

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Tenth Session**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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## CONTENTS

*[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XXVI, Tenth Session, 2007/1928 (Saka)]*

No. 12, Tuesday, March 13, 2007/Phalgun 22, 1928 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 201, 202, 203 and 206 .....	1—40
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 204, 205, 207 to 220 .....	40—76
Unstarred Question Nos. 1833 to 2049 .....	76—408
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE .....	409—415
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE	
One-hundred and Ninth Report .....	415
STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO USQ 987 DATED 28.11.2006	
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Joint Committee on Offices of Profit .....	417—418
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007-Introduced .....	418—424
Shri T.R. Baalu .....	428—421
Shri Basu Deb Acharia .....	421
Shri Pranab Mukherjee .....	421—422
Shri L.K. Advani .....	422—424
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS .....	426
RE: REPORTED FIRING BY SRI LANKAN NAVY ON INDIAN FISHERMEN .....	425—432
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	
(i) Need to revive Dhubri Port with modern infrastructure of international standard and declaring National Water Ways-2 as International Water Way	
Shri Anwar Hussain .....	432—433

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\*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that member.

SUBJECT	COLUMN
(ii) Need to start an F.M. Radio Station in Amreli, Gujarat	
Shri V.K. Thummar .....	433
(iii) Need to provide funds for Community Health Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh	
Shri Badiga Ramakrishna .....	433—434
(iv) Need to take steps for protection of rights of tribals and traditional forest dwellers in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh	
Shri Madhusudan Mistry .....	434—435
(v) Need to take steps to provide relief to people affected by drought conditions in Karnataka	
Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi .....	435
(vi) Need to take steps to preserve Sandalwood and Teak grown in Karnataka	
Shri C.H. Vijayashankar .....	436
(vii) Need to give Rajasthan its due share of water and to appoint a member from Rajasthan in Bhakra Beas Management Board	
Shri Nihal Chand .....	436—437
(viii) Need to open Indian Institute of Technology in Ajmer, Rajasthan	
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat .....	437
(ix) Need to check migration of 'Magheshis' from Nepal to India affecting public life in border areas particularly in Araria, Bihar	
Shri Sukdeo Paswan .....	437—438
(x) Need to accord the status of Central University to Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur and to open an I.I.T. in Jodhpur, Rajasthan	
Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi .....	438
(xi) Need to include 'Thulu' language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution	
Shri P. Karunakam .....	438—439
(xii) Need to reduce interest rate charged by banks for educational loans	
Shri A.V. Bellarmin .....	439
(xiii) Need to provide manned railway crossings in Moradabad and other parts of Uttar Pradesh	
Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq .....	439—440
(xiv) Need to construct an over-bridge at the Southern end of the Salempur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh	
Shri Harikewal Prasad .....	440

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xv) Need to take immediate steps to undertake the maintenance work of NH-57 between Darbhanga and Jhanjharpur, in Bihar Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav.....	440—441
(xvi) Need to include Lambadi & Kurumbas tribes of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list by amending the Constitution Shri D. Venugopal .....	441
(xvii) Need to Commission a research on prevalence of malaria in Orissa and supply second-line drugs to malaria affected regions Shri B. Mahtab .....	441—442
(xviii) Need to import Vanaspati from Sri Lanka through NAFED Shri Chengara Surendran .....	442—443
(xix) Need to take steps to open a LPG bottling plant of H.P.C.L. in Mashrakh, district Saran, Bihar Shri Prabhunath Singh .....	443—444
(xx) Need to amend the Mental Health Act, with a view to give legal protection to the voluntary organizations engaged in the rehabilitation of mentally sick patients Shri P.C. Thomas .....	444
<b>GENERAL BUDGET, 2007-2008 — GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2007-2008 AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 2006-2007 .....</b>	<b>444—592</b>
Shri Mitrasen Yadav .....	463—466
Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba' .....	466—470
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid .....	470—475
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' .....	475—479
Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan .....	479—482
Shri Brahmananda Panda .....	482—488
Md. Salim .....	488—500
Shri Kharabela Swain .....	501—513
Shri M. Appadurai .....	513—516
Shri C. Kuppusami .....	516—520
Shri D. Narbula .....	520—522
Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani .....	522—528

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Prof. Chander Kumar .....	528—535
Shri Hiten Barman .....	535—536
Shri Vijoy Krishna .....	536—546
Shri Hemlal Murmu .....	546—550
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan .....	550—557
Shri Nikhil Kumar .....	558—564
Dr. C. Krishnan .....	564—566
Shri M. Shivanna .....	566—571
Shri Pralhad Joshi .....	571—576
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan .....	576—580
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi .....	580—583
Shri Rakesh Singh .....	583—587
Shri Lakshman Singh .....	587—592
 ANNEXURE I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	611
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	612—618
 ANNEXURE II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions .....	619—620
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions .....	619—622

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, March 13, 2007/Phalgun 22, 1928 (Saka)*

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Q No. 201, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

[*Translation*]

#### Meeting with States on Police Reforms

\*201. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had held a meeting recently with various States with a view to carrying out reforms in the police system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main points of agenda in the said meeting;

(d) the reaction of the States in this regard;

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to carry out reforms in police system;

(f) whether the Government proposes to enforce new police legislation in certain States;\*

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which the new system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

## Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has from time to time been holding meetings with State Governments to review police reforms. In the recent past, a meeting was taken by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries on 14th November, 2006 to review police reforms and to ascertain action taken by State Governments on the Supreme Court judgment dated 22.9.2006 (Prakash Singh Vs Union of India & Others) and their views on the model Police Act prepared by Sorabjee Committee. In the meeting, there was a broad consensus in favour of pursuing further the police reforms which were already under consideration and implementation and the need for bringing a new, legislation on police by the States. Later on 30th December, 2006, a meeting on the subject was taken by the Union Home Minister with Chief Ministers of States. In the said meeting, while the State Governments expressed their views differently on the issue, there was a general unanimity on the need to frame a new police law for contemporary needs.

(e) 'Police' being a State subject in the seventh schedule to the Constitution, it is primarily the State Governments who have to implement the various recommendations made by the Commissions/Committees concerning police reforms. The Union Government persuades the States from time to time to bring the requisite reforms in the Police Administration to meet the expectations of the people by reviewing the progress of implementation of these recommendations.

(f) to (h) The model Police Act drafted by the Soli Sorabjee Committee has been sent to the State Governments for their appropriate consideration. As 'Police' is a State subject. However, the Central Government is considering enactment of a new legislation for police administration in the Union Territories, in place of existing enactments. It is, however, not possible to indicate a definite timeframe for this legislative proposal.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question the Minister of Home Affairs has furnished a statement wherein he has admitted that there is a need to carry out reforms in police machinery and review the entire police system. In this regard he has also emphasised the need to enact a model Act on the

basis of Soli Sorabjee's report. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs has also confirmed that in the meeting held with State Governments, there was an endeavour to arrive at a broad consensus on this issue. I would like to know the main recommendations of the Soli Sorabjee's model Act and the out come of the discussions held in that regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member for asking such a good question. Often we discuss various cases in the House and while discussing the cases we discuss rules and regulations also. But here the question has been raised for discussion on rules and regulations. Soli Sorabjee Committee was constituted before the Supreme Court's decision with a view to amending the Police Act of 1862. That Committee drafted its report Keeping in view the reports of previous law commissions and the judgements of the Supreme Court along with the discussions held in House and the information provided by the Government. The contents of the draft included different aspects Police reforms means reforms which would improve the police system. Reforms are also made to benefit the public. Thirdly, it is also considered as to what changes will be brought in the system by the reforms and fourthly what changes should be incorporated in law and penal system to check the emerging trends of new crimes. All these aspects have been taken into account in that report. Besides, the report has made a special mention of thing there we have discussed with Law Ministry and Chief Ministers. We have sent that draft to them. What I mean to say that police population ratio is very low in our country. One police personnel has to take care of about 800 people whereas in other countries, this ratio is 1:100-125. Many other new things have also been included.

Sir, in the old system there was a Kotwal and a Committee in every village, we have replaced them by police stations there. However, there are only 13000 police stations against approx. 6.5 lakh villages. Such a large number of villages and cities are managed by only ...*(Interruptions)*. The number includes hamlets and towns also. If we go by what he is saying, even then 6 or 4 lakh villages are to be managed by 13000 police stations. The report states as to how to take help from the old system. I would like to say for the information of the House that the subject police comes under the jurisdiction of State Governments. Centre cannot enact or impose laws on them in this regard. State Governments can either

pass a fresh legislation or they can adopt the one passed by the Centre. They are free to make changes in that law or can adopt it as it is. We have held discussions with them in this regard but so far as the Act is concerned, all the State Governments have expressed unanimity to amend the existing law. However, the amendments may not be carried out in the same manner as has been suggested. It has been expressed in the separate meetings of Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and DGPs that a new Act would be implemented after making necessary changes according to the circumstances prevailing in a State.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has told that the existing law is a very old one which was enacted in 1862. We all feel that the existing police system is not suitable. The system requires immediate reforms. Understanding this need, the hon. Minister had convened a meeting with State Chief Ministers. I would like to know from him the time by which the States will formulate and implement the new legislation on the basis of the draft of the Model Police Act sent to them or the same would be sent to Central Government for the approval. Any act being formulated for the immediate implementation of the said system in union territories? If such an act is under formulation, the time by which it is likely to be formulated as it is urgently needed. He has mentioned that a definite time frame for the new legislation cannot be given. I think these two statements are contradictory. Keeping in view the seriousness of the issue and the condition of police system a time frame has to be fixed and immediate action is required to be taken in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to mention that it is not fair to say that our police system is not working at all. It will also be a misconception if it is believed that police system need no change. There is definitely a scope for reforms. They are doing a good job and the old system of police is also not entirely useless. But at the same time it cannot be considered flawless. I would like to state for your information that so far as union territories are concerned, we have prepared a draft after getting the report and a comprehensive discussion has been held on it. I am not giving an assurance that we will present the draft in the House during the present session but it would definitely be presented in the next session. However, it would be difficult for me to say anything about the State Governments action thereon. Those who have understood the Act, will soon take action

on it but those having any doubt will take more time. It would be difficult for me to say anything on this issue on their behalf.

*[English]*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, is this frequent transfer of Police Officers affecting the Preamble of the Police Act? If so what is the Government planning to do in this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: You have to find out whether it is some State matter or Central matter. He can only refer to Central matters.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Probably the hon. Member is referring to the judgement given by the Supreme Court. One of the points made in the judgement is that frequent transfers should be avoided. It is also suggested that an officer working in a police station or at a district place or at the State level should be given at least two years' tenure so that he is in a position to produce some good results. This is what is suggested in the Supreme Court's judgement.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member and this august House that this kind of policy decision has already been taken by the Government of India and by other States also. But, to implement this decision without any change and in a rigid manner is also not possible. There are cases in which it is not possible, it is not feasible, it is not advisable to retain an officer at one police station even if he has not acted properly, in which case it becomes necessary. That is why the general principle in the policy is correct. We are going to adopt it. We have already adopted it. But, at the same time, in the interest of the people as a whole, in the interest of the criminal justice which has to be given to the people, if it becomes necessary, this principle cannot be rigidly applied. The officers at higher level should be given the discretion to change the officers when it is required. For instance, you have read in the newspapers that certain things have happened at central places. It is not possible to retain that officer at that place for more than the period for which he has been there, after we have come to know as to what has actually happened. But, in principle, this theory is acceptable. We are going to accept it; we are going to implement it.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask a Supplementary Question. The Government is coming forward to bring out reforms in the Police Act. I would like to know from the hon. Home Minister whether there is any scheme for introduction of the concept of philosopher police in the Administration. The police system is generally described as most corrupt etc. To make the police system zero corrupt, cent per cent secular and perfectly fair, and in order to achieve this ideal, can the Government conceive a new scheme and introduce it? Just like the philosopher kings of the olden days, can they not introduce the philosopher police in the police administration system?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Plato had suggested that the king should be philosopher, but now it is suggested that the policeman also should be a philosopher. I think, he should be acting and acting against those people who are out to commit crimes. If he philosophizes and does not act, it will create great many difficulties for us. It is not possible for anybody in any responsible position to say that nothing is happening which can be called as wrong. But, it is also wrong to say that everybody who is working in a department or in a kind of activity is not acting properly. Members of this House should not forget that to save the Members of this House, six or seven members sacrificed their lives. You should not forget that the members coming from Kerala are dying to protect the lives of the people in different parts of the country like Assam, Nagaland and other States. If you say that every policeman is a corrupt man, probably we are not doing justice to what they are doing, and we are not appreciating the sacrifices made. Please, for God's sake, do not do it. This kind of general criticism is demoralizing, which should be avoided.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, the six alphabets in the word 'Police' indicates politeness, obedience, loyalty, intelligence, courage and efficiency. Now I do admit the appreciation of the police force all over the country but in reality what is happening is that instead of attaining this quality, criminalization in the police force is taking place.

Day before yesterday, it is reported that in the Sikkim police force, a police constable attacked his colleagues and five police constables were killed. There were a lot of such incidents taking place in the police.  
*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, you should remember what the hon. Home Minister has said. Do not abuse the entire force.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I am not abusing the entire force. Several heinous crimes have been committed in the police force all over the country.

MR. SPEAKER: They are a part of this society.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: In these circumstances, I would like to know from the Minister whether the issue of criminalization in the police force in various States has been discussed in the meeting taken place between the Home Ministers of various States.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, please be brief. Supplementaries as well as the answers must be brief.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I would like to know whether in the new legislation, any provision enabling the authorities to take stringent action against the culprits in the police force will be there.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have brief and pointed supplementaries. All these prefaces must be omitted.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I thank you very much for the expression as to what should be said on the floor of the House, which you have given.

Sir, the Supreme Court has suggested that there should be a Police Complaint Authority in every district. They have suggested that if any police commits a mistake or goes against the law or behaves in an arrogant manner or commits a crime, then there is an Authority to look into all these complaints. As a matter of fact, as the system exists today, these kinds of complaints can be given to the superior authorities and these kinds of complaints can be taken to the courts also but they are suggesting that in every court, this kind of system should be created. We have nearly 600 districts in the country. So, 600 District Judges have to be appointed, and these kinds of complaints have to be looked into.

Administratively it has to be seen whether it is going to be feasible to give this kind of an authority to the existing District Judges. But if there are any complaints against the police, then they should be looked into. If they are not properly looked into, then also the difficulties arise, and we intend to avoid these kinds of difficulties.

*[Translation]*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the number of States which gave consent to the proposal presented by the Government in the recently held Chief Minister's Conference. Since, this subject is in the concurrent list, whether Government of India can implement it, Until and unless all States give their consent in this regard?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is not true that this is in concurrent list. This subject is in the State List.

*[English]*

It is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the States.

*[Translation]*

As per our constitution, the Parliament cannot enact any law out of the State list. We have made this clear to them. It has also been told to them that this issue has been discussed in Commissions, Courts, Parliament and Legislative Assemblies and keeping in view the fact that the issue is being discussed in the media, it is necessary to improve it and they should do it themselves. We will provide them whatever help is required to them. As far as Union territories are concerned, we are going to do that.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We have enough subjects of our own—let us not go into State territories.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that the security related fund for police personnel is released by the Union Government and the amount given for a policeman's diet per month out of that fund ...*(Interruptions)*. A police personnel gets only Rs. 450 per month ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not related to the main question.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me complete before you decide on its relevance. Hence, the hon. Minister is talking of making a model. I am talking about the pathetic state of the police personnel.

*[English]*

It is a part of this.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am saying that he gets only Rs. 450 for food.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What is part of what, I shall decide and not you.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, surely you alone will decide because.

*[English]*

You are the head.

*[Translation]*

I am saying that he gets only Rs. 450 per month for diet, whereas a CRPF personnel gets Rs. 950 for the same. The money being given for the diet is very less. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as the issue of making modalities before him, whether he proposes to increase the amount given to these soldiers to at least Rs.1000 per month from the security related fund?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the issue of providing diet to them does not come under the security related fund. It is necessary to understand that people deployed at international borders belong to paramilitary forces. The military personnel are deployed at the LOC and the Government gives money for the diet of soldiers deployed at the borders. The issue of other soldiers is resolved in another way, but efforts are being made to ensure uniformity in the diet given to police, soldiers,

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as he stated that the ratio of police and population in our country is 1:800 ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Government take a final decision.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would like to know the number of personnel deployed for general public, for VIP's security and for combating the naxalite problem. My second question is this ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No 'dusra', I am sorry. Let us follow some discipline.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the number of police personnel deployed for VVIP and VIP security is very less, but it is very often discussed, that is why it appears that their number is very large. One person says that he has paid two rupees for other people but hundred for himself, it is such a thing. Therefore, I would like to say that it is not true that many people are being deployed for VIP security. Security is provided wherever necessary and to a person who requires it. We are told that so and so has to be provided security and it becomes mandatory for us to provide security to that person. Now, we have enacted Private Security Act also. The person who is having money, can engage private security personnel for his security.

Sir, we are having around 8 lakh personnel in our forces and in comparison security personnel numbering

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to ask only one supplementary but in parts (a) and (b).

MR. SPEAKER: No sorry, ask only a small supplementary.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am the only Member of Lok Sabha who complies with your orders. Therefore, as per your orders. I am asking only one question.

Sir, hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has given reference to Supreme Court Judgement many a time during the course of his reply. According to the Supreme Court ruling a Committee should be set up both at state level and district level separately to look into transfers and postings. I would like to know whether in view of the Supreme Court ruling the State Governments power has not been curtailed, which will loosen the hold of State Governments over Police Force and criminal cases will register a rise. Therefore, I would like to ask whether the Union Government will file a review petition in the Supreme Court in this regard or it would like to enact a legislation, so that the rights of States could be protected and administrative capability may be maintained?

MR. SPEAKER: There are provisions in the Constitution in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very good question. This issue was also discussed in the meeting of Chief Ministers convened by me. The hon'ble. Member is expressing the views of his Government, but we are not having any problem in this regard.

The Supreme Court gave the direction as to what kind of system should be put in place. The Central Government and the State Government shall reserve the right to take a decision as per their jurisdiction. The State Governments should enact their own laws and act accordingly. If they fail to make any, in that case the decision given by the Supreme Court shall be binding. That is why it has been suggested that the States should frame their own laws and enforce them so that the decision of the Supreme Court is not binding on them.

The point raised by the hon. Member is quite correct. The Supreme Court has stated in its decision that.

*[English]*

"There shall be a State Security Council, and the advice given by the State Security Council shall be binding on the State Government." Now, this does not appear to be in consonance with the provisions of the Constitution but the Supreme Court has given the direction that if anybody wants to have a new law, they would be allowed to have it, and in which case, the decision given by the Supreme Court shall not be binding.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Constitution prevails over everything else.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister just now stated that Acts in force in our country date back to the British Era and there is one policeman for every eight hundred people. The duty hours of a policeman run upto 12 to 14 hours, besides it takes 1-2 hrs. for him to go back and return from home. I would like to request the Hon. Minister whether he propose to reduce the duty hours of Policeman from 12-14 hours to 8 hours? Does he propose to increase their pay scale? Besides, whether accommodation facility can be provided to them near the place of posting? As per a decision of the Supreme Court the Police should be kept away from political interference. Does the Hon. Minister propose to grant them the freedom?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Home Minister should run the police forces and not anybody else.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect the views expressed by the hon. Member and promise to act in consonance with it. However, today the population of our country is more than 100 crore. And you can well imagine that how easy and difficult it is to raise the strength of the police in proportion to the Increasing population. Then there are financial constraints, too. However, I shall take measures to increase their strength in keeping with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member.

*(English)***School Drop-Outs**

+  
\*202. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:  
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drop-out rate of girls in rural areas is more when compared to the urban areas in the country;

(b) if so, the comparative figures thereof during each of the last three years, gender-wise, class-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has carried out any study/assessment on the increase in drop-out rates in the rural and urban areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to address the main issues and the reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**Statement**

(a), (b), (c), and (d) Gender-wise, age-wise and state-wise drop out rates for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and

2004-05 are given in the enclosed annexures I, II, & III respectively. Annual class-wise enrolment figures are not collected for urban and rural areas separately, and therefore drop out rates for these areas cannot be calculated separately. Details as given in the Annexures reveal that there is a general downward trend in drop out rates during the above period across each stage (primary, middle and secondary) of education.

(e) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme, access of girls to elementary schooling is being enhanced. Measures are also undertaken to provide flexible schooling, early childhood care, educational incentives, community action to support continuation of girls in the elementary education cycle. The Mid-day Meal Scheme that provides a cooked meal to all children of Government and Government-aided primary schools, Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) Centers and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) Centers, also promote school enrolment and participation.

As per a new Scholarship scheme introduced by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) from the academic session 2006-07, a girl who is the only child of her parents and who secures 60% or more marks in class X examination for the year 2006 onwards under CBSE system, would be given a scholarship of Rs.500 per month for studying in classes XI and XII in a CBSE affiliated school which charges tuition fee of not more than Rs. 1000 per month.

