shrimati Jayapradaji, you know this.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayapradaji, what are you doing? It cannot be done. You should know these things. You are an old Member of this House.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 59 relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we come to Item Number 18, not quite forensic though.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing?

[English]

You know that there is something called 6 p.m.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Business. It is not allowed.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am on a point of order. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There will be a constitutional crisis.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please explain to him that he will not get his allowances.

18.00 hrs.

SUBMISSION OF OUTSTANDING DEMANDS TO VOTE OF THE HOUSE (GUILLOTINE)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof, against:—

- (1) Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to Ministry of Agriculture;
- (2) Demand Nos. 4 and 5 relating to Department of Atomic Energy;
- (3) Demand Nos. 6 and 7 relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers;
- (4) Demand No. 8 relating to Ministry of Civil Aviation;
- (5) Demand No. 9 relating to Ministry of Coal;
- (6) Demand Nos. 10 and 11 relating to Ministry of Commerce and Industry;
- (7) Demand Nos. 12 to 14 relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;
- (8) Demand Nos. 15 and 16 relating to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution;

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| <p>(9) Demand No. 17 relating to Ministry of Corporate Affairs;</p> <p>(10) Demand No. 18 relating to Ministry of Culture;</p> <p>(11) Demand No. 27 relating to Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region;</p> <p>(12) Demand No. 28 relating to Ministry of Earth Sciences;</p> <p>(13) Demand No. 29 relating to Ministry of Environment and Forests;</p> <p>(14) Demand No. 30 relating to Ministry of External Affairs;</p> <p>(15) Demand Nos. 31 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 44 relating to Ministry of Finance;</p> <p>(16) Demand No. 45 relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries;</p> <p>(17) Demand Nos. 46 to 48 relating to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;</p> <p>(18) Demand Nos. 49 and 50 relating to Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises;</p> <p>(19) Demand No. 56 relating to Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation;</p> <p>(20) Demand Nos. 57 and 58 relating to Ministry of Human Resource Development;</p> <p>(21) Demand No. 60 relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment;</p> <p>(22) Demand Nos. 61 and 62 relating to Ministry of Law and Justice;</p> <p>(23) Demand No. 64 relating to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;</p> <p>(24) Demand No. 65 relating to Ministry of Mines;</p> <p>(25) Demand No. 66 relating to Ministry of Minority Affairs;</p> <p>(26) Demand No. 67 relating to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;</p> <p>(27) Demand No. 68 relating to Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs;</p> <p>(28) Demand No. 69 relating to Ministry of Panchayati Raj;</p> | <p>(29) Demand No. 70 relating to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs;</p> <p>(30) Demand No. 71 relating to Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions;</p> <p>(31) Demand No. 72 relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;</p> <p>(32) Demand No. 73 relating to Ministry of Planning;</p> <p>(33) Demand No. 74 relating to Ministry of Power;</p> <p>(34) Demand No. 76 relating to Lok Sabha;</p> <p>(35) Demand No. 77 relating to Rajya Sabha;</p> <p>(36) Demand No. 79 relating to Secretariat of the Vice-President;</p> <p>(37) Demand Nos. 83 to 85 relating to Ministry of Science and Technology;</p> <p>(38) Demand Nos. 86 and 87 relating to Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways;</p> <p>(39) Demand No. 88 relating to Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment;</p> <p>(40) Demand No. 89 relating to Department of Space;</p> <p>(41) Demand No. 90 relating to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;</p> <p>(42) Demand No. 91 relating to Ministry of Steel;</p> <p>(43) Demand No. 92 relating to Ministry of Textiles;</p> <p>(44) Demand No. 93 relating to Ministry of Tourism;</p> <p>(45) Demand No. 94 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs;</p> <p>(46) Demand Nos. 100 to 102 relating to Ministry of Urban Development;</p> <p>(47) Demand No. 103 relating to Ministry of Water Resources;</p> <p>(48) Demand No. 104 relating to Ministry of Women and Child Development; and</p> <p>(49) Demand No. 105 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports."</p> |
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*Demands for Grants-Budget (General) for 2008-2009 in respect of a
various Ministries/Secretariats Submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

Sl.No.	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 14, 2008		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3		4	
Ministry of Agriculture					
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	2117,89,00,000	14,24,00,000	8337,31,00,000,	76,21,00,000
2.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	446,67,00,000		2233,3300,000	
3.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	320,98,00,000	2,87,00,000	1036,99,00,000	13,33,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy					
4.	Atomic Energy	482,83,00,000	333,84,00,000	2436,41,00,000	1669,42,00,000
5.	Nuclear Power Schemes	247,31,00,000	254,48,00,000	1239,09,00,000	1272,40,00,000
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers					
6.	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	30,22,00,000	8,37,00,000	266,55,00,000	41,83,00,000
7.	Department of Fertilisers	6968,84,00,000	7,67,00,000	27466,87,00,000	36,37,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation					
8.	Ministry of Civil Aviation	79,34,00,000	28,66,00,000	396,72,00,000	143,32,00,000
Ministry of Coal					
9.	Ministry of Coal	57,58,00,000	5,00,00,000	287,92,00,000	25,00,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry					
10.	Department of Commerce	470,62,00,000	118,50,00,000	2353,12,00,000	592,50,00,000
11.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	103,91,00,000	8,33,00,000	569,54,00,000	41,67,00,000
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology					
12.	Department of Posts	1280,35,00,000	71,10,00,000	6301,81,00,000	355,51,00,000
13.	Department of Telecommunications	999,88,00,000	33,46,00,000,	4649,37,00,00	167,29,00,000
14.	Department of Information Technology	252,75,00,000	16,58,00,000	1363,75,00,000	82,92,00,000