All Kendriya Vidyalayas provide fee waiver to all single girl children from classes VI to XII. In Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, one third of the seats are reserved for girls.

**Annexure I****Drop-out Rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X**

2002-03

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	41.66	41.76	41.71	58.10	62.00	59.94	67.36	70.78	68.95
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	38.42	37.37	37.94	59.50	56.13	58.01	70.17	73.59	71.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Assam	62.51	59.83	61.17	67.07	70.85	68.76	74.28	75.65	74.91
4.	Bihar	62.74	61.66	62.31	77.91	80.78	79.01	82.27	85.83	83.60
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	0.08	5.45	2.69	2.28	9.01	5.54	40.18	39.14	39.68
7.	Gujarat	26.02	23.14	24.77	43.09	48.76	45.48	59.21	67.13	62.82
8.	Haryana	3.45	10.74	6.89	5.70	14.82	9.90	22.31	37.05	29.14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10.82	14.08	12.42	7.90	11.32	9.56	28.75	31.23	29.95
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	33.06	11.50	24.82	27.53	25.57	26.71	50.29	52.08	51.07
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	19.77	17.59	18.74	47.46	49.61	48.46	60.67	63.72	62.14
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.78	8.88	12.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	32.66	29.87	31.43	43.29	51.78	46.94	58.36	70.78	63.79
15.	Maharashtra	14.40	18.80	15.55	29.51	35.98	32.59	48.98	55.42	52.05
16.	Manipur	25.92	25.24	25.60	35.43	30.08	32.93	61.92	59.01	60.54
17.	Meghalaya	58.19	54.81	56.51	73.13	70.21	71.67	81.40	80.45	80.93
18.	Mizoram	56.25	56.52	56.38	60.05	56.39	58.31	77.11	74.11	75.68
19.	Nagaland	49.16	54.49	51.80	53.79	52.93	53.38	77.08	77.90	77.47
20.	Orissa	50.40	40.05	46.13	63.97	58.39	61.73	71.04	72.56	71.74
21.	Punjab	26.37	24.07	25.29	33.71	31.67	32.75	48.81	47.10	48.01
22.	Rajasthan	54.81	59.86	56.93	62.74	72.44	66.60	72.66	81.16	75.77
23.	Sikkim	54.74	49.29	52.06	72.68	66.32	69.66	76.85	73.07	75.12
24.	Tamil Nadu	14.56	16.22	15.37	46.06	39.00	42.85	47.31	46.26	46.80
25.	Tripura	43.28	42.62	42.97	65.17	65.22	65.19	74.24	74.29	74.27
26.	Uttar Pradesh	24.19	22.75	23.55	47.53	42.46	45.57	43.05	51.47	46.31
27.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	37.39	35.32	36.41	67.26	69.30	68.23	77.08	80.61	78.74
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.73	4.00	2.31	17.64	19.26	18.42	51.44	51.24	51.35
30.	Chandigarh	32.32	28.05	30.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.28	20.29	21.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16.99	33.96	24.82	39.87	56.14	48.00	72.69	71.86	72.34
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.57	20.44	14.83	43.81	46.93	45.24
33.	Delhi	6.72	17.64	12.13	19.46	27.75	23.57	44.88	49.59	47.19
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	6.06	3.03	0.00	8.36	4.48	25.51	22.63	24.13
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.97	20.32	21.69
	India	35.85	33.72	34.89	52.28	53.45	52.79	60.72	64.97	62.58

\*As they are newly formed States separate data is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States also include the data of the newly created States.

### *Annexure II*

#### *Drop-out Rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X*

2003-04

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.42	42.80	42.61	57.93	61.78	59.79	65.08	68.53	66.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46.07	46.67	46.34	64.38	62.46	63.52	71.40	73.02	72.09
3.	Assam	54.70	51.36	53.15	69.54	72.41	70.81	75.07	74.57	74.84
4.	Bihar	59.05	58.99	59.03	77.00	79.62	78.03	80.97	85.36	82.58
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	-5.53	1.91	-1.90	6.15	12.91	9.43	37.64	38.26	37.94
7.	Gujarat	27.42	24.17	26.02	45.09	49.48	46.94	62.38	63.96	63.05
8.	Haryana	13.24	13.39	13.31	19.03	23.92	21.26	19.37	34.85	26.54
9.	Himachal Pradesh	15.87	18.15	16.98	13.29	15.32	14.28	31.85	33.03	32.42
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	36.04	37.44	36.65	51.26	41.87	47.49	60.51	59.93	60.26
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	10.10	9.36	9.75	50.29	50.94	50.59	59.67	61.16	60.38
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	-12.55	-6.40	-9.54	12.13	4.88	8.58
14.	Madhya Pradesh	24.74	22.58	23.78	44.41	49.99	46.81	58.97	70.29	63.81
15.	Maharashtra	12.40	13.81	13.07	30.71	36.01	33.25	50.22	54.11	52.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16.	Manipur	26.42	26.41	26.41	31.52	29.59	30.61	51.55	46.11	49.02
17.	Meghalaya	53.92	52.91	53.42	70.67	71.59	71.13	83.52	82.95	83.24
18.	Mizoram	55.95	55.23	55.61	65.18	63.08	64.19	72.08	67.18	69.74
19.	Nagaland	31.43	34.27	32.81	46.76	42.73	44.83	71.85	72.10	71.97
20.	Orissa	41.19	34.36	38.19	64.58	57.51	61.72	66.13	62.59	64.72
21.	Punjab	23.60	20.21	22.03	35.13	35.26	35.19	42.57	44.42	43.45
22.	Rajasthan	59.29	55.83	57.94	64.64	73.87	68.50	71.63	81.78	75.47
23.	Sikkim	56.93	50.69	53.85	76.63	69.62	73.29	81.80	79.71	80.82
24.	Tamil Nadu	3.42	3.04	3.23	25.35	24.92	25.15	60.81	56.45	58.82
25.	Tripura	45.07	44.50	44.80	62.64	66.10	64.29	74.77	73.78	74.31
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23.03	-1.91	13.51	44.96	39.48	42.84	40.75	49.42	44.10
27.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	34.12	32.73	32.46	62.72	64.92	63.77	76.37	84.44	80.24
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-1.10	0.47	-0.35	18.67	19.07	18.86	53.44	47.67	50.68
30.	Chandigarh	-7.94	1.25	-3.62	-1.23	-2.91	-2.03	14.57	9.27	12.13
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21.38	35.55	28.40	35.81	58.61	45.24	70.97	74.31	72.48
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.05	23.14	17.36	50.29	50.62	50.45
33.	Delhi	15.71	28.73	22.03	26.43	29.02	27.71	44.12	48.56	46.30
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	1.09	3.03	-1.35	11.66	4.90	47.51	36.53	42.24
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.20	-6.11	-4.60	25.72	20.04	22.96
	India	33.74	28.57	31.47	51.85	52.92	52.32	60.98	64.92	62.69

\*As they are newly formed States separate data is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States also include the data of the newly created States.

### Annexure III

#### Drop-out Rates in classes I-V, I-VIII and I-X 2004-05

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Classes I-V			Classes I-VIII			Classes I-X		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	31.77	32.14	31.95	57.72	61.08	59.36	62.30	65.24	63.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45.86	48.01	46.85	63.23	61.90	62.63	69.59	72.30	70.79

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Assam	51.58	48.34	50.07	72.41	74.60	73.38	75.18	74.69	74.96
4.	Bihar	53.37	48.62	51.59	73.57	76.44	74.69	81.46	85.64	83.06
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Goa	0.00	6.26	2.43	4.28	9.69	6.90	42.66	38.52	40.65
7.	Gujarat	35.72	34.27	35.09	43.63	50.00	46.34	58.01	61.05	59.29
8.	Haryana	5.04	4.54	4.81	19.86	29.61	24.51	28.01	37.72	32.48
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.78	9.82	7.74	13.48	18.36	15.89	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	40.92	31.80	36.92	39.72	37.02	38.57	54.63	52.53	53.75
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	16.25	15.49	15.88	49.81	50.21	49.99	59.71	58.99	59.38
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.64	3.52	7.15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11.12	9.13	10.21	43.09	45.07	43.95	60.48	70.31	64.70
15.	Maharashtra	6.60	6.81	6.70	26.46	31.74	28.99	52.11	56.40	54.16
16.	Manipur	29.71	32.74	31.18	34.47	30.91	32.80	46.04	39.58	43.02
17.	Meghalaya	51.77	48.15	49.97	65.99	62.43	64.21	79.64	78.65	79.15
18.	Mizoram	50.84	48.71	49.84	68.99	64.34	66.84	69.52	64.11	66.95
19.	Nagaland	41.79	43.66	42.69	41.09	43.93	42.49	66.98	67.63	67.29
20.	Orissa	42.60	35.17	39.34	65.56	56.64	61.95	66.40	61.46	64.42
21.	Punjab	27.42	19.91	23.96	32.64	34.82	33.67	43.68	44.49	44.06
22.	Rajasthan	58.92	52.90	56.59	60.85	71.33	65.34	69.33	80.72	73.87
23.	Sikkim	52.01	46.80	49.44	72.48	70.02	71.22	83.34	81.15	82.30
24.	Tamil Nadu	1.94	-0.14	0.94	24.62	23.24	23.96	57.27	52.71	55.19
25.	Tripura	43.76	42.58	43.20	62.05	66.42	64.15	73.58	73.11	73.36
26.	Uttar Pradesh	21.80	-3.78	12.06	43.71	39.18	41.94	40.49	48.99	43.77
27.	Uttaranchal*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	43.23	44.10	43.65	63.70	63.55	63.63	75.92	80.34	78.03
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4.03	3.36	3.72	8.98	12.03	10.44	38.55	35.30	36.97
30.	Chandigarh	1.46	3.91	2.59	17.03	9.14	13.40	17.69	15.63	16.73
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	21.37	36.10	28.23	44.81	60.55	51.95	64.23	70.60	67.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Daman and Diu	1.51	0.06	0.84	12.91	21.29	17.03	41.62	45.36	43.43
33.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	0.00	27.71	28.53	28.12	45.04	48.84	46.92
34.	Lakshadweep	0.77	14.51	7.62	2.91	31.24	16.41	19.16	18.57	18.88
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.24	15.47	16.89
	India	31.81	25.420	29.00	50.49	51.28	50.84	60.41	63.88	61.92

\* As they are newly formed States separate data is not available but the data shown against the respective parent States also include the data of the newly created States.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply the Minister has said that measures are also undertaken to provide flexible schooling, early childhood care, educational incentives, community action to support continuation of girls in the elementary education cycle. Can the Minister please explain the efforts that are being taken and the financial assistance earmarked for this purpose?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the National Programme on Education of Girl Child at the elementary level, which is a component of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan itself, works in convergence with the ICDS, and it has ensured that wherever the ICDS programme does not exist, in those areas these ECCE Centres are opened in close proximity to the school so that the girl children can leave, the siblings in these Centres and can attend the schools. This is one of the most important components of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to ensure that the girls come and attend the school.

With regard to the finances, we will let the Member know as to how much has been allocated.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your second supplementary.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: There is no second supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your co-operation.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir the drop out rate of girls from class 1 to class 10 given by the

Hon. Minister are as follows — 64.97 per cent during the year 2002-03, 64.92 per cent in 2003-04, and 63.88 per cent during the year 2004-05. There has been no big achievement as revealed by the figures quoted by him. The girl drop out rate is constant at 65%.

In regard to the reply given by the Hon. Minister that special facilities have been provided to girl students in Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, I would like to ask him to state the number of such Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya schools in the country. The Government schools in the rural areas badly lack the infrastructure. There is a need for comprehensive reforms. There is abject poverty. Students from poor families study there. That is why the drop out rate is high. The budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask question, do not make a speech.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I am coming to the question.

MR. SPEAKER: When ?

SHRI GANESH SINGH: It is a very important question. Hon. Minister of Finance has made a proposal in the budget now that they would be organizing national level competition in class VIII and scholarship would be given to the successful candidates. I would like to know as to how many such students would be included in the competition. Secondly, do the Central Government propose to implement the scheme named "Nirdhan Kanyayon ke liye Gaon ki beti" in the entire country on the lines of Madhya Pradesh under which free cycles are distributed to the girls studying in class 6 and 9 who go to other villages to study.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you provide cycles?

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, many States have come up with such initiatives to ensure that support is being given to the girl-child. Education of girls and women has always been the priority of Government of India and especially the education to girl-child has always been an area of focus in all the Government schemes implemented by the Government of India. Various States have come up with very many new initiatives to extend support to the girl-children as just mentioned by the hon. Member. Such initiatives would be more encouraged and welcomed if the States could come up. For us from Government of India to just extend it to one particular State would not be possible.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL: Although education is a State subject yet the issue of dropout is a national issue. In many States the drop out rate has substantially increased, be that of girls or of boys. Even Punjab shows a fairly high dropout rate. Through you I would like to know the reasons for it from the hon. Minister. Some state schools show the pattern of one teacher above 40 students. How a teacher can afford to cover the syllabi of five classes. I have not been able to understand it till date. In addition to it he does clerical jobs as well. Many State Governments lack the infrastructure to provide five teachers for five classes for completing the syllabi, that is why there is maximum dropout. Secondly, the children taking admission in class six in Government Schools in a village start studying English at the age of 9 or 11 years i.e. after 4 to 5 years after joining school whereas children studying in public schools start their education with English at the age of 2 or 2 and a half years. On one hand a child starts English in the 11th year or in the ninth year of his life without a teacher and on the other a child at two and a half years of age starts his education in English medium, there is a difference in their syllabi as well. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is ready to render some support to the States in order to meet their infrastructure demand so that they could provide sufficient number of teachers in their schools and which could result in mitigating the dropout rate and whether Government is taking any measures to bring

clarity in the structure of the syllabus of these schools in regard to the study of English language?

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, as per the norms of Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, the ideal teacher-pupils ratio is 1:40. We already have 7.38 lakh teachers in position and another 1.50 lakh posts of teacher have been sanctioned. To ensure that the teachers are efficient and are capable of teaching properly to the students, we have the teacher training programmes well in place wherein we have pre-service training for inexperienced teachers for 60 days and a pre-service training for 30 days for teachers who have experience in teaching. Other than this, we have also 20 days in-service training programme for teachers.

MR. SPEAKER: What about English?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: As he rightly said, that is a State subject. Now many of the States have made it mandatory that English is one of the subject in lower classes and in higher classes, English is the medium of instruction. If States could come out with such an initiative, it would be most welcome.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR: Sir in the year 2000-01, the Standing Committee related to H.R.D. had undertaken a study visit to check the dropout rate especially to find out the reasons due to which the girls stop going to school leaving their school education incomplete in villages. They found out that the mothers of these children go out for work. Therefore these girls stop going to schools. It has also been stated in this list that from 1 to 35 in every states girls discontinues their studies after completing either 8th or 10th standard. It has been stated in the report that the Government should set up creches and provide foodgrains for these girls. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether he would formulate any schemes in this regard?

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, if I have got her correct, she is referring to the extension of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme to higher classes.

MR. SPEAKER: She asked about providing creches.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, we already have ECCE Scheme under which there are creches opened closed to the schools where the girl child can actually leave her sibling in the ECCE centres and then go to the school. The provision has been made for that.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Sir, the high drop-out rate of girl-children from rural schools is a serious matter. On one hand, we are all concerned about the falling ratio of girls per thousand boys. On the other hand, we have failed to check the high drop-out rate of girl-children from schools.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That has been asked by him.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: We are spending crores of rupees on providing education to our children. But, the rural schools lack the basic infrastructure. Schools do not have adequate furniture for girl children. We have laid emphasis on the construction of class-rooms. However, the rural schools do not have teachers. We have not been able to lure the children to schools.

MR. SPEAKER: You please put your question. Question hour is for putting the questions, not for delivering speeches. Put your question.

\*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: We have provided computers to the rural schools. But, there is no electricity in many of these villages. Or else, there are long power-cuts in these villages. Thus, crores of rupees are going down the drain. Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has been a total failure as far as luring the children to the classrooms is concerned. Similarly, crores of rupees are being spent on the mid-day meal scheme. Self-help groups have taken the initiative. However, no sheds have been constructed for this scheme. The facilities granted by the Government for the education of the girl-child do not reach the intended target. As such, poor parents do not send their girl-children to schools. Hence, I would

like to know from the Hon'ble Minister the steps taken by the Government to improve its functioning in this matter. What are the corrective measures taken by the Government so that we can check the high drop-out rate of girl-child from schools?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: We must know how to put questions. The same thing was said here.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan has been making its impact. I do not think that it is a failure in any way.

With regard to school buildings and additional classrooms, drinking water facilities and toilet facilities, provisions have been made and achievements show that we have achieved up to about 82 per cent overall, taking all the aspects into consideration.

With regard to teachers, I have already answered the question and we are ensuring that teachers are put in place. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Sir, from the information that the Ministry has provided, it is apparent that in several States like Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal, the drop out rates have remained either static at very high levels or they have increased despite the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Only two questions have been taken up with in forty minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Members who raise their hands would not get the chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

*[English]*

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Sir, I was drawing your attention to the statistics provided by the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: You are such an educated man. Put a question briefly on the point. All these prefaces are totally unnecessary.

SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOM: Sir, from the document that we have, I would like to ask the Minister whether any study has been undertaken as to why the drop out rates in many States remained as high as 80 per cent of the enrolment and what the Ministry is doing about this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any study made?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, our studies have revealed that drop out rates have come down by 15 per cent. All the programmes concerned with the Ministry of Human Resource Development—SSA, NPEGL and various other schemes—are all concerned and have to do with the education of children. We have been ensuring that measures are being taken to decrease the drop out rate and to ensure that more children come into the stream of education.

MR. SPEAKER: I think, the nation as a whole has to be concerned and all of us as Members of Parliament also.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the manner in which the girls are leaving the schools, the Kasturba Gandhi School in my constituency is playing a very significant role. I would like to know from the Minister whether any scheme is being formulated to introduce classes from 8th to 12th in Kasturba Gandhi School where the wards of extreme backward classes are studying and is garnering appreciation from all around as very few students belonging to the poor class are able to carry on with their studies once they complete the 8th standard.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is a wonderful scheme, especially for children in the rural areas and in the SC, ST, OBC and minority concentrated areas. This scheme has been a

success story in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, but as of now, there has been no proposal to stretch Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme further to classes tenth and eleventh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it is worth considering.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 203.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, this is a very important questions ...*(Interruptions)* the condition of our state is worse and you didn't permit me to put question ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. speaker Sir, please go through the statistics ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the third Question of the day. Forty-five minutes have gone.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody wants to ask a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given priority to women Members. Please sit down. By no means of imagination, I can treat you as a woman!

...*(Interruptions)*

#### **New Educational Complexes for Tribal Girls**

\*203. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:  
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the various States for setting up of new educational complexes in all the districts identified as having less than 10 per cent literacy rate among ST girls;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed by the Government for setting up such complexes for tribal girls?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The details of number of proposals received during 2006-07 from various States for running

of ongoing educational complexes and setting up of new educational complexes for scheduled tribe girls in low literacy pockets, and their status is given in Annexure. The complete proposals in respect of ongoing cases have already been sanctioned or processed. As regards new proposals, since some components of the scheme have been revised for focussed implementation of the scheme during 11th Five Year Plan, the State Governments and NGOs have been directed to submit revised proposals.

(c) Since the scheme is implemented mainly through NGOs and depends on the need of the area, no targets can be fixed.

**Annexure**

*State-wise details of proposals received for running of ongoing and new Educational Complexes during the year 2006-07.*

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of proposals received			No. of ongoing proposals already considered as on 28.02.07			Status of New cases
		Ongoing	New	Total	Sanctioned	Processed for sanction	Total	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	0	44	3	41	44	All Cases returned to State Govts. for Revision.
2.	Chhattisgarh	1	0	1	1	0	1	
3.	Gujarat	2	1	3	1	1	2	
4.	Jharkhand	1	25	26	0	1	1	
5.	Karnataka	5	0	5	0	5	5	
6.	Madhya Pradesh	11	0	11	9	2	11	
7.	Maharashtra	2	0	2	1	1	2	
8.	Orissa	27	0	27	17	10	27	
9.	Rajasthan	4	6	10	3	1	4	
10.	West Bengal	1	0	1	0	1	1	
Total		98	32	130	35	63	98	

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, this question is about scheduled tribe women. As per the 2001 census, the literacy rate among the people aged 7 plus in the county is 64.8%, literacy rate among the

women is 53.7% whereas it is 34.8% in the case of tribal women. Owing to the geographical isolation, absence of communication and basic facilities in the tribal areas, even today there is no sign of development in the tribal areas. Therefore, this question has been asked as to what is the number of districts out of these 563 districts,

where the literacy rate is less than 10 per cent among the tribal girls. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: 130 proposals have been received from their side. Whether 130 proposals. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? You have taken five minutes without putting the question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, question is very pointed that the literacy rate among tribal women is less than 10 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number districts identified for the purpose and the number of proposals received from such districts? At present, the Government has received 130 proposals from 593 districts. Are the 130 proposals from the districts having less than 10 per cent literacy rate among ST girls? Please give a detailed reply.

MR. SPEAKER: I didn't get your question. Could you make out anything?

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Sir, while we were discussing earlier about the drop-out rates of girl students, in the Ministry, we are concerned about how to mobilize the girl students, who constitute ten per cent of the tribal population, to go to the schools. In my reply, I have clearly indicated that there are 32 new proposals concerning ten States. These new proposals that we are considering deal with how to intervene in a more effective manner and also about giving more incentives.

I want to tell the hon. Member of the House, the questioner, and also take the House into confidence that we are now coming to a stage of analyzing new initiatives in order to see that the girl students go to schools and remain in the schools. The schemes will be implemented through the NGOs and autonomous bodies. We will

ensure one hundred per cent enrollment of girl students. We will make educational facilities available to every tribal girl child at the end of the Eleventh Plan, and also provide basic healthcare facilities. More importantly, we are coming up with new cash incentives to the parents. We will pay Rs. 100 per month to the parents of the girl students who are at the primary level, and Rs. 200 per month at the middle and secondary level.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate on the whole policy.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I want to tell all this to the House so that the Members would know how we are trying to take this further. We are also planning to consider a proposal by which Rs. 10,000 would be deposited in the bank in favour of the Scheduled Tribe girl students, and this will be payable at different stages, that is, on completion of Class VIII, Class X and Class XII; even bicycles will be given to those who pass out. These are the initiatives that we have introduced.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is very clear. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of districts out of the 593 districts where the rate of literacy among tribal girls is less than 10 per cent and the special steps being taken by him there is this regard? The question I am putting is very simple.

MR. SPEAKER: You please send him all the available statistics.

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We will send it to him.

*[Translation]*

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Minister in his reply stated that 130 requests have been received out of which only 35 have been accorded sanction. I would like to ask the hon. Minister who is responsible for the non-approval of the remaining requests, whether it is the State Governments or the Union Government? Wherever the literate rate is less than 10 per cent the Government should accord sanction to all those requests on priority basis. What is the reason for

sanctioning only 25 per cent proposals and the steps being taken by the Government to give sanction to the remaining proposals?

*[English]*

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We will also sanction other projects, but meanwhile we want to have these new initiatives in place. We have two parameters. One is, wherever the ST population is 25 per cent at the district or block level and wherever the rate of literacy is less than 25 per cent, we will take that up. We have now identified them at the block and district levels, and certainly they will be considered.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Government is making efforts for the progress of the tribal girls in educational sector. This is a very good thing but the efforts are not being made to sanction the proposals sent to the Union Government. My demand to the hon'ble Minister is only that he should increase the budgetary provision for this purpose. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to increase the budgetary provision in order to provide more avenues of education to the tribal women and girls?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you increasing the budgetary provision?

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Yes, Sir. So far, it was only Rs. 8 crore, and it will be increased to Rs. 20 crore.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS: The drop-out rate is the highest, and the literacy level among the ST girls is the lowest. Is the Government going to have a programme fully funded by the Government of India to address the peculiar requirements of the ST girls by having full-fledged educational complexes for ST girls in the tribal populated blocks so that retention as well as enrollment of the ST girls improves?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the real crux.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: I have certain proposals, and we are implementing them.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: The drop-out rate of girl children in the tribal areas is more in general schools and not in the residential schools, where residential facilities are there. Will the Government take steps to open more girls' residential schools in the tribal-dominated pockets of the country?

The dietary supplements given to the tribal children in the residential schools are below the calorie intake level of a normal human being. Will the Minister try to add milk and egg to the dietary supplements so that the calorie intake of the girl child improves?

MR. SPEAKER: That is understood.

SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: We will consider the suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 204: Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi—  
not present;

Shrimati Jayaprada—not present.

Q. 205: Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana—not present;

Shri Raghuv eer Singh Koshal—not present.

MR. SPEAKER: These days, all the Ministers should be made ready because you cannot expect that the questions would not come.

#### **Timely Grant of Mining Lease Rights**

206. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to put in place a New Mining Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed policy;

(c) whether the State Governments are not granting mining lease rights within a stipulated period of time; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to make it mandatory for the State Government to grant mining lease rights within stipulated period of time?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA):  
(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The New Mineral Policy, 2007 is under consideration of the Government. The issue of delay in grant of mineral concessions by the State Governments is also under consideration in the new policy.

*[English]*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether any study has been conducted to know precisely whether there has been decline in iron-ore reserves. Mining plays an important and strategic role in the growth of our economy. There is a need to preserve iron-ore and minerals for increasing domestic steel production. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to restrict the export of minerals, which can be used economically within India. The Government has recently announced that it will collect Rs. 300 per quintal as tax. I would like to know whether the Government is planning to put up any check-posts at the mining areas.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a totally irrelevant supplementary. Please come to your next point, as this supplementary is rejected. It has nothing to do with your question.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: You are always rejecting my supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: It is because you are not putting proper questions. Please come to your second supplementary.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: I would like to know whether the Government is having any plan to check whether the minerals are being exported to foreign countries or are being used within India. We should use those minerals within India because the domestic production of steel and other things are on the increase. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has any plans to use those minerals within our country itself.

MR. SPEAKER: While preparing the mineral policy, will you consider these things?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker Sir, with your permission, in reply to this question, I would like to submit that a Mineral Policy was formulated in 1993. Thereafter,

the Government received many complaints and suggestions from concerned states to make some changes therein. The Planning Commission set up the Honda Committee for that purpose. The Committee deliberated on all these issues. The Committee deliberated upon all these issues. The Honda Committee submitted its report to the Ministry of Mines in July, 2006. We submitted that report to the Government and the latter opined in July, 2006 itself that it should be discussed. We invited Chief Ministers and the Ministers concerned of all the States. The meeting was convened on 6th November, 2006 and it continued from morning to evening wherein the Chief Ministers and the Ministers concerned gave their suggestions. The State Secretaries of the Department of Mines were all present in the meeting. Thereafter the Ministry of Mines submitted its draft proposal for making amendments in the new Mineral Policy after deliberations on all the suggestions. At present, the New Mineral Policy is under consideration of the Government. It will be presented for discussion in the House after the Government accords its sanction.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Too many meetings are going on. In formulating that, you will consider his suggestion.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Minister you may give your consent.

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: All right.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He will consider it.

*[Translation]*

I have given direction.

*[English]*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I would like to ask my second Supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: No third Supplementary is allowed.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: This is my second Supplementary, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have wasted the time of the House on the first.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: In Orissa and Karnataka, the Governments will give mining concessions to new persons to extract minerals. Is any such thing there on Government's mind?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that this is under consideration. Let the policy be finalized.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: When will it be considered?

MR. SPEAKER: There is a lot of indiscipline in the House.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister is himself a part of the Government, how can he say that he would act as per the orders of the latter. The Government of Rajasthan has sent some proposals to the centre in regard to mining policy. At present, the State Government is facing a lot of problems since mining is in the concurrent list. Mining of several things is not being carried out from the Aravali range of Rajasthan owing to the obstacles created by the Centre. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are likely to be taken by the Government in this regard and whether he has discussed it with the Rajasthan Government?

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that I am not the Government itself. We have also received suggestions from the State Governments where mining takes place. We shall take care of the problems faced by everyone.  
...*(Interruptions)*

We have pondered over it. State Government representatives had also attended the meeting  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody is interested to listen to the answers it seems. Let us abolish this Questions Hour. Please sit down. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, through you, I wish to submit that a decision will be taken thereon after thorough discussion. We shall also give due consideration to the suggestions of the hon. Members.

12.00 hrs.

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: The position taken by the Ministries of Mines and Steel with regard to the National Mining Policy is in contradiction. People are confused. States having iron ore are also confused. I want to know as to whether such contradictory statements from different Ministries is not harming the interests of the miners.

MR. SPEAKER: This directly relates to the formulation of the policy.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SIS RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, I shall not discuss the policy related issue right now until it is introduced in Parliament since it is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: You will keep everything in mind.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Revamping the Technical Education Courses

\*204. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:  
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has decided to revamp the technical education courses in ten different streams;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revamp is also aimed at attracting more students to the new streams in Information Technology (IT) education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there will be greater collaboration with the industry and more stress on practical job-training; and

(f) if so, whether this new syllabus is likely to be introduced from the next academic session in all technical education institutes directly under the control of AICTE?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken steps to develop a model curriculum for all undergraduate engineering courses, focused to meet the current requirements of industry so that even the fresh engineering graduates become directly employable and useful to the industry. The model curriculum also has the necessary emphasis to make all engineering graduates, conversant with Information and Communication Technology skills.

(e) The model curriculum is being prepared by the experts from the academia with intensive participation of experts from the industry and stress is on making the fresh engineering graduates cater to the needs of the industry. A student has to necessarily undergo practical job training as a part of engineering curricula.

(f) The AICTE can only propose the model curriculum to various Universities in the country. Adoption of such a curriculum would require approval of competent Authorities in each of the universities, which are autonomous bodies. Also, the university has to plan and prepare for a smooth switchover to the new curriculum.

#### **Inter-state Mechanism to Check Vehicle Thefts**

\*205. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:  
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of vehicle theft cases have increased and the ratio of their recovery is very low and this crime worth several crores of rupees is constantly growing;

(b) if so, the State-wise details during the last three years alongwith the current year;

(c) whether the Government proposes any inter-State mechanism for preventing vehicle theft cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) As per the information compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 68945, 80750 and 84150 cases of motor vehicle thefts were reported in the country during 2003 to 2005 respectively indicating an increasing trend during this period. The percentage of cases in which vehicles were recovered to total cases of vehicle thefts was 32.8%, 30.5% and 29.3% during 2003 to 2005 respectively in the country. These percentages indicate a declining trend in the recovery ratio. The value of vehicles lost during 2003 to 2005 respectively was Rs. 394.73 crores, 439.63 crores and Rs. 466.18 crores. There was a rising trend in the value of stolen vehicles during 2003 to 2005.

The State-wise details regarding the number of cases of motor vehicle thefts, number of cases where stolen motor vehicles have been recovered, value of stolen as well as recovered motor vehicles during 2003 to 2005, as compiled by NCRB, are enclosed at Statement I. Provisional figures of NCRB regarding number of cases of motor vehicle thefts for 2006 are enclosed at Statement II.

The Union Government has no proposal to introduce any inter-State mechanism to prevent cases of vehicle theft. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies.

**Statement I**

*Number of Cases in which Motor Vehicles Stolen (NS), Number of Cases in which Motor Vehicles Recovered (NR), Value (In Rs. Lakhs) of Motor Vehicles Stolen (VS) and Value (In Ruppees Lakhs) of Motor Vehicles Recovered (VR) During 2003 to 2005*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Value in Rs. Lakhs											
		2003				2004				2005			
		NS	NR	VS	VR	NS	NR	VS	VR	NS	NR	VS	VR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4732	1972	1461.6	729.7	4727	2164	1609.2	853.7	5465	2670	2003.1	1075.8
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	50	12	26.0	7.2	75	31	36.3	21.5	119	33	90.5	14.6
3.	Assam	545	132	427.2	114.1	697	145	454.8	87.9	517	173	531.0	151.2
4.	Bihar	1325	287	607.0	181.3	2083	312	1276.2	261.9	2134	226	1153.9	211.8
5.	Chhattisgarh	1131	390	939.3	201.0	1316	502	369.1	177.2	1619	642	753.4	357.4
6.	Goa	136	45	64.6	24.7	125	44	83.7	34.3	193	60	179.6	51.4
7.	Gujarat	7243	2102	3038.2	1006.9	6936	2145	2546.4	847.6	7096	1776	2433.9	764.6
8.	Haryana	3293	1546	2157.1	1584.2	3735	1612	2260.9	1532.6	5276	1851	2722.4	1735.4
9.	Himachal Pradesh	213	108	312.2	191.0	211	95	297.3	105.8	164	90	287.4	169.1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	576	156	519.7	306.7	573	132	365.1	202.7	504	109	374.9	210.4
11.	Jharkhand	347	98	194.5	74.7	718	114	312.3	55.4	773	83	161.0	109.1
12.	Karnataka	4306	1321	1610.9	672.0	5609	1422	2082.6	732.2	5976	1402	2382.6	929.7
13.	Kerala	1668	631	1676.6	534.9	1717	725	1219.2	568.3	1946	562	1859.5	494.4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5208	1751	1882.2	988.3	6170	1795	2191.6	1007.8	6551	2096	2610.1	1211.9
15.	Maharashtra	9271	2752	7219.1	2325.2	11299	3598	9527.5	2735.7	12180	2927	10377.2	2828.0
16.	Manipur	124	11	52.6	14.0	109	5	50.9	11.3	92	7	43.4	2.4
17.	Meghalaya	108	17	84.0	10.6	140	36	415.6	61.4	119	20	114.5	25.4
18.	Mizoram	55	51	74.5	61.4	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
19.	Nagaland	225	58	62.9	29.8	54	13	66.3	14.8	248	56	187.5	94.8
20.	Orissa	1076	347	346.4	159.6	1378	362	372.5	134.8	1619	436	496.7	207.4
21.	Punjab	1388	570	1239.0	609.8	1131	443	1177.9	556.9	1181	512	1087.2	427.6
22.	Rajasthan	5267	1061	2780.1	787.5	6395	1583	2979.5	1606.1	6429	1355	3788.2	2089.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
23.	Sikkim	3	3	4.9	4.9	6	5	16.7	11.8	5	4	12.4	10.0
24.	Tamil Nadu	4581	3212	1263.6	1045.0	4005	2867	1109.3	950.8	3583	2624	1108.0	954.3
25.	Tripura	53	7	43.5	3.8	36	18	29.8	17.1	55	8	40.0	18.4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4720	1406	2121.6	1170.6	8452	1753	2567.4	1165.8	7619	1704	2567.3	1141.0
27.	Uttaranchal	369	122	143.6	69.2	471	112	174.3	57.8	521	130	259.6	71.8
28.	West Bengal	2581	627	2525.8	873.5	2668	534	2128.8	570.9	2435	470	1772.1	436.1
	Total (States)	60594	20795	32878.8	13781.6	70836	22567	35721.0	14384.1	74419	22026	39397.4	15793.2
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5	2	2.8	0.4	9	9	3.6	3.6	6	6	3.0	3.0
30.	Chandigarh	566	286	428.4	230.9	674	218	452.1	125.8	579	201	464.1	164.0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14	8	5.9	4.2	24	14	30.8	18.2	22	8	40.8	21.6
32.	Daman and Diu	25	13	9.4	5.1	12	5	6.5	2.1	27	7	22.3	2.7
33.	Delhi UT	7445	1427	6079.5	387.4	8873	1673	7677.1	453.1	8862	2249	6633.0	407.3
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	0.8	0.8	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
35.	Pondichery	295	65	67.7	13.9	322	183	72.8	52.1	235	143	57.9	34.2
	Total (UTs)	8351	1802	6594.5	642.8	9914	2102	8242.9	654.8	9731	2614	7221.0	632.6
	Total (All India)	68945	22597	39473.3	14424.4	80750	24669	43963.9	15038.9	84150	24640	46618.4	16425.8

**Statement II***Cases of Automobile Thefts During 2006 (Provisional Figures Upto Available Months)*

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of Cases of Automobile Theft	Figures Upto the Month of
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5869	Dec
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	70	Dec
3.	Assam	502	Oct
4.	Bihar	1646	Nov
5.	Chhattisgarh	1435	Dec
6.	Goa	223	Dec
7.	Gujarat	6872	Dec

1	2	3	4
8.	Haryana	8053	Dec
9.	Himachal Pradesh	177	Dec
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	554	Dec
11.	Jharkhand	1076	Nov
12.	Karnataka	4723	Oct
13.	Kerala	1670	Oct
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6778	Nov
15.	Maharashtra	12740	Dec
16.	Manipur	90	Dec
17.	Meghalaya	131	Dec
18.	Mizoram	66	Dec
19.	Nagaland	47	Aug
20.	Orissa	873	Jul
21.	Punjab	1398	Dec
22.	Rajasthan	7249	Dec
23.	Sikkim	8	Dec
24.	Tamil Nadu	2823	Dec
25.	Tripura	28	Dec
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6762	Dec
27.	Uttanchal	517	Dec
28.	West Bengal	2878	Dec
	Total (States)	73258	
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	Dec
30.	Chandigarh	387	Sep
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	Nov
32.	Daman and Diu	31	Dec
33.	Delhi	9359	Dec
34.	Lakshadweep	2	Dec
35.	Pondicherry	320	Dec
	Total (UTs)	10117	
	Total (All India)	83375	

**FCRA Cases Referred to CBI**

\*207. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) registered under Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 have been referred to various investigating agencies like CBI, on the basis of inspection undertaken by this Ministry;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have been referred to CBI during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the criterion for referring such cases to CBI;

(d) whether any secret input is also taken from any other sources; and

(e) if so, the names of NGOs in respect of which secret inputs have been, taken before referring to CBI and the number of cases referred without receiving any secret inputs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total 12 number of cases have been referred to

CBI for investigation during last 3 years. List showing the details of such cases is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Monitoring of receipt and utilization of foreign contribution by associations is done through scrutiny of the audited annual returns in prescribed FC-3 forms filed by the associations and through inspection of accounts and records of the associations by the Monitoring Unit of FCRA. Inspection of accounts and records is approved in those cases where *prima facie* violation of provisions of FCRA, 1976 is established. The emphasis of the inspection is to ensure that the foreign contribution is utilized properly towards achieving the declared aims and objectives of the association. Where it is established that the nature of violation by the association is serious/willful/malafide, punitive action is taken against the association under Section 10 (a) or 10 (b) of the Act viz. either the association is prohibited to accept any foreign contribution, or is placed in prior permission category. Furthermore, in such serious cases, where it is, *prima facie*, found that the funds are being diverted for purposes other than the stated objectives of the association, the matter is referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a detailed investigation.

(d) and (e) Discreet enquiries are also conducted to ascertain the activities and antecedents of the associations and office bearers thereof. Such enquiries are conducted by the designated field agencies in all cases.

**Statement***List of Cases Referred to CBI for Investigation During Last 3 Years*

Sl.No.	Name of the Organisation	Year of reference
1	2	3
1.	Reach in the Nilgiris, Coonoor, T.N.	2004
2.	Reach Valley View Academy, Indore, M.P.	2004
3.	Idar-E-Talimate Eslamia, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	2004
4.	Abul Kalam Azad Islamic Awakening Centre, New Delhi	2004
5.	IICD, Hardwar, Uttaranchal	2005
6.	Central Calcutta Lord Jesus Medical & Welfare Society, Kolkata, WB	2005
7.	Tauheed Education Trust, Kishanganj, Bihar	2005
8.	Darjeeling Jesuits of North Bengal, Darjeeling, W.B.	2006

1	2	3
9.	Church of Christ Trust, Dindigul, T.N.	2006
10.	Khwaja Khushal Caritable Trust, Mujafarnagar, U.P.	2006
11.	Case of Shri Arvind Khanna, a sitting MLA from Punjab	2006
12.	United Team Leadership Ministry, Manipur	2007

#### Employment to Victims of 1984 Riots

\*208. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any special recruitment drive for providing employment to children and eligible family members of those killed in 1984 riots;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments concerned in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) 5,198 widows and children of those persons who were killed in the 1984 riots have so far been given employment by the State Governments, which also include family members of terrorist victims in Punjab. Besides, the family members of those persons who were killed in the 1984 riots are being recruited in the Central Para Military Forces subject to fulfillments of eligibility criteria.

(c): No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

#### Government Stake in BALCO

\*209. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to sell the remaining Government equity in the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) to Sterlite Company;

(b) if so, whether the Sterlite Company has violated the share holders agreement on labour related issues;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the agreement made with the Sterlite Company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (e) Government of India had disinvested 51% shares of BALCO in March, 2001 in favour of M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL) and also transferred the management control to them. As per the Shareholders' Agreement (SHA) signed with the SIIL, the Strategic Partner (SP) had the option to exercise Call Option Notice to acquire the remaining 49% shares. In March, 2004, the SP had given the Call Notice after which the necessary process under the SHA was initiated for valuation of shares. In April, 2006, the Learned Attorney General (AG) opined that the Call Option provision of the SHA is ultra vires the provisions of the Companies Act and hence, void and unenforceable. The Government had accepted the opinion of the Learned AG and returned the cheque of Rs. 1098.89 crores to the SP. The SP has filed a case in Delhi High Court pleading, *inter alia*, that pending arbitration, the Government be restrained from selling the shares to any third party. Since, the arbitration has to be preceded by Negotiation/mediation, the Government has constituted a Committee under Secretary (Department of Legal Affairs) for holding negotiations with the SP. The matter is at present *sub-judice*.

In 2002, on the directions of the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Labour had constituted a Fact Finding Committee consisting of representatives of the Government as well as Labour Unions to enquire into the allegations regarding lay off/retrenchment of the employees in BALCO. The said Committee submitted its

report in 2004 and did not find any instance of lay-off in BALCO, post disinvestment.