	1	2	3		
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution					
15.	Department of Consumer Affairs	38,67,00,000	5,34,00,000	193,32,00,000	28,70,00,000
16.	Department of Food and Public Distribution	5622,58,00,000	62,57,00,000	28,12,97,00,00	312,88,00,000
Ministry of Corporate Affairs					
17.	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	26,33,00,000	7,50,00,000	131,67,00,000	37,50,00,000
Ministry of Culture					
18.	Ministry of Culture	163,11,00,000	7,72,00,000	815,57,00,000	38,60,00,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region					
27.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	221,08,00,000	23,92,00,000	1106,42,00,000	119,58,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests					
28.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	91,34,00,000	70,81,00,000	456,68,00,000	354,07,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests					
29.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	279,45,00,000	5,06,00,000	1397,22,00,000	25,27,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs					
30.	Ministry of External Affairs	799,63,00,000	140,99,00,000	3416,41,00,000	704,94,00,000
Ministry of Finance					
31.	Department of Economic Affairs	687,47,00,000	99,85,00,000	3437,37,00,000	499,27,00,000
32.	Payments to Financial Institutions	1210,60,00,000	468,20,00,000	6053,04,00,000	2341,03,00,000
33.	Department of Financial Services	10,00,00,000		49,98,00,000	2,00,000
35.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	6680,56,00,000		43402,76,00,000	
36.	Loans to Government Servants etc.		60,00,00,000		300,00,00,000
38.	Department of Expenditure	6,98,00,000	1,00,00,000	34,88,00,000	5,00,00,000
39.	Pensions	1321,79,00,000		6608,97,00,000	
40.	India Audit and Accounts Departments	207,28,00,000	49,00,000	1036,42,00,000	2,46,00,000
41.	Department of Revenue	1551,65,00,000	14,00,000	4645,33,00,000	68,00,000
42.	Direct Taxes	315,00,00,000	70,33,00,000	1456,98,00,000	132,67,00,000
43.	Indirect Taxes	300,77,00,000	148,36,00,000	1503,83,00,000	166,84,00,000
44.	Department of Disinvestment	350,00,000	388,33,00,000	17,50,00,000	1491,67,00,000

	1	2	3	
Ministry of Food Processing Industries				
45. Ministry of Food Processing Industries	42,43,00,000	7,40,00,000	212,17,00,000	37,00,00,000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare				
46. Department of Health and Family Welfare	2992,51,00,000	155,28,00,000	14962,52,00,000	776,40,00,000
47. Department of Ayurveda Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYSH)	103,50,00,000	33,00,000	517,50,00,000	1,67,00,000
48. Department of Health Research	88,88,00,000		443,12,00,000	
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises				
49. Department of Heavy Industry	35,83,00,000	98,71,00,000	179,13,00,000	493,53,00,000
50. Department of Public Enterprises	2,42,00,000		12,08,00,000	
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation				
56. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	117,50,00,000	25,00,000	737,50,00,000	1,25,00,000
Ministry of Human Resource Development				
57. Department of School Education and Literacy	6637,00,00,000		34030,00,00,000	
58. Department of Higher Education	1593,98,00,000		9258,89,00,000	
Ministry of Labour and Employment				
60. Ministry of Labour and Employment	352,89,00,000	2161,00,000	2015,47,00,000	108,04,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice				
61. Election Commission	2,58,00,000		12,92,00,000	
62. Law and Justice	114,31,00,000	1,00,000	571,53,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises				
64. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	182,87,00,000	139,00,000	1748,44,00,000	692,00,000
Ministry of Mines				
65. Ministry of Mines	64,51,00,000	863,00,000	322,55,00,000	43,17,00,000
Ministry of Minority Affairs				
66. Ministry of Minority Affairs	156,47,00,000	1250,00,000	782,36,00,000	62,50,00,000
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy				
67. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	88,98,00,000	5,03,00,000	494,91,00,000	25,17,00,000
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs				
68. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	9,17,00,000	1,67,00,000	45,83,00,000	8,33,00,000