**Regulation of Self-financing Professional Educational Institutions**

\*210. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised a comprehensive legislation to regulate the self-financing professional educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Bill is likely to be introduced in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In terms of Article 15(5) of the Constitution, both State Legislature as well as Parliament are competent to make laws in so far as advancement of weaker sections in matters of admissions is concerned, and, therefore, Self-financing institutions declared by the Central Government as Deemed to be Universities under Section (3) of the UGC Act, can also be regulated for:

(a) implementing the policy of reservations in admissions.

(b) ensuring fair and transparent admission procedures.

(c) ensuring the reasonabllity of admission and other fees.

*[Translation]*

**Review of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

\*211. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain and other countries provide financial assistance for the educational programmes launched in the country under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance received therefor during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made a review of the programmes being run by the State Governments; and

(d) if so, when was the review made alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government of India tied up external assistance for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07 amounting to about Rs. 4700 crore from the World Bank, the Department for International Development (DFID) of United Kingdom and the European Commission, for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), against which reimbursements claimed during the last three years have been as under:

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	Source/Country	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	United Kingdom (DFID)	425.94	504.12	434.80
2.	European Commission	NIL	704.15	179.35
3.	World Bank	621.71	1133.71	4777.76
Total		1047.65	2341.98	1091.91

(c) and (d) A rigorous system of monitoring of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been put in place which includes, *inter alia*, monthly and quarterly progress reports

and review meetings, furnishing of annual elementary school statistics, and field monitoring by 40 independent monitoring institutions. Joint Review Missions comprising

independent Indian experts and representatives of the organizations providing external assistance for SSA, review the implementation and progress of the SSA every six months and 5 Joint Review Missions have been held so far, the last being from 16-31 January 2007.

*[English]*

**Evaluation of Schemes for Promotion  
of Agro and Rural Industries**

212. SHRI N. S. V. CHITTHAN:  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:

Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has evaluated the implementation of various schemes including Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for promotion of agro and rural industries;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof, scheme-wise and State/Union Territory-wise;

(c) the action taken to remove the shortcomings;

(d) whether the condition of agro and rural industries has deteriorated and some of these are on the verge of closure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Studies have been undertaken from time to time by the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries, to evaluate the status of implementation of various programmes for promotion of agro and rural industries. The details of the evaluation are as under.

The Programme Evaluation Organization (PEO) of the Planning Commission had conducted an evaluation study in respect of Khadi and Village Industries Programmes and submitted its report in 2001. The main findings of the above studies are given in the enclosed statement I.

In the case of PMRY, the Government has already got three rounds of evaluation done by the Institute of

Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) New Delhi, the details of which are as under.

- (i) The first round of the evaluation was conducted in 1996-97 pertaining to the programme years 1993-94 and 1994-95. 3544 bank branches, 15,331 beneficiaries in 48 districts of 21 States were covered in the first round of evaluation.
- (ii) The second round of evaluation was conducted in the year 2000-01 pertaining to the programme years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98. It covered 1303 bank branches, 16397 beneficiaries in 13 districts of 6 States.
- (iii) The third round of evaluation was conducted in the year 2004-05 for the programme years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01. It covered 873 bank branches, 13,114 beneficiaries in 14 districts of 6 States.

The list of States/districts covered in the three rounds of evaluation is given in the enclosed statement II. The important findings of the evaluation studies are given in the enclosed statement III.

(c) The study conducted by the Programme Evaluation Organization of the Planning Commission was an evaluation of the role and contribution of khadi and village industries in the area of production, employment, earnings, alleviation of poverty, etc., and provided the basis for strengthening the sector by enlarging budgetary allocations and also by formulating new schemes such as Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP), Rural Industries Service Centres (RISC) and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

Some of the parameters of the PMRY, viz., increase in maximum age limit to 45 years for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe, ex-servicemen, physically challenged and women applicants, reducing the minimum educational qualification to Class VIII pass, raising the eligible family income ceiling to Rs. 40,000 per annum, etc., were modified in the year 1999-2000. Government has approved introduction of improved design parameters of the PMRY, in terms of enhancing the family income limits for eligibility, project cost ceilings, corresponding ceilings of subsidy, rates of assistance to States towards training of beneficiaries before and after selection, etc. during 2007-08.

(d) and (e) It is not correct to state that the performance of various schemes of agro and rural industries including PMRY Scheme has deteriorated. The details of growth in the value of production of the khadi

and village industry sector as well as employment and number of self employment ventures and employment generated under PMRY, during each of the last three years are given below:

Year	Khadi and Village Industries		PMRY	
	Production (Rs. crore)	Employment (Lakh persons)	Number of self employment ventures	Estimated Employment (Lakh persons)
2003-04	9681.78	71.19	2,19,444	3,29,166
2004-05	10920.44	76.78	2,48,264	3,72,396
2005-06	12383.84	82.77	2,62,281	3,93,422

#### **Statement I**

Summary of the Main Findings of the Evaluation Study of Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) Programme conducted by Programme of Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission

At the instance of KVIC and Planning Commission, the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of Planning Commission undertook the evaluation of the performance, suitability and effectiveness of the implementation mechanism and impact of the Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) programme. The main findings of the study are summarized as below.

- \* The study reported that about 95% of the additional employment generated during the Eighth Plan was from Village Industry sector.
- \* The Khadi workers families got 46% of their annual earning from KVIC programme while the Village Industry sector workers earned about 58%.
- \* More than two-thirds of the sample households (workers) originally belonged to the families of below poverty line. Of these poor house-holds, about 71% had actually crossed the poverty line with the help of additional income from the KVIC programme.

- \* Analysis of survey data revealed that more than 50% of the household income of the key persons came from the KVIC programme.
- \* The employment opportunities created were of part time nature in a good number of cases.
- \* On an average, the investment in village industries was Rs. 6,97,940 and it employed 16.2 persons per unit. The village industry units were commercially viable and capable of sustaining themselves without much Government subsidy.
- \* The study pointed out the need for adequacy of linkage between production and sales to improve the position of stocks, return on investment, utilization of assets, production and increasing the employment opportunities. It also indicated the significance of adequate and accurate data for scientific planning and implementation of the khadi programme.
- \* The annual per capita income of the beneficiary households was Rs. 5655/- and the earnings from KVIC programme constituted 52.71% of their total earnings.

**Statement II***The list of States/Districts covered in the three rounds of evaluation*

Evaluation round	States Covered	No. of Districts covered	Total No. of Districts
1	2	3	4
I.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	48
	Andhra Pradesh	3	
	Arunachal Pradesh	2	
	Assam	3	
	Goa	1	
	Haryana	2	
	Himachal Pradesh	2	
	Maharashtra	3	
	Manipur	1	
	Meghalaya	1	
	Nagaland	1	
	Orissa	4	
	Punjab	2	
	Rajasthan	3	
	Sikkim	1	
	Tamil Nadu	3	
	Tripura	1	
	Uttar Pradesh	7	
	West Bengal	2	
	Chandigarh	1	
	Pondicherry	4	
II.	Andhra Pradesh	3	16
	Assam	2	
	Manipur	2	
	Orissa	3	

1	2	3	4
	Punjab	3	
	Rajasthan	3	
III.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	14
	Gujarat	3	
	Karnataka	3	
	Sikkim	1	
	Uttar Pradesh	3	
	West Bengal	3	

**Statement III****Important Findings of the Three Rounds of Evaluation Study of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana**

The important findings of the three rounds of the evaluation study of the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana are:

- (i) Percentage of general categories of beneficiaries declined from 66 percent to 53 per cent and percentage of OBCs, SC, ST increased from 34 percent to 47 percent. Proportion of women and minority increased from 11 percent to 13 percent.
- (ii) Average amount of loan increased from Rs. 52,268/- to Rs.64,421/- per beneficiary.
- (iii) Out of the total sanctioned cases, disbursements increased from 83 per cent to 99 per cent.
- (iv) The employment generated varied between 2.39 to 1.94 per unit set up.
- (v) Around one third of the total investment (in setting up of units) and the employment generated were in the backward areas.
- (vi) Insistence on "collateral security" by banks was expressed as one of the main problems faced by the beneficiaries.

- (vii) Percentage of beneficiaries, repaying the loan regularly declined from around 65 per cent to 42 per cent.

**Special Economic Zones**

\*213. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) created during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to create more SEZs in the country;

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

(d) the details of financial assistance provided for the purpose during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) created/notified in last three years and the SEZs likely to be created/notified are as follows:

S.No.	Name of the States/UT	SEZs notified in 2004-05	SEZs notified in 2005-06	SEZs notified in 2006-7	SEZs Formally approved yet to be notified
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	15	29
2.	Chandigarh	—	—	1	01
3.	Delhi	—	—	—	01
4.	Goa	—	—	—	04
5.	Gujarat	—	1	6	13
6.	Haryana	—	—	2	17
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	1	—
8.	Karnataka	—	—	10	17
9.	Kerala	—	—	5	05
10.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	2	02
11.	Maharashtra	—	—	7	40
12.	Orissa	—	—	—	05
13.	Puducherry	—	—	—	01
14.	Punjab	—	—	1	03
15.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	03
16.	Tamil Nadu	3	1	9	16
17.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	03
18.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	3	05
19.	West Bengal	1	—	1	06
	Total	4	2	63	171

(d) The Central Government does not provide any financial assistance for creation of SEZs.

#### Development of Forest Villages

\*214. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to develop over 2700 forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has set up a committee to frame rules for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) During the 10th Five Year Plan,

Rs. 450 crore was allocated to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the development of forest villages under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). There are 2,474 forest villages/ habitations (reduced from the original 2,690) spread over 12 States (reduced from the original 13 States). The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved proposals covering 2,179 forest villages in 10 States and also released Rs. 32276.46 lakh as on date. Under the programme, infrastructure work relating to basic services and facilities viz. approach roads, healthcare, primary education, minor irrigation, rainwater harvesting, drinking water, sanitation, community halls, etc. and activities related to livelihood are taken up for implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has constituted a Technical Support Group on 12.02.2007 for framing the draft rules for carrying out the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The Technical Support Group has 21 members consisting of reputed experts and officials from concerned Ministries/ Departments.

The Technical Support Group has been asked to prepare the draft rules within 3 months from the date of its constitution. The Group will hold consultations with State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations and concerned experts before finalizing the draft rules.

#### **Improvement of Basic Education Infrastructure**

\*215. SHRIMATI RUPATAI D. PATIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to improve the basic educational infrastructure in the Muslim majority areas as suggested in the report of Sachar panel; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the expected financial implications of the move?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) A High Level Committee constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to prepare an Action Plan to implement the recommendations on education contained in the Report of the Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee, has given various recommendations including the following:

- Opening of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas. Upper Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary Schools for girls only in Muslim Concentration Blocks (MCB)/Urban Areas;
- Coverage of willing Madarsas and Maktabas under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;
- Appointment, of more women teachers in co-educational schools;
- Encouragement of teaching in Urdu medium;
- Establishment of multi-cultural schools;
- Starting of additional girls hostels;
- Establishment of Block Institutes of Teacher Education in MCBs;
- Linking of open and distance learning and vocational education with Madarsas;
- Expansion of Aligarh Muslim University and Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

The above Action Plan on education will be suitably reflected in the XI Five Year Plan subject to the availability of resources.

*[Translation]*

#### **Schemes of Handloom/Handicraft Boards**

\*216. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes launched by the Handicrafts and Handloom Boards are being properly monitored and reviewed;

(b) if so, the details of the system in place for this purpose and the details as to when such monitoring/ review was done in respect of each scheme;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted as a result of monitoring and review of the scheme during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The schemes launched for the Handloom / Handicrafts Sector are being monitored and reviewed by the Government. These schemes are not presently launched by the Handloom/Handicraft Boards.

The schemes implemented in the Handicraft Sector are monitored and reviewed through field formations. The system of monitoring includes inspection of the schemes by field offices as a pre-requisite for considering reimbursement claims. Apart from this, during the plan period, mid-term and terminal evaluation of the schemes is being done. A mid-term evaluation of major schemes which includes:—Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft cluster; Marketing Support and Services Scheme; Design and Technical Upgradation Scheme and Export Promotion Scheme was undertaken during 10th Five Year Plan through independent agencies.

For Handloom Sector scheme, it is mandatory for all the State Governments to formulate State Level Project Committee consisting of the Secretary, In-charge of Handlooms as Chairman, State Commissioner/Director of Handlooms as Member Secretary and representatives of State Finance Department, Handloom Organizations, etc. as Members. Proposals under all the schemes are scrutinized by this Committee. The schemes in the handloom sector are being monitored for its functioning and performance by the concerned State Governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As a result of monitoring and based on inspection reports, suitable actions are taken, which include settlement or curtailment of reimbursement claims or affecting recoveries etc. Based on recommendations of mid-term evaluation of schemes, certain qualifying features have been added in the schemes such as an essential pre-condition of a marketing tie-up of the NGOs implementing the Design and Technology Upgradation scheme; engaging Guiding and Monitoring Agencies etc.

#### IT Education

\*217. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any scheme to provide Information Technology (I.T.) education to the tribal youths of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to encourage and make provisions for extending grants to various private Indian educational institutes who are providing I.T. education to the tribal youths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes, wherein assistance for Computer Training Centers is also provided as one of the components. The scheme is implemented through Non-Governmental Organizations, Institutions or Organizations set up by Government as Autonomous Bodies either under a statute or as Societies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, Public Trusts, Companies established under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1958 and Educational and other institutions, like Local Bodies and Cooperative Societies. Further, under another scheme of Vocational Training Centres, training in Computers is also considered as one of the trades in which vocational training is imparted. This scheme is implemented through State Governments/ Union Territories (UTs).

A scheme called 'Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @ Schools' is being implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs on the basis of Computer Education Plans submitted by them for providing computer literacy in the Government and Government-aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools in the country. Though this scheme is not only meant for IT education of the tribal youth of the country, schools in the tribal areas can also take benefit of this programme through the State Governments.

*[Translation]*

#### Decline in Science Education

\*218. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the popularity of science as a subject in educational institutions is on the decline in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government and the National Council of Educational Research and Training propose to formulate any effective policy to promote the study of science;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the percentage share of GDP spent on scientific research and development by the Union Government in comparison to other countries of the world during the last three years, year-wise;

(f) whether any assessment has been made regarding year-wise number of scientists for every 1000 persons in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Union Government proposes to carry out a review of the National Policy in this regard and;

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. According to the information contained in the "India Science Report", published in 2005, based on a survey sponsored by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and carried out by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the proportion of the students enrolled in science courses has gone up from 28.8% of the population in 1995-96 to 34.6% in 2003-04.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As part of the exercise towards developing the National Curriculum Framework-2005, the NCERT set up a National Focus Group on Teaching of Science, to deliberate on the issues of science education in the country. The recommendations of the National Focus Group were considered during the formulation of the National Curriculum Framework.

Further, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, had constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.M. Sharma for basic scientific research in Universities. Details of the recommendations

of the above mentioned Task Force are given in the enclosed statement-I. In order to build scientific research institutions of the highest standards in which teaching and research at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels will be undertaken in an integrated manner, Ministry of Human Resource Development has set up two Indian Institutes of Scientific Education and Research (IISERs) at Kolkata and Pune and the third IISER is being set up at Mohali in Punjab.

Ministry of Science and Technology has also a scheme namely 'Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)' incorporating measures such as scholarship, summer camps with science icons and assured income for the talented in science so that they take up research as a career. This integrated approach provides a hand holding and safety net mechanism for identifying and nurturing youth with aptitude and talent for research.

(e) The percentage share of GDP spent on scientific Research and Development (R&D) by India during the the period from 2001-02 to 2003-04, as per the latest available statistics, is given in the enclosed statement—II. Since different countries of the world carry out their Research & Development Surveys at different intervals, comparative yearly data is not available. However a comparison of yearly expenditure on R&D as percentage of GDP based on the latest available data for the years from 2000 to 2002 is given in the enclosed statement-III.

(f) and (g): Yes, Sir. The assessment is carried out every two years to estimate the number of scientific researchers in the country. The figure as per the latest available data is 110 researchers per million population in 2002-03.

(h) There is no proposal under consideration for a review of the Science and Technology Policy of 2003.

(i) Does not arise.

#### **Statement I**

#### **Recommendations of the Task Force for Basic Scientific Research in Universities**

1. There are a large number of sanctioned faculty positions in Universities that have been lying vacant for prolonged period. These positions should be expeditiously filled in by inducting talented faculty with a view to strengthening the research base.

2. 1000 positions of Research Scientists at various levels equivalent to that of Lecturer, Reader and Professor need to be created. These positions may be filled in through a rigorous selection procedure in a phased manner over a period of five years. Performance of these scientists be reviewed after every five years by a duly constituted expert committee. In order to ensure enabling environment on a continuous basis for these prospective scientists, an MoU should be signed between the state Universities and the implementing agency.

3. There is a need to create 10 networking centres in Basic Sciences (two centres each in Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Life Sciences, Material Sciences and Mathematical Sciences) in leading Departments of Universities in different parts of the country to promote collaborative research, access to advanced facilities and imparting training in frontier areas. These centres should be supported on a long term basis in a substantial manner to enable them to realize internationally competitive status.

4. Formal linkage between the Universities and national level institutions including CSIR laboratories be promoted through joint research projects and training. Linkages of Universities and their faculty with industries and user organizations should be encouraged. There should be provision for joint appointments/visiting professorship to stimulate collaborative research.

5. The system of both Winter and Summer Schools must be supported. Each subject area of Basic Sciences may offer up to ten programmes a year. There should be

a provision for visiting Fellowships for faculty within the Country.

6. In order to promote quality scientific research in Universities, infrastructural facilities ought to be upgraded by providing development grants for modern laboratories, physical infrastructure including uninterrupted power supply, water, safety requirements of international standards, high level equipment with built-in maintenance mechanism, exclusive research students' hostel and a research starter fund etc.

7. The number of Ph.Ds from Indian Universities should increase five-fold within a span of ten years with proper standards. This should be seen in the context of extremely low fraction of Ph.Ds in India in relation to M.Sc./B.Tech., as compared to what it is in USA, UK, Germany, Japan etc. The emphasis for research will clearly emerge if we have Universities with only Departments and separately Universities having affiliated colleges.

8. An empowered autonomous body headed by an eminent scientist/academician with an Advisory Board comprising scientists and engineers shall be set up by the UGC for the purpose of implementing the aforesaid initiatives.

9. The Ministry of Human Resource Development should provide earmarked grants of Rs.600 crores per annum for implementation of the programme of improving scientific research in Universities. This earmarked grant may be utilized for the following activities.

S.No.	Activity	Budget (Rs. in crores, p.a.)
1.	Support for Infrastructure Development in the Universities	400
2.	Setting up of 10 Centres in Basic Sciences	150
3.	Recurrent grants for Research Scientists	10
4.	Research Fellowships and Post-Doctoral Fellowships	5
5.	Winter and Summer Schools and Linkages programmes	20
6.	Establishment cost of implementing Agency	15
Grand Total		600

**Statement II***National Expenditure on R&D IN Relation to GNP/GDP*

Year	R&D Expenditure at current prices (Rs. Crores)	GNP at current prices (Rs. Crores)	GDP at current prices (Rs. Crores)	R&D as % of GNP	R&D as % of GDP
2001-02	17038.15	2065908	2081474	0.82	0.82
2002-03	18000.16	2241722(P)	2254888	0.80	0.80
2003-04	19726.99*	2505707(Q)	2519785	0.79	0.78

Source: (1) Data on R&D expenditure collected and compiled by Department of Science & Technology

(2) Data on GNP - Economic Survey 2004-05

Note:1. GNP: Gross National Product

2. GDP: Gross Domestic Product

3. R&D: Research & Development

4. GNP/GDP figures are based on 1993-94 series.

5. R&D/GNP and R&D/GDP ratio have been revised as per the New Series GNP/GDP figures

6. \* Estimated

7. P-Provisional

8. Q-Quick Estimate

**Statement III***Percentage Ratio of Expenditure on R&D/GDP*

0.0-1.0%		1.1-2.0%		Above 2.0%	
Argentina	0.39	Australia	1.55	Austria	2.21
Cuba	0.62	Brazil	1.04	Denmark	2.51
Egypt	0.19	Canada	2.00	France	2.27
India	0.80	China	1.23	Germany	2.64
Nepal	0.67	Czech, Repub.	1.30	Israel	5.11
Pakistan	0.27	Hungary	1.01	Japan	3.11
Srilanka *	0.20	Italy	1.11	Rep. of Korea	2.91
Thailand	0.24	Russian Federation	1.24	Singapore	2.20
Venezuela	0.38	Spain	1.04	Sweden	4.27
		U.K	1.88	USA	2.67

Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) 2005, UNESCO

Note: 1. The data of China does not include Hongkong data

2. \*Data only of the year 1996

*(English)***NGOs Under IEDC Scheme**

\*219. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to bring a legislation to monitor quality of work of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) especially to whom grants are provided by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain proposals of NGOs forwarded by the State Governments especially Gujarat under Integrated Education for Disabled Children Scheme are pending with the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of these proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Project Proposals involving 62 NGOs, under the Scheme of Integrated Education for the Disabled Children (IEDC) for the year 2006-07, were received from the State Government of Gujarat. All these proposals have been processed and sanction has been accorded for financial assistance in respect of project proposals of 55 NGOs. The rest of the Project proposals involving 7 NGOs, were not approved for sanction of any financial assistance. Thus, no project proposal of any NGO from Gujarat for the year 2006-07 is pending in the Ministry at present. Proposals for 2006-07 involving 14 NGOs from Orissa, 7 NGOs from Madhya Pradesh and 4 NGOs from Andhra Pradesh are under process.

**Distance Learning Institutions**

\*220. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the India's distance learning institutions consisting of IGNOU, 13 State Open Universities and 106 other institutions have been dismal and the pass percentage is very low in these institutions;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any study to assess the success of such institutions as regard to the enrolment, drop-out rate, pass percentage etc. of these institutions during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Growing enrolment figures in the various open and distance learning institutions in India over the past few years do not indicate that the performance of the India's distance learning institutions has been dismal. On the whole, the pass percentages over the past few years, have also been quite satisfactory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Establishment of Institute for Rural Industrialisation**

1833. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up an Institute for Rural Industrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its proposed functions; and

(c) the time by which the said Institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to set up the "Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation (MGIRI)" by completely overhauling and revamping the existing MGIRI, Wardha, which had come into existence in 2003 after the erstwhile Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, Wardha was rechristened as MGIRI. The MGIRI, Wardha is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960 to provide high quality scientific, technological and management inputs to strengthen rural industrialization and enhance opportunities of meaningful

and productive employment in rural areas in the khadi and village industries. Its activities are taken up in association with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The promotion of rural industrialization would be helped greatly through capacity-building and technology upgradation in khadi and village industries (KVI), resulting in generation of employment opportunities in rural areas and higher productivity and incomes of artisans. The specific objectives behind setting up MGIRI are to:

- (i) set up a strong two-way linkage between itself and the rural industrialists and technical experts in professional institutes so as to facilitate quick availability of modern science, technology and management inputs for rural industrialisation,
- (ii) create a science and technology hub for KVI sector by developing strong linkages and interface with other institutions in the field of rural industrialization
- (iii) build a database of technologies available in KVI sector,
- (iv) facilitate setting up of rural industrial estates and clusters with necessary infrastructural facilities like power, specialised tool rooms, testing and marketing facilities,
- (v) undertake and sponsor projects capable of giving substantial fillip to larger and increased market penetration to selected products of village industry,
- (vi) conduct specialised human resource development programmes in generic areas such as Total Quality Management, creativity and innovation, rural entrepreneurship development,
- (vii) provide training to trainers of the training centres of KVIC and Khadi and Village Industries Boards of State/Union Territory Government, and
- (viii) promote innovation through pilot studies and field trials through research, extension, education and training

(c) The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has revamped the MGIRI, Wardha. A proposal for sanction of staff for MGIRI has been submitted for setting up the said Institute.

#### Resource Centres for Craftsmen

1834. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up resource centres for 30 crafts categories in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to help the craftsmen who are mostly unorganized and come from marginalized village community;

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

(c) the number of such centres likely to be opened in Karnataka; and

(d) the extent to which these centres will be helpful for these craftsmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Sub-Group on Handicrafts has recommended setting up of Resource centres during the 11th Five Year Plan in the country and the details about their specific locations in different States/Union Territories including in the State of Karnataka, will be worked out only when the Planning Commission finalizes and approves the plan.

(d) The proposed Resource centres will be helpful to craft persons in providing a single window solution for comprehensive handholding for different aspects which include: Technical & Technological information; Market Intelligence; Enterprise Development; Micro Finance activity; Reporting/Monitoring Evaluation/Experience share etc.

#### Export of Guar

1835. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of guar exported during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to involve Women's Self Help Groups (SHGs) to boost the export of guar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) The export of guar gum during the last three years is as below:

(Quantity in metric tons)		
2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
12056.29	131300.01	186718.43

(Source: DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

#### Role of Textile Industry in Indian Economy

1836. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has projected the role of textile industry in the Indian Economy in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present situation of textile industry of our country in comparison to other developing countries;

(c) whether the Government has initiated any new plans/schemes to push up textile industry further so as to create more employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The projected value of Indian textile industry is estimated to grow from US\$ 47 billion in the year 2005-06 to US\$ 115 billion by the year 2012, comprising domestic market of US\$ 60 billion and exports of US\$ 55 billion. Thus the projected growth rate is 16 per cent per annum during these years.

The comparison of Indian Textile Industry with other few developing countries is as under:—

#### *India's position in World Textiles Economy: Textiles and Clothing Exports in 2005*

(US\$ billion)

Country	Textiles	Clothing	Total
India	7.85	8.29	16.14
Pakistan	7.09	3.60	10.69
Bangladesh	0.22	6.42	6.64
China	41.05	74.16	115.21
World	202.97	275.64	481.61

Source: World Trade Organisation Report 2006

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India has taken initiatives and included new schemes in the Annual Plan for 2007-08. These include schemes for (i) Foreign Investment Promotion to attract foreign direct investment in textiles, clothing and machinery; (ii) Brand Promotion on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach to develop global acceptability of Indian apparel brands; (iii) Trade Facilitation Centres for Indian image branding; (iv) Fashion Hubs for creation of permanent market place for the benefit of Indian fashion industry; (v) Common Compliance Code to encourage acceptability among apparel buyers and (vi) Training Centres for Human Resource Development on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.

[Translation]

#### Hindi Information Encyclopaedia

1837. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing assistance to any action plan for preparing Hindi Information Encyclopaedia;

(b) if so, the details of the action plan and the assistance being provided;

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed therefor; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

(Rupees in Crore)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Agri Export Zones

1838. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to review the policy on Agri Export Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified for agricultural export under Agri Export Zone Policy;

(d) the targets set have been achieved since the inception of the above policy;

(e) whether the Government has advised the Federation of Indian Export Organisation to study and strategies for the agriculture/other items exports with a focus on processed food;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to address the infrastructure problem for agri export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to review the Agri Export Zone policy. A peer evaluation of the performance of the existing Agri Export Zones (AEZs) with a view to ascertain the reasons for shortfall in achievement of targets and suggest remedial action has been carried out.

(c) 60 Agri Export Zones have been set up in 20 States. The areas identified for export in these AEZs are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The projected and actual investments and estimated and actual exports of the AEZs are given below:

	Projected/Estimated	Actual
Investment	1717.95	859.46
Exports	11821.47	5353.85

(Source: APEDA)

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under its Scheme for Infrastructure Development provides financial assistance to the state governments, public sector undertakings and exporters registered with it for setting up of infrastructure projects including centers of perishable cargo at international airports, wholesale market cum auction centers, common infrastructure facilities for handling fresh fruits and vegetables etc. It has also been decided to support export infrastructure projects in the AEZs with funds from the scheme of Department of Commerce for Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development.

#### Statement

State	Area
1	2
West Bengal	Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, Howrah Murshidabad, Malda, 24 Pargana(N) and 24 Pargana(S), Hooghly, Burdwan, Midnapore (W), Uday Narayanpur, Nadia
Karnataka	Tumkur, Bangalore Urban, Bangalore Rural, Hassan, Kolar, Chitradurga, Dharwad and Bagalkot, Kodagu and Belgaum, Dakshin Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Udupi, Shimoga, Chickamagalur
Uttaranchal	Udhamsingh Nagar, Dehradun, Nainital, Pantnagar, Uttarkashi, Haridwar, Chamoli, Pithoragarh,

1	2	1	2
Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib, Patiala, Sangrur, Ludhiana, Ropar, Singhpura, Zirakpur, Patiala, satellite centres at Rampura Phul, Muksar, Jullundur, Ludhiana and Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur & Nawanshahar		Hoshangabad, Harda, Narsinghpur, Bhopal, Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Jpsjambabad, Betul
Uttar Pradesh	Agra, Hathras, Farrukhabad, Kanoj, Meerut, Baghpat, Aligarh, Janpad Badaiyun, Rampur, Firozabad, Lucknow, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur, Barabanki, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bijnaur, Meerut, Bulandshahr, Jyotifulenagar, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Pilibhit, Rampur, Badaun, Bijnor, Moradabad, JB Phulenagar, Ghaziabad	Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri, Madurai, Nilgiri, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Sivaganga
Maharashtra	Nasik, Sangli, Sholapur, Satara, Ahmednagar, Rantagiri, Sindhudurg, Raigarh, Thane, Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Ahmednagar, Latur, Pune, Kolhapur, Jalgaon, Osamanabad, Dhule, Nandurbar, Buldhana, Parbhani, Hindoli, Nanded, Wardha, Nagpur, Amraoti	Bihar	Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Hajipur, Vaishali, East and West Champaran, Bbagalpur, Begu Saral, Khagaria, Sitamarhi, Saran and Gopalganj
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor, Rangareddy, Medak, Mebboobnagar, Krishna, Karimnagar, Warangal, Ananthapur, Nalgonda, Guntur	Gujarat	Ahmedabad, Khaida, Anand, Vadodara, Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Bharuch, Narmada Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Rajkot, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Amerali
Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar, Baramula, Anantnag, Kupwara, Kathua, Pulwama Budgam, Doda, Poonch, Udhampur, Rajouri	Sikkim	North, East, South & West Sikkim
Tripura	Kumargbat, Manu, Melaghar, Matabari and Kakraban Blocks	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Sirmaur, Kullu, Mandi, Chamba and Kinnaur
Madhya Pradesh	Malwa, Ujjain, Indore, Dewas, Dhar, Shajapur, Ratlam, Neemuch Mandasaur, Khandwa, Guna, Rajgarh, Sehore, Vidisha, Raisen,	Orissa	Kandhamal
		Jharkhand	Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Lohardaga
		Kerala	Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam, Alapuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kollam, Thiruvanthapuram, Idukki and Pallakad Wayanad, Mallapuram
		Assam	Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Darrang, Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong, North Cachar
		Rajasthan	Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar, Chittoor, Nagaur, Barmer, Jalore, Pali, Jodhpur

#### Export of Tasar Garments

1839. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tasar Silk garments are being exported from the country;

(b) the quantity and value of the said garments exported during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the value and quantity of the tasar silk garments imported along with the names of the countries.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some Tassar silk, garments and mixed blended Silk goods are being exported from the country.

(b) Tassar and mixed blended silk goods exported and the export earnings for the last three years are as follows:

*Silk Exports Earnings From Tassar Silk-goods*

Year	Export Earnings*		
	Qty. (In kgs)	Crore Rs.	Mn.US\$
2003-04	5,81,266	133.67	29.08
2004-05	7,64,719	101.47	22.58
2005-06	12,13,453	157.72	35.63

\*Tassar Silk-goods export includes Mixed Blended also  
Source: Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, DGCI&S, Kolkata

Country-wise break-up for the last three years are furnished in the enclosed statement-I

(c) The value and quantity of Tassar and mixed blended silk goods imported into the country is given in the enclosed statement-II.

*Statement I*

*Countrywise Export Earnings from Tassar Silk-goods*

(Qty. In kgs; Value in Crore Rs.)

Country +	2003-04		2004-04		2005-06	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
France	10222	3.84	50430	6.44	64087	8.88
German P. Rep	9390	3.53	36802	5.07	75676	10.50
Hong Kong	691	0.26	3735	0.51	2257	0.31
Italy	*25718	9.70	103441	14.25	103189	14.36
Saudi Arabia	4174	1.57	16224	2.24	7607	1.06
Singapore	2554	0.96	16247	2.23	23713	3.29
Spain	13664	5.14	50847	7.10	66420	9.21
U.A.E.	11129	4.19	69907	9.11	96092	13.32
U.K.	14728	5.53	82181	11.16	108175	12.89
U.S.A.	19039	7.46	160423	17.92	256122	29.29
Others	469157	91.49	174482	25.43	410115	54.61
Total	581266	133.67	764719	101.47	1213453	157.72

+Refers to top 10 countries

\*(Tassar Silk-goods export includes Mixed Blended also, because in that tasar component is high)

Source: Monthly Statistice of Foregin Trade of India, DGCI&S, Kolkata SS. 06/03/2007

**Statement II****Countrywise Import of Tasar & Mixed Blended Silk-goods**

(Qty. In kgs. Value In Crore Rs.)

Country +	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
China	473	0.073	33	0.001	486	0.083
France	—	—	1	0.0001	36	0.006
German P. Rep	178	0.051	8	0.002	106	0.009
Hong Kong	—	—	1717	0.484	3	0.002
Italy	—	—	2	0.002	844	0.047
Spain	—	—	100	0.028	74	0.013
U.A.E	23	0.004	—	—	—	—
U.K.	—	—	—	—	32	0.005
U.S.A.	71	0.019	—	—	—	—
Nepal	—	—	3635	1.005	12514	2.153
Others	843	0.166	99	0.028	1519	0.192
<b>Total</b>	<b>1580</b>	<b>0.313</b>	<b>5595</b>	<b>1.550</b>	<b>15614</b>	<b>2.510</b>

+Refers to top 10 countries "-" nil data

\*(Tasar Silk-goods export includes Mixed Blended also, because in that tasar component is high)

Source: Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, DGCI&amp;S, Kolkata SS: 06/03/2007

**Trade with Italy**

1840. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to increase the quantum of trade with the Government of Italy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trade delegations have visited India and Italy during the current year respectively;

(d) if so, the outcome of their visits separately; and

(e) the number of Italian companies doing their business in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) The Government is constantly making efforts to increase trade with other countries, including Italy.

(c) A large Italian business delegation accompanied Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi during his visit to India in February 2007.

(d) The Italian business delegation had meetings organized by FICCI, CM and ASSOCHAM in Kolkata and Mumbai. Over 3000 business-to-business meetings took place in Mumbai and over 2000 such meetings took place in Kolkata, covering a gamut of sectors such as food processing, infrastructure, power, furniture, fashion, textiles, agro-industry, etc. During the visit of the business

delegation, Indian companies have signed 11 collaboration agreements with Italian companies.

(e) About 160 Italian companies are doing business in India.

*[Translation]*

#### Almonds and Cashewnuts Import

1841. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the almonds and cashewnuts are being imported in large quantities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total quantity of these items imported during each of the last three years and the current year, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The total quantity of Almonds and Cashewnuts imported during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:

(Quantity in Tonnes)

Commodity	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Apr-Oct. 2006 (latest available)
Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried (In Shell & Shelled)	442594.2	479712.9	543937.3	422903.7
Almonds Frsh/Dried (In Shell & Shelled)	21514.5	29085.9	26806.5	23400.0

The import of any commodity depends on the domestic demand-supply situation. However, all imports in the country are subject to applicable rate of customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technically-specified and environmental safety norms as applicable for domestically produce goods.

*[English]*

#### Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

1842. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from the States and beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana about large scale rejection of applications and delay in sanctioning and disbursement of loans by the Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the details of banks which are major defaulters; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTRY OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD):

(a) The Government has received a few complaints from beneficiaries from different States regarding delay in cases of sanction and disbursement of loans by the Public Sector Banks to the beneficiaries. Some cases are rejected by the banks due to non viability of projects, non compliance of formalities and wilful default of other loans.

(b) and (c) A statement of the complaints received during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise and the details of banks which are major defaulters are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Letters are sent to Head Offices of the concerned banks along with the copy of the complaints for further inquiry into the matter and to take necessary action. Reminders are sent to the bank branches as well as the Head Offices of the concerned banks in case of any delay in corrective action.

**Statement****Year 2003-04**

Sr.No.	Name of the State	Total complaints received	Name of the defaulters banks
1.	Assam	2	Punjab National Bank, UCO
2.	Bihar	2	Bank, Corporation Bank,
3.	Delhi	1	State Bank of India, Indian
4.	Jharkhand	1	Oversees Bank, State Bank of
5.	Karnataka	1	Patiala, Punjab & Sind Bank,
6.	Maharashtra	4	Canara Bank, Bank of India,
7.	Orissa	1	Syndicate Bank.
8.	Punjab	2	
9.	Tamil Nadu	5	
10.	Uttar Pradesh	2	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	

**Year 2004-05**

Sr.No.	Name of the State	Total complaints received	Name of the defaulters banks
1	Assam	2	State Bank of India, Bank of
2.	Delhi	1	India, Indian Bank, Punjab
3.	Haryana	2	National Bank, Central Bank
4.	Himachal Pradesh	1	of India, Indian Oversees
5.	Jharkhand	2	Bank, Lakshmi Vilas Bank
6.	Maharashtra	2	Ltd., Vijaya Bank, Oriental
7.	Tamil Nadu	4	Bank of Commerce
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	

**Year 2005-06**

Sr.No.	Name of the State	Total complaints received	Name of the defaulters banks
1.	Assam	11	UCO Bank, Indian Bank,
2.	Karnataka	1	Canara Bank, Bank of
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	Maharashtra, Karur Vysya
4.	Maharashtra	2	Bank, State Bank of India
5.	Rajasthan	1	Indian Oversees Bank, Bank
6.	Tamil Nadu	11	of India, Corporation Bank,
7.	Tripura	1	United Bank of India.
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	

**Setting up of Vedic University**

1843. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up some Vedic Universities in the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the places identified for the purpose; and
- (c) the time by which these universities are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Government do not have any such proposal.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Use of Fake Documents by Criminals**

1844. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PANDALIKRAO  
GAWALI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the dreaded criminals are taking the help of fraudulent and fake bailsmen to come out from the jails;
- (b) if so, whether such fake bailsmen get fake ration cards and fake Fixed Deposits receipts for providing bails; and
- (c) if so, the details and the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No such incidents has been brought to in notice of the Government.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Sex Education**

1845. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposals/suggestions from States as well as organizations against NCERT proposal to introduce sex education as per the guidelines of UNICEF; and
- (b) if so, the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. A letter has, however, been recently received by NCERT from Gujarat Council of Educational Research and Training, Gandhinagar, conveying the decision of the Government of Gujarat, not to implement Adolescence Education Programme.

**Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries**

1846. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Khadi and Village Industries being symbol of our National Movement and priority of "Mahatma Gandhi" is gradually sinking these days;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has decided to enhance the ratio of allocations to uplift sinking Khadi and Village Industries; and
- (d): if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to revive the Khadi and Village Industries across the country?

THE MINISTER FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD):

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) Does not arise.

(c) The khadi and village industries sector has continued to receive priority as can be judged from that fact that budgetary allocation has increased from Rs. 340.55 crore (actual) in 2002-03 to Rs. 711 crore in 2007-08. Moreover, the total value of production and employment generated in these sectors have increased by 44.51 per cent and 24.56 per cent during 2002-03 to 2005-06.

(d) As part of the Government's National Common Minimum Programme to revamp the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956 has been amended and the Commission has been re-constituted. To strengthen the khadi and village industries (KVI) and make them competitive in the global economy, Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) providing subsidized rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and packaging of KVI products, and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through KVIC, for setting up village industries by providing subsidy in the form of margin money. Assistance is also provided to KVI units to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels to assist marketing of KVI products. These facilities are available to all eligible cottage and rural industries. Further, the Government has launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) in 29 khadi, 50 village and 25 coir industry clusters for five years beginning 2005-06. SFURTI envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centres, quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

Further, the Expert Committee constituted to suggest measures for revamping of KVIC and programmes/schemes had, inter alia, recommended strengthening of the khadi and village industries by restructuring of some of the on-going schemes. In pursuance of the accepted recommendations, KVIC has prepared proposals in this regard with aim of creating more employment opportunities in the KVI sector.

#### **Utilization of Budget Allocation**

1847. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries has utilized only 45 per cent of its budget allocation for the year 2006-2007; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not utilising the full budgetary allocation by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER FOR SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. 87.32 per cent of the Rs. 894.50 crore Plan budget allocation (RE) for 2006-07 has been utilised till the end of February 2007. Action has been taken for fuller utilization of balance budgetary allocation by the Ministry during the remaining period of the year 2006-07.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Investment of Foreign Countries**

1848. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies investing in India are likely to be reviewed periodically by the Government if they pose a security threat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent they have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) All aspects of National security are of paramount concern of the Government and suitable action where required is always taken. Policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is incorporated in the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations, 2000, notified under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. Any violation by a company with foreign equity of the provisions of the Act, or rules/regulations/notification/order issued in exercise of the powers under the Act, is dealt with under the provisions of this Act.

#### **Releasing of Pakistani Prisoners**

1849. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released 54 Pakistani prisoners and fishermen alongwith 3 children as part of humanitarian gesture as reported in "The Times of India" dated December 23, 2006;

(b) if so, the date on which they were released;

(c) the total number of Pakistani prisoners are languishing in the Indian jails and since when, State-wise;

(d) whether Pakistan has also released Indian prisoners including 412 fishermen as agreed earlier but released only 70 prisoners including 50 fishermen; and

(e) if so, the reasons and the time by which remaining prisoners and fishermen are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. 24 Pakistani civil prisoners and 30 fishermen alongwith three children were repatriated to Pakistan on 22.12.2006. At present, as per available reports, there are 199 Pakistani civil prisoners lodged in different jails of India. On 23.12.2006 Pakistan repatriated 50 Indian fishermen & 20 civil prisoners. On 10.01.2007, Pakistan released another 115 Indian fishermen. Government has been consistently taking up the issue of early release and repatriation of Indian civilian prisoners and fishermen with Pakistan through diplomatic channels.