	1	2	3	
Ministry of Panchayati Raj				
69. Ministry of Panchayati Raj	796,75,00,00		3983,75,00,000	
Ministry of Parliamentary, Affairs				
70. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,00,00,000		5,00,00,000	
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions				
71. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	59,20,00,000	7,50,00,000	319,52,00,000	39,51,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas				
72. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	485,50,00,000		2452,50,00,000	
Ministry of Planning				
73. Ministry of Planning	15,90,00,000	1,07,00,000	610,04,00,000	18,33,00,000
Ministry of Power				
74. Ministry of Power	1014,87,00,000	51,09,00,000	5074,33,00,000	255,47,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission and the Secretariat of the Vice-President				
76. Lok Sabha	5237,00,000		271,10,00,000	
77. Rajya Sabha	19,00,00,000		94,98,00,000	
79. Secretariat of the Vice-President	28,00,000		1,41,00,000	
Ministry of Science and Technology				
83. Department of Science and Technology	287,25,00,000	11,15,00,000	1436,23,00,000	55,75,00,000
84. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	345,23,00,000	1,10,00,000	1726,17,00,000	5,50,00,000,
85. Department of Biotechnology	153,17,00,000		765,83,00,000	
Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways				
86. Department of Shipping	175,42,00,000	62,46,00,000	877,09,00,000	352,78,00,000
87. Department of Road Transport and Highways	2159,48,00,000	2224,38,00,000	10797,27,00,000	11121,88,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment				
88. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	383,33,00,000	23,17,00,000	1936,67,00,000	115,83,00,000
Department of Space				
89. Department of Space	382,35,00,000	296,53,00,000	1911,76,00,000	1482,67,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation				
90. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	312,45,00,000	4,05,00,000	1562,27,00,000	20,23,00,000

	1	2	3	
Ministry of Steel				
91. Ministry of Steel	17,34,00,000	2,58,00,000	66,68,00,000	12,92,00,000
Ministry of Textiles				
92. Ministry of Textiles	510,76,00,000	43,16,00,000	2553,77,00,000	215,82,00,000
Ministry of Tourism				
93. Ministry of Tourism	81,00,00,000	93,56,00,000	405,00,00,000	467,50,00,000
Ministry of Tribal Affairs				
94. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	43,64,00,000	8,34,00,000	219,21,00,000	41,67,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development				
100. Department of Urban Development	191,04,00,000	817,96,00,000	744,72,00,000	1201,40,00,000
101. Public Works	132,35,00,000	59,20,00,000	661,77,00,000	295,98,00,000
102. Stationery and Printing	36,86,00,000	2,00,000	184,27,00,000	11,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources				
103. Ministry of Water Resources	132,26,00,000	18,29,00,000	661,31,00,000	91,47,00,000
Ministry of Women and Child Development				
104. Ministry of Women and Child Development	1209,50,00,000		6052,50,00,000	
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports				
105. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	162,86,00,000	22,42,00,000	614,41,00,000	112,10,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital	96036,96,00,000	15667,96,00,000	415074,82,00,000	758614,42,000

The Motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments are passed.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have a point. Even now, I may be permitted to raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister not to have added some more Ministries! The Speaker would have been in great trouble otherwise. Now, Item 19 - Shri P. Chidambaram.

MR. SPEAKER: Although it does not arise, but I cannot stop you! You are unstoppable!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: If you kindly allow me, I will raise it.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): There is a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Would you be happy if I disallow it?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no business before the House. So, where is the question of point of order?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, my point of order is under Rule 376 of clause 1 with regard to Regulation of Business in this House.

Now, the question is that every year, the chances of the Members having deliberation on the various Demands for Grants are getting dwindled. We had discussion on Demands for Grants pertaining to only four Ministries. It is true that the Standing Committees are scrutinizing this and they make their recommendations also by submitting their reports. Some may be accepted while some may be rejected. But there is an opportunity for Members to have deliberations on the important Demands. Now we have guillotined them. I can understand some of them being guillotined, but guillotined in a whole sale way is not conducive to a parliamentary democracy.

Even the Prime Minister has mentioned that public corruption is the order of the day. We have to discuss these matters when the Demands for Grants are being discussed. But unfortunately, Members' right to deliberate on these issues is being denied. We are not getting the opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, give me an opportunity!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: It is true that there is a scrutiny by the Standing Committees, but that is only for a limited purpose. The deliberations should take place in this House. The Members should get this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: You are repeating now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Curtailment of discussion, up to a certain extent, is understandable but whole sale curtailment is quite unwanted, unreasonable and cannot be justified.

So, at least, next year, this must be increased. It is getting dwindled every year. At last, there will come a day when all the Demands for Grants will be passed by this House without any kind of discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Enough. Please control him.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is that it is not a point of order, you know very well. You wanted yourself to be heard. The point is, when the Minister of one of the most important Ministries, that is, the Ministry of Rural Development, was replying, there were about 10 to 15 Members. That is the interest that we are showing! When the Defence was discussed, there were 15 to 20 Members. Let us not expose ourselves further. I will not mind sitting 365 days a year.

Now, let us come to Item 19. Let there be some introspection also in this House.

18.00 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2008*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-2009.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-2009."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the motion for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-2009, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will 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 24.4.2008.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, please take up Special Mentions.

MR. SPEAKER: Not today. You can raise it tomorrow.

18.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 25, 2008/Vaisakha 5, 1930 (Saka).

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