[Translation]

#### Border Area Development Scheme

1850. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to Bihar under Border Area Development Scheme during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the utilization certificate after the said funds released has been received;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in implementation of the said schemes;

(d) the details of schemes sanctioned by State Level Scrutiny Committee, District-wise;

(e) whether there is any proposal to make any provision to select the schemes on the recommendations of Members of Parliament; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Details are given as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Final allocation	Amt. released	UCs received
2004-05	728.00	728.00	728.00
2005-06	1693.00	1693.00	314.00
2006-07	3119.00	3119.00	—

(c) The Govt. of Bihar has reported that delay in implementation of Schemes is due to time taken in tender process.

(d) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, schemes suggested by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are considered by the State Government in accordance with the BADP Guidelines.

District-wise, Scheme-wise Details are as Under:

#### West Champaran

Solar Lighting System/construction of Morcha/ Construction of police Quarters in Police Stations;

Tubewell in SSB Camp

Arrangement of Solar Lights in SC/ST High School Hostel buildings/provision for school dresses.

X-ray Machine/BP instrument/Stethoscope/O.T. lights etc. in Primary Health Centres.

Village defensive work to protect erosion/Construction of bridge on Tribhuvan Ghat/rural roads.

Construction of Panchayat Bhavan.

Apiculture training.

**Araria**

Construction of Toilet/Bath/lady Hazat in Police Stations/link road to SSB camp.

Construction of additional rooms in Middle schools/brick soiling lanes to schools.

Construction of Community Hall/Chabutra.

Construction of Toilet in Block HQtr./PCC roads.

Construction of Jokihat-Fatehpur road/Construction of rural roads.

Provision for school dresses.

**East Champaran**

Construction of Hall in Thana/Morcha & Boundary wall of police station.

PCC road/RCC bridge/link road to SSB BOPs.

Construction of Public Libraries in schools/Construction of Community building.

Construction of toilets/baths in primary health centres/repair of Bazar sheds.

Construction of Purnahia Jhorokher road/Dhaka-Ghurasan road/Rural link roads.

Construction of Panchayat Bhawan.

Provision for school dresses.

**Supaul**

Construction of barracks/lock up in Bhim Nagar O.P.

Construction of multipurpose community hall.

Construction of Rural roads.

Provision of school dresses.

**Sitamarhi**

Construction of boundary wall, Morcha & watch towers and barbed wire fencing of Police Stations.

Boundary wall of block campus/construction of Panchayat Bhavans. Provision for school dresses.

**Madhubani**

Solar lights/barbed wire fencing/construction of toilets in Police Stations.

Construction of Laokaha-Jokhi road/rural link roads.

Construction of Community Hall in villages.

Construction of Panchayat Bhavans.

Provision of School dresses.

**Kishanganj**

Construction of pakka road to SSB (BOP)/road to Fatehpur/Construction of circle Guard/construction of Rural roads.

Construction of additional room in High School/provision for electrification and drinking water in High School/provision for school dresses.

Construction of boundary wall of primary health centres.

Construction of Panchayat Bhawans.

Setting up of 3 Model Villages one each in Thakurganj, Dighalbank & Terhagach block.

*[English]*

**Closure of Hindustan Zinc Limited**

1851. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the MINISTER OF MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Zinc Ltd. closed down its establishment in Sundergarh District, Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the manner in which the assets of the company is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) M/s. Hindustan Zinc Limited has intimated that its establishment at District Sundergarh, Orissa has been closed down due to exhaustion of ore/mineral at

the site. The Company had handed over all the leasehold land, acquired government and private lands and land obtained through sale deed alongwith the buildings and related infrastructure contained thereupon, to the Tehsildar on 10.6.2004.

#### **Production of Clove**

1852. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of clove in the country has fallen sharply during the last few years and the farmers are not getting adequate price for their produce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to boost the production of clove in the country and to restrict its import;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no steep fall in the production of clove in the country. The production of clove has increased from 1048 MTs during 2001-02 to 2000 MTs in 2005-06. Prices of clove have been ruling high for the last few years at a range of Rs. 23621 to Rs. 27694 per quintal and farmers are getting adequate returns for their produce.

(c) to (e) Several development programmes on tree spices like clove were implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State Sector Schemes in the major centers of cultivation. The efforts in this regard have been intensified through the National Horticulture Mission launched by Government of India since 2005-06 aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality of tree spices produced in the country to meet the growing demand in the domestic as well as export market.

Considering the internal demand which is estimated at 10,000 MTs for clove, production of clove in the country is comparatively less and country is meeting the domestic requirement by importing 8500 tonnes of cloves valued at Rs. 12.30 crore.

#### **Review Work of ICHR**

1853. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the working of Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) and to hold inquiry regarding missing file on 'Towards Freedom' Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been completed;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made therein; and

(e) the action so far taken by the Government on such recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A One-Man Review Committee under Shri D. Bandyopadhyay submitted its report on the functioning of the ICHR and has also looked into the issue of the missing file on 'Towards Freedom' project.

(d) The Committee took note of the missing files and found that unless "important files were retrieved, much of the material relating to the non-publication/stoppage (of) 'Towards Freedom' Project (would) never be unearthed". The Committee made many recommendations regarding this project including that the project be revived immediately and recommended that it should be completed within the next 24 months. It also made wide ranging recommendations regarding reconstitution of the Editorial Board and suggested ways and means of ensuring prompt action for printing and publication of the volumes related to the project.

(e) The Government have accepted the recommendations of the One-Man Review Committee and have asked the ICHR to implement the said recommendations. As per the information provided by the ICHR, the 'Towards Freedom' project has also been revived and already two volumes have been made ready for publication and work on finalization of the manuscript of two more volumes has been initiated.

**Agreement with Italy**

1854. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government has any proposal to set up some industries in the country in collaboration with Italy;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with Italy for the establishment of such industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Government usually does not take entrepreneurial decisions to set up collaborative manufacturing/service ventures. Under the current liberalized investment policy regime, entrepreneurial decisions are taken by private investors including from Italy to set up such ventures. The Government, on its part, facilitates investments by creating conducive climate through international economic agreements as well as liberal policies and procedures. President of the Council of Ministers of Italy led a high level business delegation to India in February 2007 to further the economic co-operation. During the visit, eleven private sector and three Government sector MoUs/Agreements were signed. A list is enclosed as statement.

**Statement***List of MoUs/Agreements Signed**Govt. Sector (between Indian and Italian Governments)*

Sl.No.	Subject
1.	Cultural Exchange Programme
2.	Setting up a Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Crime.
3.	Indo-Italian Renewable Energy Cooperation.

**Private Sector**

S.No.	Indian Company	Italian Company	Subject
1	2	3	4
1.	Tata Motor Ltd.	Fiat Spa	Automobile Sector
2.	Tata Motors	Iveco	Automobile Sector
3.	Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL)	Selex Sistemi Integral Spa	Defence and Electronics Sector
4.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC)	Eni Spa	(i) Deep water exploration (ii) Hydrocarbon exploration
5.	Intesa Sanpaolo	Gruppo Piaggio	Automobile sector
6.	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.(M&M)	Carraro Spa	Farm & Equipment Sector
7.	(a) Birla Institute of Technology & Science (BITS) (b) IIT Delhi.	ST Microelectronics	State of the art Research & Innovation labs
8.	National Institute of Design (NID)	Pininfarina Spa	Education Sector
9.	Bank of Baroda	Pioneer Investments	Banking and Finance

1	2	3	4
10.	Alpha Design Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Electronica Apa	Defense & Electronic Sector
11.	Engineers India Ltd. (EIL)	Tecnimont Spa	Common business in UAE for oil, Gas & Energy Sector
12.	Confederation of India Food Trade & Industries (CIFTI)	Parma Industrial Association (Union Parmense Degli Industriali)	Agro and Food Processing Sector
13	Council for Leather Exports (CLE)	National Association of Italian Manufacturers of Footwear, leather goods and Tanning Machinery (ASSOMAC)	Leather

### Handloom Clusters

1855. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the newly launched 'Cluster Development Scheme' for handlooms;

(b) the amount allocated/earmarked for the development of clusters in various States for 2007-08, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the clusters identified in the State of Tamil Nadu which has vast majority of handlooms in the country;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to select more handloom clusters in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Integrated Handloom Clusters Developing Scheme aims developing Handloom Clusters in an inclusive, holistic, sustainable and self reliant manner; facilitating collectivization of handloom weavers and service providers; inculcating common infrastructure usage and services in a viable format; creating an environment of empowered and participative decision among cluster actors/weavers; and encouraging convergence of schematic assistance and support services from various schemes and programmes of Government. The scheme will ensure synergized and consistent support to handloom weavers in the country.

(b) The Integrated Handloom Cluster Development Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme introduced during the year 2005-06. An amount of Rs.30.00 crore has been earmarked during the year 2007-08 for allocation on the development of handloom clusters through out the country including Tamil Nadu. No state-wise allocation has been made under the scheme. The scheme is being implemented through identified Implementing Agencies.

(c) to (e) During 2005-06, 03 clusters have been identified for development in the State of Tamil Nadu such as Thiruvannamalai, Trichy and Kurinjipadi, out of 20 clusters. Furthermore, 100 Clusters, have been selected in 2006-07 in consultation with the State Governments and Wavers' Service Centres concerned, out of which 10 clusters have been identified for development in the State of Tamil Nadu. Currently, diagnostic study of these clusters is in progress. Based on diagnostic studies, cluster development plan will be prepared.

### National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

1856. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):  
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted National Commission for Protection of Child Rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the composition;

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

(d) whether the Government has considered to appoint the Children's Rights Commissioner to protect the child rights and bring down the violence against the children;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The first Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has been appointed with effect from 5th March, 2007. The Commission comprises of a Chairperson, six Members including two women Members and a Member-Secretary.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Construction of Q-shelter by NDMC

1857. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) is committing irregularities in the construction of Q-shelters;

(b) if so, whether the attention has neither been paid for protection from rain nor compliance of official language is being done;

(c) if so, the details thereof:

(d) the total number of Q-shelters constructed alongwith their cost from steel and those constructed from bricks and cement, separately during each of the last three years;

(e) the total number of new Q-shelters proposed to be raised under the jurisdiction of NDMC during the year 2007;

(f) whether the said Council has purchased the posters to be stuck on these commuters Q-shelters;

(g) if so, the details alongwith the price thereof, agency-wise;

(h) whether any contract has been signed with a company or any agency for displaying advertisement;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) the monthly income earned by the said Council from each commuter Q-shelter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The design of the Bus-Q-Shelters is commuter friendly and gives maximum protection from rain. All information at these shelters is displayed bilingually in Hindi and English.

(d) No Bus-Q-Shelter has been constructed using bricks and cement during the last three years. The number of Bus-Q-Shelters, constructed from steel and the expenditure incurred on them during each of the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of Bus-Q-Shelters	Expenditure incurred
2004	9	Rs. 42 lakh
2005	80	Rs. 9 lakh
2006	80	Constructed on build-operate-transfer basis.

(e) 117 Bus-Q-Shelters are proposed to be raised under the jurisdiction of New Delhi Municipal Council during the year 2007.

(f) to (j) A contract has been signed with M/s. JC Decaux Advertising India Private Limited for construction of 197 Bus-Q-Shelters on build-operate-transfer basis. The concessionaire will be providing advertisements/posters on these Bus-Q-Shelters as part of terms and conditions of the contract. The concessionaire is liable to pay to New Delhi Municipal Council a concession fee of 16% of net

revenue earned by it on sale/renting of advertising and other space on Bus-Q-Shelter subject to a minimum concession fee of Rs. 20 lakh per month, for 197 Bus-Q-Shelters already constructed/being constructed by it.

[English]

#### Issuance of Fire Safety Certificate to Schools

1858. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fire Safety Certificate issued by Delhi Fire Service (DFS) is mandatory for recognition of school w.e.f. July 1, 2006 in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Education Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and Public Schools are not adhering to fire safety norms endangering the lives of their students;

(c) if so, the total number of schools functioning without fire safety certificate, school-wise;

(d) the action taken by the Government against those schools who are not adhering to fire safety norms;

(e) whether any standards/norms has been prescribed for the size of a classroom and the maximum number of students allowed to sit in a classroom;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether about 80 to 90 students are sitting in a classroom in Government schools in Delhi; and

(h) if so, reasons therefor and the steps taken to construct more number of classrooms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Letters from VIPs/All India Association

1859. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the letters received from the VIPs/ All India Association for SCs/STs and Physically Handicapped from March 27, 2006 till date by the Ministry/ NDMC on SCs/STs and Physically Handicapped grievances;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action on each such letter;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which action on pending letters is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) A statement indicating the details of the letters received in Ministry of Home Affairs and New Delhi Municipal Council since 27th March, 2006 from VIPs, other important functionaries and All India Association for SC/ST & Physically Handicapped on the subject of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Physically Handicapped grievances relating to New Delhi Municipal Council is enclosed. Appropriate action has been taken on these references as indicated in the enclosed Statement.

S.No.	Name of the person, association, etc. from where references received	Number and date	Action taken/Reply sent
1	2	3	4
1.	Assistant Registrar (Law), National Human Rights Commission	3636/30/2002-03 dated 10.5.06	No. 1436/SAW/Estate dated 26.06.2006
2.	Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Ministers High level Committee	Cab. Sect/PMHLC/Misc/ 2005-08/21/2957 dated 19.5.2006	No.SAA/Estate/1678-79 dated 25.7.06

1	2	3	4
3.	Chief Minister's Office, Delhi Secretariat	CM/PG/VIP/2006 dated 26.8.2006	No. SAA/Estate/1680-81 dated 25.7.06
4.	Chief Minister's Office, Delhi Secretariat	CMO/PGC(E)/2006/77832 dated 29.8.06	No. SAA/Estate/1683 dated 25.7.06
5.	Assistant Director (Reha.), Ministry of Labour	5(17)/Reh/VRC/2006/1340 dated 22.8.06	No. 1481-82/Estate/2006 dated 03.10.2006
6.	Officer on Special Duty to the Chief Minister, Delhi Secretariat	OSD/CM-PK/106/1085 dated 10.7.06	No. 1478-79/Estate/06 dated 03.10.2006
7.	1st Personal Assistant to Minister for Science and Technology	Min(S&T&OD)/PAC/802 dated 2.5.06	No.SAA/Estate/1653-54 dated 30.10.2006
8.	Shri Tariq Anwar, Member of Parliament	TA/6693/2006 dated 30.8.06	No. SAA/Estate/1 857-58 dated 30.10.2006
9.	Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh, Member of Parliament	Nil	No. SAA/Estate/ 1659-60 dated 30.10.2006
10.	Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State for Labour & Employment (Independent Charge)	1(6)MOS(IC)/VIP/07 dated 4.1.07	No. 1296/SO(CP)/Estate dated 21.02.07
11.	Shri Feraque Ahmad, Officer on Special Duty to Minister of State for Human Resource Development	175/OSD/MOS(HRD)2007 dated 24.1.07	No. 1297/SO(CP) Estate dated 21.02.2007
12.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 12.06.06	Replied in January, 2007
13.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 12.06.06	Replied in January, 2007
14.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 12.06.06	Interim reply given vide letter dated 21.08.2006. This matter is under examination and final reply will be given on finalisation of the case.
15.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 30.8.06	Interim reply given vide letter dated 21.08.2006. This matter is under examination and final reply will be given on finalisation of the case.
16.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 23.8.06	Replied in January, 2007.
17.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 28.06.2006	Replied in January, 2007
18.	Officer on Special Duty to Lieutenant Governor	No. 14 (I)/06-RN/478/1387 dated 8.4.06	Replied vide Ref. No.D/1003 to 1004/SO(Enf.), dated 24.04.2006

1	2	3	4
19.	Delhi SC/ST/OBC/Minorities & Handicapped Financial & Development Corporation Limited	No.F.57(10)/05-08/PGC-Handicapped/Vo-II/DSFDC/6419 dated 25.10.06	Replied vide Ref. No.D/3159/SO(Enf.) dated 04.12.2006
20.	Shri Ram Babu Sharma, Member of Legislative Assembly	Misc/206 dated 6.11.06	Replied vide Ref. No.D/3238/SO(Enf.) dated 13.12.2006
21.	Shri R.P. Rathi, Officer on Special Duty to Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Steel	No.05/01/(M OS, C&F)/2006-5250 dated 22.11.2006	Replied vide Ref. No.D/3268/SO (Enf.) dated 18.12.2006
22.	Smt. Tajdar Babar, Member of Legislative Assembly	No. 1215/PA/VC/06 dated 22.11.06	Replied vide DO No.D/3239/SO (Enf.) dated 13.12.2006
23.	Shri Manoj Kumar Aggarwal, Deputy Secretary, Department of Urban Development, Government of NCT of Delhi.	F. No. 13(53)/04/UD/26042 dated 12.12.06	Replied vide Ref. No. D/3464/SO(Enf.) dated 28.12.2006
24.	Shri Oscar Fernandes, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Labour & Employment	D. O. NO.(8)/MOS/(IC) VIP/07 dated 3.2.07	DO No. 191/PS/CP/07 dated 06.02.07
25.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 25.7.06	Sent to NDMC for appropriate action vide Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No.14037/1/2006-Delhi-II dated 29.11.2006
26.	All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped	Dated 11.8.06	Sent to NDMC for appropriate action vide Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No. 14037/1/2006-Delhi-II dated 26.09.2006
27.	Shri Lalmani Prashad, Member of Parliament	No.MP/VIP/2006 dated 19.12.06	Sent to NDMC for appropriate action vide Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No. 14035/1/2007-Delhi-II dated 04.01.2007

### Infant Mortality

1860. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies conducted by the Registration Survey of the Registrar General of the Census revealed

the high infant mortality rate of the girl child as compared to the boy child;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise and gender-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per the information

furnished by Registrar General of India, according to the Sample Registration System (SRS), high infant mortality has been observed for the girl child as compared to the boy child.

(b) As per enclosed Statement.

(c) A number of steps have been taken by the Government like the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) which aims at holistic development of

children below six years, and focuses on reduction in incidence in mortality, morbidity and malnutrition. Moreover, Government of India has been implementing several programmes/schemes like National Diarrhea Disease Control Programme; National Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) Control Programme; Vitamin-A Supplementation; Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation; Promotion of breast feeding etc. Besides, a massive awareness campaign on the importance of the girl child has also been initiated to enhance her value and ensure her overall welfare.

### **Statement**

*Statement: Infant Mortality Rate by sex India and bigger States, 2003-05*

India & bigger states	2003			2004+			2005+		
	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female
India	60*	57*	64*	58	58	58	58	56	61
Andhra Pradesh	59	59	59	59	59	58	57	56	58
Assam	67	69	65	56	76	55	68	66	69
Bihar+	60	59	62	61	60	63	61	60	62
Gujarat	57	54	61	53	50	57	54	52	55
Haryana	59	54	65	61	55	68	60	51	70
Karnataka	52	51	52	49	49	49	50	48	51
Kerala	11	11	12	12	14	11	14	14	15
Madhya Pradesh	82	77	86	79	82	75	76	72	79
Maharashtra	42	32	54	36	31	42	36	34	37
Orissa	83	82	83	77	76	79	75	74	77
Punjab	49	46	52	45	37	55	44	41	48
Rajasthan	75	70	81	67	66	69	68	64	72
Tamil Nadu	43	44	41	41	43	38	37	35	39
Uttar Pradesh+	76	69	84	72	71	72	73	71	75
West Bengal	46	45	46	40	45	34	38	38	39

\*Exclude Nagaland (Rural)

+Based on new sample drawn from 2001 Census.

**Look East Policy**

1861. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made under the Look East Policy during the current financial year;

(b) the manner in which the North Eastern Region benefited from this Policy during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the short term and long term schemes under the Look East Policy which can benefit the North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has no allocation under the head 'Look East Policy'. However, for North Eastern States, there is a special Industrial Policy dispensation for the overall development of the region.

(b) and (c) The Package for the Industrial Policy for the North-East contains special concessions such as excise duty exemption, income tax exemption, investment subsidy, interest subsidy, comprehensive insurance etc. which are intended to facilitate and hasten the industrial and economic development of the North-Eastern States.

**Industrial Development of North Eastern Region**

1862. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up 'Single Window Scheme' for the industrial development of the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects that have been implemented under the said scheme during 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Operation Rhino-2 against Ulfa Activists**

1863. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched Operation Rhino-2 against/ULFA activists in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of ULFA activists arrested or killed under the said operation;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the ULFA activists are intruding in the territory of Bhutan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No operation named Rhino-2 has been launched.

(b) During the current year (upto 28.02.2007), 30 ULFA cadres have been arrested and 19 killed in the Counter Insurgency operations.

(c) and (d) There is no specific report that the ULFA cadres are establishing camp in the territory of Bhutan. However, the Government is keeping close watch on the activities of militant outfits along the Indo-Bhutan border.

**Criminalisation in Politics**

1864. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, has decided to check the dangers posed by the criminalization in politics in the country;

(b) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the entry of criminals into politics; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Government has been seized of the issue of electoral reforms to inter alia address the dangers posed by the Criminalization in Police.

#### **Loopholes in Indian Intellectual Property Rights Legislations**

1865. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies are reaping benefits from our traditional knowledge due to the loopholes in Indian Intellectual Property Rights Legislations;

(b) is so, whether the Government proposes to amend the law in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Patents Act, 1970, as amended in 2005, provides *vide* Section 3(p) that an invention which in effect, is traditional knowledge or which is an aggregation or duplication of known properties of traditionally known component or components is not patentable.

Section 10 of the Patents Act, 1970, *inter alia*, provides for disclosure of the source and geographical origin of the biological material in the specification, when used in an invention.

Further, the Act also provides for opposition to the grant of patent on the ground that the invention so far as claimed in any claim of the complete specification is anticipated having regard to the knowledge, oral or otherwise, available within any local or indigenous community in India or elsewhere and for revocation of a granted patent.

In view of the above, there is no proposal presently under consideration of the Government to amend the Patents Act.

#### **Rural Industrialisation and Technical Advancement**

1866. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for rural industrialisation and technical advancement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to accord autonomy to Mahatma Gandhi Industrialisation Institute, Vardha; and

(d) if so, the time by which autonomy to this Institute is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government (In the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing the following schemes for rural industrialization and technical advancement in the field of khadi and village industries sector:

- (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), to help eligible entrepreneurs to set up village industry units and thus create employment opportunities in village and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.
- (ii) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;
- (iii) Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP) for improved designs and packaging of khadi and village industry products;

Besides, the Government has decided to set up the "Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Rural Industrialisation

(MGIRI)" by completely overhauling and revamping the existing MGIRI, Vardha, which had come into existence in 2003 after the erstwhile Jamnalal Bajaj Central Research Institute, Vardha was rechristened as MGIRI. The MGIRI, Vardha is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1960 to provide high quality scientific, technological and management inputs to strengthen rural industrialization and enhance opportunities of meaningful and productive employment in rural areas in the khadi and village industries. The promotion of rural industrialization would be helped greatly through capacity-building and technology upgradation in khadi and village industries (KVI), resulting in generation of employment opportunities in rural areas and higher productivity and incomes of artisans. The specific objectives behind setting up MGIRI are to,

- (i) set up a strong two-way linkage between itself and the rural industrialists and technical experts in professional institutes so as to facilitate quick availability of modern science, technology and management inputs for rural industrialisation;
- (ii) create a science and technology hub for KVI sector by developing strong linkages and interface with other institutions in the field of rural industrialisation,
- (iii) build a database of technologies available in KVI sector,
- (iv) facilitate setting up of rural industrial estates and clusters with necessary infrastructural facilities like power, specialised tool rooms, testing and marketing facilities,
- (v) undertake and sponsor projects capable of giving substantial fillip to larger and increased market penetration to selected products of village industry,
- (vi) conduct specialised human resource development programmes in generic areas such as Total Quality Management, creativity and innovation, rural entrepreneurship development,
- (vii) provide training to trainers of the training centres of KVIC and Khadi and Village Industries Boards of State/Union Territory Government, and to

- (viii) promote innovation through pilot studies and field trials through research, extension, education and training

*[English]*

#### Production of Coffee and Rubber

1867. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of natural rubber and coffee in India is the highest among the major natural rubber producing countries in the world;

(b) if so, the details of production of natural rubber and coffee during 2005-06 and 2006-07, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the production and marketing of these products in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir.

(b) The details of production of coffee and Natural Rubber during 2005-06 & 2006-07, country-wise are as under:

Coffee	(in tonnes)	
	2005-06	2006-07
Brazil	19,76,640	25,50,720
Colombia	7,17,540	6,96,000
Indonesia	5,19,540	4,11,000
Vietnam	8,09,940	9,00,000
India	2,74,000	2,88,000
Others	23,65,700	25,83,600
<b>World Total</b>	<b>66,63,360</b>	<b>74,29,320</b>

**Natural Rubber**

(in tonnes)

Country	2005*	2006*
Thailand	29,37,000	29,68,000
Indonesia	22,71,000	24,54,000
Malaysia	11,26,000	12,11,000
India	7,72,000	8,57,000
Vietnam	4,69,000	5,36,000
China	4,28,000	4,46,000
<b>World Total</b>	<b>87,77,000</b>	<b>92,55,000</b>

\*Information for other countries is available for calendar year only.

(c) The Government of India through Coffee Board and Rubber Board is implementing various plan schemes for augmenting domestic production of coffee and Natural Rubber respectively. These include replantation of low yielding plantations and increasing productivity of existing plantations. Further, various initiatives are being undertaken by the respective Boards with financial support of the Government of India for the marketing of their products. The Coffee Board has provided training courses on roasting and brewing of coffee, promoted coffee through media advertisements and participated in national and regional fairs. The Rubber Board has strengthened Rubber Producers Societies in rubberwood processing and value addition and participated in various national fairs.

**Insurance for Girls**

1868. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide an insurance cover of Rupees; one lakh for each girl child as an incentive for its upbringing in the country as reported in 'The Hindu' dated December 19, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes a conditional cash transfer scheme during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, wherein it is proposed that an insurance cover will be provided for the girl child as a safety net and also to enable the girl to receive a lump sum at the age of 18 years with suitable medical and educational components, to ensure her survival and overall development.

(c) and (d) Proposal for a Conditional Cash and Non-Cash Transfer Scheme to ensure overall welfare of the Girl Child is under consideration under the 11th Five Year Plan. The transfers are based on fulfillment of four important conditionalities viz. birth and registration of the girl child, immunization, her retention in school and delaying her age of marriage beyond 18 years.

**Decline in Wool Production**

1869. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wool has declined significantly during the Tenth Five Year Plan period in comparison to Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and percentage of decline as compared to Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the reasons for decline;

(c) whether the Government has chalked out any special strategy for the Eleventh Five Year Plan keeping in view the sharp decline in Tenth Five Year Plan for the said product; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) There has been a marginal decline of roughly 1.93% in the total wool production during the 10th Five year Plan in comparison to the 9th Five Year Plan due to the drought conditions prevailing during the 10th Five Year Plan in the largest wool producing State of Rajasthan.

This resulted in decline of the number of sheep in the State from 140 lakhs to 100 lakhs. The details of wool production during the 9th and the 10th Five Year Plans are given below:

(In million kg.)

Year	9th Plan	Year	10th Plan
1997-98	45.6	2002-03	50.5
1998-99	46.9	2003-04	48.5
1999-2000	47.9	2004-05	44.6
2000-01	48.4	2005-06	44.9
2001-02	49.5	2006-07	45.2*
<b>Total</b>	<b>238.3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>233.7</b>

\* —Anticipated

(Source: Ministry of Agriculture)

(c) and (d) During the 11th Five Year Plan, efforts will be made in the areas of healthcare and improvement of select high yielding indigenous breeds of sheep. Since production of wool is considered as a by product of rearing sheep for meat, special incentives like schemes of sheep insurance and shepherd insurance and creation of a Revolving Fund to be utilized for procurement of

raw wool and its sale are likely to lead to an increase in the production of wool in the country. In addition, the Angora Wool Development Programme over the Pashmina Wool Development projects for increasing the production of angora raw wool and the quality and quantity of Pashmina would be further strengthened.

#### Production and Export of Tea

1870. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of different varieties of tea exported and foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of production capacity of each processing units during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage higher production of blended tea and diversification of export of blended tea to various foreign countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The total quantity of different varieties of tea exported during the last three years is as under:

Quantity : Million kgs. Value : Rs. Crores

Varieties of Tea	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Bulk Tea	140.70	1037.31	159.03	1312.86	154.23	1243.10
Packet Tea	34.01	405.80	35.73	353.65	30.53	295.02
Tea Bags	4.90	94.31	7.09	142.91	8.38	174.32
Instant Tea	3.46	99.57	3.96	115.29	3.53	91.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>183.07</b>	<b>1636.99</b>	<b>205.81</b>	<b>1924.71</b>	<b>196.67</b>	<b>1793.58</b>

(b) There are about 1700 processing units which are engaged in tea production activities. It is, therefore, difficult to ascertain individual processing capacities of these units.

(c) and (d) India has been exporting value added

tea including blended tea over the years to various countries. Exports from India have registered an increase in 2006 and this is expected to continue. In order to encourage tea exports in value-added form to earn more foreign exchange, a concessional import duty on various

tea machineries was levied by the Government and duty on packaging/material has been brought down.

[Translation]

**Tehbazari in NDMC Area**

1871. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the places where Tehbazari has been permitted by the NDMC in New Delhi area;

(b) the norms fixed for allotment of Tehbazari and the revenue generated by the Council therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Council for allotment of permanent shops in place of Tehbazari?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Names of the place where New Delhi Municipal Council has permitted Tehbazari are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The norms fixed for allotment of Tehbazari sites in New Delhi Municipal Council/area are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

The revenue generated by the Council as Tehbazari fee, during each of the last three years is as under:

S.No.	Year	Revenue generated
1.	2003-04	26,73,000/-
2.	2004-05	47,39,000/-
3.	2005-06	82,76,000/-
Total		1,56,88,000/-

(c) At present, there is no proposal for allotment of permanent shops in place of Tehbazari.

**Statement I**

Sl.No.	Location of site
1	2
1.	Behind Madras Hotel, Opp. Bhasin Motors
2.	Opposite Shop No.4, Refugee Market Babar Road

1	2
3.	Gopal Dass Bhawan, B.K. Road
4.	Lane of New House
5.	Reserve Bank of India, Parliament Street, New Delhi
6.	Shastri Market
7.	Mohan Singh Place
8.	Scindia House
9.	Hindustan Times Building
11.	Kailash Building Curzon Road
12.	Surya Kiran Building
13.	Krishan Hotel
14.	Regal Building
15.	Behind Ashok Yatri Niwas
16.	Behind Vanona Building
17.	Behind State Bank of India, Jai Singh Road
18.	Kanchan Janga Building
19.	Hansaliya Building
20.	Curzon Road
21.	Janpath lane
22.	Shastri Market
23.	ECE House Curzon Road
24.	Nirmal Tower, B.K. Road
25.	Mohan Singh Place
26.	Regal Porch
27.	Janpath Mini Market
28.	Thapar House, Janpath
29.	23, K.G. Marg in front of Himalay House
30.	Near Press Trust of India Building
31.	Snack Bar Revoli

1	2
32.	Near State Bank of Patiala, Parliament Street
33.	Near Railing opp. Revoli Cinema
34.	Chanderlok Building
35.	Ashoka Carpet, B.K. Road
36.	Ansal Bhawan, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
37.	Madras Hotel
38.	State Bank of Patiala, Sansad Marg
39.	Himaliya House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
40.	Allahabad Bank, Parliament Street
41.	FICCI Auditorium
42.	PIO at Jantar Mantar
43.	Kwality Restaurant, Regal Building
44.	PIO at Police Station, Parliament Street
45.	Opposite Navrang House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
46.	Behind Vandna Building
47.	Odeon Sweet House, Connaught Place
48.	M-Block near South Indian Building
49.	H-Block near Plaza
50.	D-Block outside Veigi Restaurant
51.	N-Block near Art House, Connaught Place
52.	N-Block, MDK Bar Restaurant, Connaught Place
53.	F-Block, Kripa Ram House, Connaught Place
54.	N-Block, Metro House, Connaught Place
55.	D-Block, Connaught Place
56.	34/3, Shankar Market, Connaught Place
57.	A-Block, Venger Building, Connaught Place
58.	N-Block opposite Scindia House

1	2
59.	Near Stall No. 17, Babar Road
60.	Stall No. 19, Babar Road
61.	Birla Mandir
62.	Behind Willingdon Hospital
63.	Near House No.479, Mandir Marg
64.	Space near Garage No. 114, Gole Market
65.	75-75A, Jain Mandir, Gole Market
66.	Near Central Bank, Gole Market
67.	Patiala House
68.	Near Law Institute Bhagwan Dass Road
69.	Baroda House
70.	In front of Ashoka Road, Rafi Marg
71.	Chelmsford Road
72.	Dr. Rajinder Prasad Road
73.	Krishi Bhawan, Near Boat Club
74.	Kalawati Hospital towards Panchkulan Road
75.	Back side of Birla Mandir
76.	Gurudwara Bangal Sahib
77.	Tailer Market, Baird Road
78.	PIO at Kali Bari Marg near Willingdon Hospital
79.	Lane Piyare Lal Motors near Maridian Hotel
80.	Near PIO at Super Bazar
81.	Behind Madras Hotel
82.	Kalawati Hospital
83.	31-35, Gole Market, Rama Krishnan Ashram Marg
84.	Super Bazar
85.	Navrang House, Kasturba Gandhi Marg
86.	Shankar Market

1	2
87.	Near Stall No. 8, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital
88.	Janpath
89.	Parliament Street
90.	Jeevan Tara
91.	Jai Singh Road
92.	Ashok Road
93.	Baba Kharak Singh Marg
94.	Outer Circle State Entry
95.	Behind Statesman Building
96.	Akash Deep Building
97.	UCO Bank Building
98.	Opposite Supreme Court
99.	Shahjahan Road
100.	Malcha Marg Shopping Complex
101.	Chanakya Cinema
102.	*Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital
103.	Indian Oil Bhawan, Janpath
104.	Verandah of Janpath
105.	Kidwai Bhawan
106.	Scindia House Lane
107.	Regal Cinema
108.	Palika Bazar
109.	Hanuman Road
110.	Emporia Building, BKS Marg
111.	Shivaji Stadium
112.	Rama Krishna Ashram Marg
113.	Alka Hotel
114.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg

1	2
115.	Hanuman Mandir
116.	Rivoli Cinema
117.	Basant Lane
118.	Chelmsford Road
119.	Municipal Market, Connaught Place
120.	Kasturba Gandhi Marg
121.	Khan Market
122.	P. R. Market
123.	Lodhi Estate
124.	Kidwai Nagar
125.	Sarojini Nagar
126.	Nauroji Nagar
127.	Netaji Nagar
128.	Purana Quila Road
129.	Gole Market
130.	Vayu Bhawan
131.	Connaught Place
132.	Moti Bagh
133.	Laxmi Bai Nagar
134.	Behind P. R. Market Shop No. 1
135.	Near Rasan Godown P. R. Market
136.	Near Cemetery Shajahan Road
137.	Prithvi Raj Market
138.	Barasuar Market
139.	Palika Bhawan
140.	Fuel Depot, Prithvi Raj Market
141.	PIO at Malcha Marg
142.	PIO at Dalhousie Road, South Block

1	2
143.	PIO at Moti Bagh Bus Stand
144.	Pan Thara at Lodhi Estate
145.	At Maurya Hotel, Sardar Patel Marg
146.	PIO at Udyog Bhawan
147.	Nirman Bhawan, Maulana Azad Road
148.	D-A venue, Sarojini Nagar
149.	South Block, Fire Brigade
150.	Behind Udyog Bhawan
151.	Safdarjung Hospital
152.	Sena Bhawan
153.	Yusuf Sarai
154.	Chanakyapuri
155.	Mansingh Road
156.	East Kidwai Nagar Market
157.	B. K. Dutt Colony, Lodhi Road
158.	Outside Pakistan Embassy
159.	Pakistan High Commission
160.	Panchsheel Marg, Chanakyapuri
161.	Fuel Depot, Netaji Nagar
162.	Fuel Depot, South Market, Electric Lane House
163.	Bikaner House
164.	Behind Birla House, Tis January Marg
165.	PIO at Jamnagar House, Mansingh Road
166.	Panthara at 24-A, Prithvi Raj Road
167.	Road Berm at Malcha Marg

**Statement II**

- All eligible squatters upto 1977 shall be eligible for allotment of kiosk and Stalls subject to their availability in the respective area. Till they are allotted Kiosks/Stalls they will be given permission to Tehbazari on usual charges.

- All eligible squatters pertaining to 1978 to 1980 will be eligible for tehbazari permission in their, respective area subject to availability of suitable spaces. However, if stalls/kiosks are available after accommodating the eligible squatters, upto 197 squatters out of this list will also become eligible for allotment of kiosks/stalls.
- The eligible squatters between 1981 and 1987 may also be considered for allotment of tehbazari, in case suitable vacant space in the respective zone is available for such allotment.
- For determining the eligibility of squatters, the proof of squatting such as receipt of removal charges from NDMC, challans by the Police, toleration permission granted by the NDMC shall be the relevant documents.
- Tehbazari holders normally shall not be disturbed from their present sites unless there are special reasons to do so.
- Similarly, persons who were given toleration permission shall not be normally disturbed from their present sites.
- Cases of persons, who are having stay orders from the courts, will be examined separately within the frame work of this scheme, and efforts will be made to accommodate them either in the same locality or in the nearby location as far as possible.

*[English]*

**Shift Office from Kandla to Gandhi Nagar**

1872. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:  
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to shift the Office of Development Commissioner (SEZ) from Kandla to Gandhi Nagar;

(b) if so, whether the said proposal has been rejected; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No proposal to shift the Office of Development Commissioner (SEZ) from Kandla to Gandhi Nagar is under consideration.

(c) In view of the newly notified Special Economic Zones in Gujarat, more posts of Development Commissioners have been approved.

#### **Militants' Links with Nepal**

1873. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kashmiri militants are having links with Nepali Maoists group and sale-purchase of arms are going on *via* Delhi as reported in The Hindustan Times' dated February 14, 2007;

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

(c) the number of such cases registered during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government has informed the neighbouring countries in this regard;

(e) if so, the reaction of those countries thereon; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities of militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government have no input to suggest that Kashmiri militants have links with Nepal Maoists group.

(c) to (f) Question does not arise.

#### **Eklavya Model Residential Schools**

1874. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of vacancies of teachers available in these Vidyalayas;

(c) the arrangement made by the Government to fill up the vacancy of teachers in these Vidyalayas;

(d) whether these Vidyalayas are well equipped with libraries and laboratories;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(g) the achievements of the students of EMRS from the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(h) the measures taken by the Government to improve the EMRS in the country particularly Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) 72 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are functioning as on date. A statement indicating state-wise status is given in the enclosed Statement—I.

(b) to (f) The EMRSs have been set up by the State Governments out of grants provided by the Government of India under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. As per existing norms, Government of India provides one-time grant of Rs. 250 lakh for the school building, hostels, teachers' quarters, library, laboratories and associated infrastructure, and up to Rs. 30 lakh per school annually to meet the recurring expenses to run the school. State Governments are to form autonomous societies to run these schools and also make arrangements for teachers etc. The prescribed norms for students: teacher ratio is 30:1 and provision for library and laboratories too has been made. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is not involved

In the appointment and/or hiring of the services of teachers and other personnel and therefore, such information is not maintained in the Ministry.

(g) A statement—II indicating the number of Scheduled Tribes students admitted and passed out from Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06 is enclosed.

(h) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs obtains periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of the EMRS, and convenes meetings with the State Secretaries of the Tribal Welfare/Tribal Welfare Development Departments to review the physical and financial progress of the scheme. Officers of the Ministry also undertake visits to the schools from time to time. Modifications are made as and when required.

**Statement I**

*State-wise Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) functioning in the Country*

S.No.	State	No. of EMRS Functioning
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Gujarat	8
3.	Himachal Pradesh	1
4.	Kerala	2
5.	Karnataka	3
6.	Madhya Pradesh	8
7.	Maharashtra	4
8.	Orissa	10
9.	Rajasthan	7
10.	Tamil Nadu	1
11.	Tripura	3
12.	West Bengal	5
13.	Jharkhand	4
14.	Chhattisgarh	8
Total		72

**Statement II**

*Number of ST students admitted and passed out from Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in Andhra Pradesh during 2005-06*

Class	Strength			Passed Out		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
VI	244	351	595	238	351	589
VII	248	334	582	248	332	580
VIII	232	319	551	231	319	550
IX	239	319	558	238	319	557
X	174	263	437	173	190	363
XI	250	334	584	155	199	354
XII	239	166	405	155	105	260
Total	1626	2086	3712	1438	1815	3253

**Public-private Partnership**

1875. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan for public-private partnership in social sector;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified the areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The proposal regarding Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Social Sector is in a very early stage of examination in the Government. It is a difficult and complex subject and requires cautious approach. There is a need for area specific policy to ensure that private sector participation leads to inclusive growth. However, there is no specific proposal before the Government at the moment.

### Contingency Allowances to Students

1876. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided to various institutions under the head 'contingency allowances' during the last three years;

(b) whether the whole amount has been spent systematically;

(c) if so, whether Ph.D and M.S, students of Indian Institutes of Technologies (IITs) and Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc) Bangalore are getting their contingency allowances as per norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount, per student per year, category-wise, institute-wise:

(e) whether some IITs or IISc are not disbursing contingency amount to the students and violating the norms prescribed for this purpose;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor institute-wise;

(g) whether any action has been taken against the officials found guilty in this regard;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the measures being contemplated to stop such financial irregularities category-wise and institute-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (i) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Outlay for ST Population

1877. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked States to prepare exclusive annual plan to spend the outlay earmarked for the ST population; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has asked the Governments of 22 States and 2 UT Administrations to prepare a Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes as a part of their Annual Plan. The concerned State Governments and UT Administrations have also been asked to follow the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission in 2005 for formulation and implementation of TSP which, *inter alia* stated that (i) allocation of funds under TSP should be at least in proportion to the ST population of the State/ UT; (ii) a separate Budget Head/Sub-Head for TSP (Code 796) should be provided; (iii) Tribal Welfare Department of the State should act as nodal department for planning and finance for tribal areas and development of STs; (iv) the entire TSP budget should be placed at the disposal of such nodal Department and (v) funds provision made under TSP should be made non-divertible and non-lapsable so that it is spent on schemes/ programmes exclusively for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes.

### Export of Diamonds

1878. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the foreign exchange earned from the export of diamonds during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any stiff competition from China and other foreign countries in diamond cutting and polishing industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of diamond cutting and polishing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The details of foreign exchange earned from the export of diamonds during the last three years are as follows:

(In USD Million)

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (Upto August, 2006)
10361.87	11610.27	4143.27

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to safeguard the interests of diamond cutting and polishing industry in India. The licencing regime for rough diamonds has been abolished and custom duty on import of rough diamond is 0%. The facility of advance remittances without insisting on bank guarantee for import of rough diamonds has been permitted subject to terms and conditions. Export of gems and jewellery, which also includes cut and polished diamonds, has been identified as a thrust sector in the Foreign Trade Policy (2004-09). In the Foreign Trade Policy as updated on 7th April, 2006, following facilities have been extended to the Sector:

- (i) Import of gold of 8 carat and above is allowed under the replenishment scheme subject to the import being accompanied by an Assay Certificate specifying the purity, weight and alloy content.
- (ii) Duty Free import entitlement of consumables for metals other than Gold, Platinum to be 2% of FOB value of exports during the previous financial year.
- (iii) Duty free import entitlement of commercial samples to be Rs. 300.000.
- (iv) Duty free re-import entitlement for rejected jewellery to be 2% of the FOB value of exports.
- (v) Cutting and polishing of gems and jewellery, to be treated as manufacturing for the purposes of exemption under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act.
- (vi) Import of precious metal scrap/used jewellery has been allowed for melting, refining and re-export of jewellery. However, such import will not be allowed through hand baggage.
- (vii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export jewellery on consignment basis as per Rules.
- (viii) Gem & Jewellery exporters have been allowed to export cut and polished precious and semi-

precious stones for treatment and reimport as per Rules.

- (ix) Value addition norms for different categories of gems and jewellery products have been reduced.

Besides, extensive efforts are made for promoting exports of Indian gems and jewellery including diamond jewellery.

#### Functioning of CBI

1879. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has been found culprit and deliberately covering up the money trail funding by the terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring transparency in the functioning of CBI and to make public the various probes etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The CBI has full functional autonomy under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 as amended by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 which enjoins upon the Commission to include in its annual report a separate part on the functioning of CBI. This report is laid before each House of the Parliament.

[Translation]

#### Funds for Welfare of Tribals

1880. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of contribution provided by the Government to the States for the welfare of Tribals;

(b) whether the State Governments demanded to raise the percentage of Centre's contribution in the Conference of Ministers of Tribal Affairs held in Delhi recently?

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has asked the States to set-up an independent mechanism to monitor the utilisation

of the funds provided by the Centre; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH):

(a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides assistance under various schemes/programmes for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes. The percentage of contribution under each scheme of the Ministry is as under:

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Central share (%)
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	100
2.	Grants under proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution	100
3.	Scheme of Post Matric Scholarships, Book Bank and Upgradation of Merit of ST Students	100
4.	Scheme of Hostels for ST Girls and Boys	50
5.	Establishment of Ahsram Schools in Tribal Areas	50
6.	Grant to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)	50
7.	Grant-in-Aid to NGOs for STs including Coaching & Allied Scheme and Award for exemplary service	
	(a) Grant-in-Aid to NGOs	90
	(b) Coaching & Allied	100
8.	Vocational Training centres in Tribal Areas	100
9.	Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for development of women literacy in Tribal areas	100
10.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)	100
11.	Grant-in-Aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce	100
12.	Support to National/State Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development	
	(a) NSTFDC	100
	(b) STDCs	49
13.	Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for ST Students	100
14.	Exchange of visits by tribals	100

(b) and (c) During the review meeting of State Secretaries in-charge of Tribal Development/Welfare held on 13 February, 2007 and the Conference of State's Ministers in-charge of Tribal Welfare/Development held on 14 February, 2007 in New Delhi, some of the State Governments had requested for raising the central share for implementing the schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The funding pattern under various schemes is decided by the Planning Commission.

(d) and (e) The issue of improving the monitoring of the utilisation of the funds provided by this Ministry was mentioned at the State Ministers' Conference, but there was no discussion about setting up an independent mechanism.

*[English]*

**Submission of Unauthorised Construction  
List by Delhi Police**

1881. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued instructions to SHOs of all Police Stations in Delhi to submit a list of unauthorized constructions in their jurisdiction;

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

(c) whether all the Police Stations have submitted such lists;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the names of the Police Stations who have not submitted such lists;

(f) the action taken by the Government against such Police Stations; and

(g) the time by which such report is likely to be submitted by the Police Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Union Government has not issued any such instructions to Station House Officers (SHOs) of all Police

Stations in Delhi to submit a list of unauthorized construction in their jurisdiction. However, Delhi Police vide its circular No. 15/2006 has directed that SHOs are required to inform the land owning agency/civic bodies about any unauthorized constructions/encroachments on public land under their respective jurisdiction and also to stop further encroachment. This should be on the basis of a visual survey. Police may take action to stop unauthorized construction only if appropriate directions are made under the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957/ any other statute or on the basis of orders issued by Courts from time to time. In addition, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 4582/2003 titled Kalyan Sanstha Welfare Organisation V/s Union of India and others had directed that the intimation with regard to unauthorized construction being forwarded by the SHOs to the land owning agency may also be endorsed to the Monitoring Committee at their Office.

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

**Production of Coffee**

1882. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual coffee production and consumption in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether big industrial houses are buying coffee at a very low price and selling it at high price to urban customers; and

(c) if so, the action taken to stop the exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) The details of annual coffee production and consumption for the last three years are as under:

(in MT)

Year	Production	Domestic Consumption
2003-04	2,70,500	70,000
2004-05	2,75,500	75,000
2005-06	2,74,000	80,200

(b) and (c) No such report has come to the knowledge of the Government of India.

**National Police University**

1883. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a high level committee to prepare an action plan for setting up the National Police University in the country;

(b) if so, the details and recommendations of the committee;

(c) whether the Government has examined such recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when this University is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Committee appointed by the Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted a preliminary study of a proposal to set up National Police University. Since the proposal is at preliminary consideration stage, no specific time frame can be indicated.

**Diversion of Funds**

1884. SHRI N.N.KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed diversion or non-utilisation of Tribal Funds in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether any proper monitoring system is working to check the misuse or diversion of tribal funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) No report of diversion of funds has come to the notice of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. However, non utilisation does occasionally take place in some States.

The mechanism followed to ensure proper utilisation of funds is as under:

(i) The provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act are strictly followed;

(ii) Utilisation Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;

(iii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained;

(iv) Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the States/Union Territories for ascertaining the progress of implementation of various schemes/programmes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs;

(v) Meetings/Conferences are convened at the Central level with State Ministers and State Secretaries in charge of Tribal Welfare and Development Departments in the States to ensure timely submission of proposals, speed up of implementation of the schemes/programmes, and reviewing the physical and financial progress;

(vi) At the State and field level, bodies like the Tribes Advisory Council, Project Implementation Committees of ITDPs and Panchayat Samities also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of the schemes/programmes.

**Special Economic Zones**

1885. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment made in the Special Economic Zones that have been approved and start their functioning;

(b) the details of zone-wise investment made; and

(c) the product-wise details of the SEZs alongwith the targets fixed in each SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Investment to

the tune of Rs. 13435 crores has been made in the 63 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) notified under the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005.

(b) and (c) No specific targets are fixed for each SEZ. Statement showing zone-wise investment and product sector are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Zone	Product Sector	Invest made in Rs. Cr.	Sl.No.	Name of the Zone	Product Sector	Invest made in Rs. Cr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Divi's Laboratories Limited	Pharma	78.78	32	KIADB	Textile	6.85
2.	WIPRO Limited	IT/ITES	77.98	33	Shyamraju and Company	IT/ITES	35
3.	Apache SEZ Development India Private Limited	Footwear	200	34	Cesena Garden Developers	IT/ITES	70
4.	A.P. Techno Projects Private Limited	IT/ITES	4	35	Maryata Promoters	IT/ITES	284
5.	Hyderabad Gems SEZ Limited	Gems and Jewellery	10	36	Infopark	IT/ITES	29
6.	Satyam Computers Services Limited	IT/ITES	1	37	Cochin Port Trust, Puthuvypen	Port Based	230
7.	Satyam Computers Services Limited	IT/ITES	60	38	Cochin Port Trust, Vallarpadam	Port Based	0
8.	K Raheja IT Park (Hyderabad) Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	19.15	39	Electronic Technology Park	IT/ITES	0
9.	CMC	IT/ITES	31.24	40	Electronic Technology Park	IT/ITES	0
10.	Sanghi SEZ Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	1002	41	Serum Bio-pharma Park	Pharmaceuticals	45.18
11.	Whitefield paper mills Ltd	Writing and printing paper	5.6	42	EON Kharadi Infrastructure Private Limited	IT/ITES	184
12.	APIIC, Madhurwada	IT/ITES	—	43	MIDC (Al and Aluminium related)	Aluminium	11.81
13.	Hetro Infrastructure private Limited	Pharma	2.5	44	Wipro (Hinjewadi, Pune)	IT/ITES	153.75
14.	FAB City SPY (India) Limited	Semi-conductor	70	45	MIDC	Pharmaceuticals	3.75
15.	APIIC	ITES	—	46	Royal Palms (India) private Limited	Agro processing	323.2
16.	Chandigarh Administration	IT/ITES	31.24	47	MIDC	Agro processing	15
17.	Reliance Infrastructure Limited	Petrochemicals	4477.25	48	Medicaps IT Park Private Limited	IT	0
18.	Mundra Port and Special Economic Zone Ltd.	Multi-product	2057	49	MPAK VN (Indore) Ltd.	IT/ITES	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Zydus Infrastructure Private Limited	Pharmaceuticals	80	50	Quarkcity India Pvt Ltd.	EH/IT/ITES	157
20.	Essar Hazira SEZ Limited	Engineering	2000	51	Flextronics Technologies (India) Private Limited	IT	200
21.	Gujarat Industrial Development Corpn.	Multi product	522	52	Tata Consultancy Services Limited	IT/ITES	200
22.	Dahej SEZ	Electronic Products	24	53	Syntel International Private Limited	IT/ITES	4.5
23.	Uppal Developer Private Limited	Multi services	Nil	54	ETL Infrastructure Services Ltd.	IT/ITES	173.8
24.	DLF Ltd	IT/ITES		55	Hexaware Technologies Limited	IT/ITES	14.5
25.	Adityapur industrial area development authority	Automobiles components	Nil	56	Shriram Properties	IT/ITES	10
26.	WIPRO Limited (Electronic City)	IT	85	57	Coimbatore Hitech Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	IT/ITES	20
27.	WIPRO Limited (Sarjapur)	IT	26	58	DLF Infocity Developers (Chennai) Ltd.	EH/IT/ITES	150
28.	Biocon Limited.	Bio-technology	181.28	59	SIPCOT	EH/IT/ITES	NIL
29.	Vikas Telecom Limited	IT/ITES	5.98	60	Moser Baer India Limited	Solar cell etc.	28.36 cr
30.	Adarsh Prime Projects Private Limited	IT/ITES	2	61	Ansal IT City and Parks Ltd.	IT/ITES	Nil
31.	Tanglin Development Limited	IT/ITES		62	HCL Technologies	IT/ITES	0
				63	M.L. Dalmiya and Company	IT/ITES	0

[Translation]

### NHRC Suggestion on Terrorist Activities

1886. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has suggested that the cases related to terrorist activities should be disposed of/investigated by Central Bureau of Investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other suggestions/recommendations made by NHRC for effective implementation of various laws by investigating agencies; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 310 of 1996 in the matter of Shri Prakash Singh & others versus Union of

India & Others, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has filed their views regarding 'Federal Crimes and their investigation by a Central Agency' before the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the said case and has, inter-alia, recommended that Central Bureau of Investigation should have concurrent jurisdiction to investigate federal crimes. Presently, the matter is sub-judice.

#### **Cotton Purchased by Cotton Corporation of India**

1887. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on Cotton Corporation of India during each of the last three years;

(b) the total value of the cotton purchased from farmers during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether Cotton Corporation of India has failed to achieve its objective;

Year	MSP purchases (in lakh bales)	Value (in Rs. crores)	losses reimbursed to CCI (In Rs. crore)
2001-02	9.00	818.53	96.13
2004-05	26.49	2558.42	166.99
2005-06	13.28	1273.70	219.39
2006-07*	11.71	1191.00	125.00

(d) and (e) Does not arise. The Government's and CCFs measures have ensured remunerative prices to the cotton growers.

#### **Falling of Handloom Industry**

1888. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom Industry is on the verge of destruction due to Government policies during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) As and when *kapas* prices touches the Minimum Support Price (MSP) level, the CCI is mandated to procure cotton offer at MSP declared by the Government of India in all cotton growing States. There is no quantitative restriction regarding MSP procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI). MSP procurement is the result of many market forces over which neither the government nor the CCI have adequate control. As the CCI is able to procure adequate quantity of cotton under MSP, it has achieved its stated objectives. The loss occurred and reimbursed during 2001-02, 2004-05 and 2005-06 to the CCI on MSP operations are as under:

(c) the details of weavers who have committed suicide during each of the last three years; State/Union Territory wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir. The estimated cloth production in handloom sector in the year 2005-06 was 6108 million sq. mtrs as compared to 5722 million sq. mtrs in 2004-05 and 493 million sq. mtrs in 2003-04 which shows an annual increase of 6.75% in the year 2005-06 and 4.17% in the year 2004-05.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information has been called from all States/ Union Territories. Only the Government of Andhra Pradesh

and Karnataka have reported suicides by handloom weavers during the last three years, year-wise details of which are as under:

State	2004	2005	2006
Andhra Pradesh	32	32	27
Karnataka	0	0	1

#### **Security System in Jails**

1889. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce centrally sponsored schemes for revamping the security system in Jails;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such schemes are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) There is no new proposal in the Government of India to introduce a centrally sponsored scheme to exclusively revamp the security system in Jails; However, a central Scheme for Modernisation of Prisons with an outlay of Rs. 1800 crores was introduced in 2002-03 for a period of five years on a cost sharing basis between the Central Government and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 respectively for the construction of new jails, renovation and upgradation of existing jails, construction of staff quarters for prison personnel and for providing water and sanitation facilities. The construction of high security enclosures and improving other security systems are covered under the components relating to the construction of new jails and renovation and upgradation of existing jails. The scheme has been extended upto 31.3.2009.

*[English]*

#### **Basmati Rice**

1890. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters voiced their views against genetic modification of rice, particularly basmati;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Exporters have not voiced their views against generic modification of rice, particularly basmati. However, consequent to restrictions put on US rice exports to EU (on detection of GM rice in long grain rice exported by United States America to Europe Union) concerns were raised about field trials of Genetically Modified (GM) rice in India. The exporters of Basmati rice fear that even an accidental contamination could jeopardize the future prospects of Basmati rice exports from India.

(c) Steps taken by Government of India in this regard are as under:

- i. As a policy measure, no basmati rice has been permitted for genetic modification.
- ii. The Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) has decided that no GM rice will be permitted for trial in geographically indicated Basmati Rice growing areas of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.
- iii. Ensuring strict compliance with regulations that govern trials including mandatory norm of a minimum isolation distance and physical barrier for GM trials.
- iv. In each and every case the companies involved in the development of Transgenic Rice will be required to put the GM Detection Capacities in place before seeking any permission for trials.

#### **National Jute Board**

1891. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Jute Board has been constituted;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Board for the development and modernization of Jute Industry and the response of the Jute Industry; and

(c) if not, the measures taken by the Government for sustainable development of Jute Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has taken several steps for sustainable development of jute industry which include measures like prescribing compulsory packaging of foodgrains and sugar in jute bags under the Jute Packaging (compulsory use in packing commodities) Materials Act, 1987, Export Market Assistance (EMA) Scheme, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of the Jute Industry besides R&D measures/machinery development under the Jute Technology Mission (JTM).

*[Translation]*

#### Report of the Sorabjee Committee

1892. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Sorabjee Committee's Report on Police Reforms;

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

(c) if so, the number of recommendations accepted and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Soli Sorabjee Committee has submitted to the Government a draft Model Police Act.

(b) The salient features of the Model Police Act inter-alia includes setting up of a State Police Board, fixity of tenure of the Director General of Police of the State and other key police functionaries, Setting up of Police Establishment Committees for the purpose of effecting transfers and postings of police officers, separation of

investigation police from law and order police and setting up of Police Accountability Mechanisms at the State and District levels.

(c) The Model Police Act contains 221 Sections/ Clauses. Police being a State subject, the Model Police Act has been sent to all State Governments for appropriate consideration and action. The Central Government is considering introduction of a Bill to cover Police administration in the Union Territories to replace the existing enactments.

*[English]*

#### Closed Cotton Mills

1893. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton mills closed during each of the last three years and the number of mills proposed to be closed by the Government in the country, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for rehabilitation of the employees of the closed mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) 28 cotton/ man made fibre textile mills (Non SSI) were closed in the country during last 3 years i.e from 01.02.2004 to 31.1.2007. The state-wise details of mills are furnished in the enclosed Statement. No mill is proposed to be closed by the Union Government.

(b) In order to provide interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile units, Government has introduced the **Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme** with effect from 15th September, 1986. Since the inception of the scheme till 20th December, 2006, 32 units in Gujarat, 3 units in Maharashtra, 4 units in Madhya Pradesh, 4 units in Tamilnadu, 2 units in Karnataka, 1 unit in Delhi and 1 unit in West Bengal, i.e. a total of 47 mills were found eligible under the scheme. A total of 80264 workers of these mills have been disbursed relief of Rs. 186.56 crore.

**Statement**

*Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills reported as closed during the last three years (01.02.2004 to 31.01.2007)*

Sl.No.	During the year (01.02.2004 to 31.01.2005)
--------	--

1	2
---	---

**Gujarat**

1	Arunoday Mills
---	----------------

**Punjab**

1	Kharar Textile Mills
---	----------------------

**Tamilnadu**

1	Sri Vigneswara Cotton Mills Limited
---	-------------------------------------

**Orissa**

1	Akhandalmani Spinners & Exporters Limited
---	---

Total 4 (During Year 2004-05)

*During the year (01-02-2005 to 31-01-2006)*

**Andhra Pradesh**

1	Parkins Textiles (Private) Limited
---	------------------------------------

**Karnataka**

1	Sree Yallamma Cotton Woollen & Silk Mills
---	---

**Maharashtra**

1	The Dawn Mills Company Limited
2	The Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Company Limited (Spring Mills)

Total 2

**Rajasthan**

1	Super Syncotex (India) Limited
---	--------------------------------

**Tamilnadu**

1	Coimbatore Sri Deepa Textile Mills
2	Ragas Spinners P Ltd

Total 2

**Uttar Pradesh**

1	Swadeshi Cotton Mills [Unit of N.T.C, (Uttar Pradesh) Limited]
---	--

1	2
---	---

2	Eastern Spinning & Textile Mills Private Limited
---	--

3	Uttar Pradesh State Spinning Company Limited
Total-3	

Total 10 (During Year 2005-06)

*During the year (01-02-2006 to 31-01-2007)*

**Gujarat**

1	Aryaman Spinners (Private) Limited
---	------------------------------------

2	Broach Textile Mills Limited
---	------------------------------

3	Niranjan Mills (A Division of Piramal Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.)
---	--

Total -3

**Haryana**

1	Mahalakshmi Cotspin Limited (Parshva Exports Limited)
---	---

**Orissa**

1	Jaganath Weavers Cooperative Spinning Mills
---	---

**Punjab**

1	M.V. Cotepin Limited
---	----------------------

**Tamilnadu**

1	The Coimbatore Pioneer Mills Limited B- Unit
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2	Swarnambigai Textiles
---	-----------------------

3	The Dhanalakshmi Mills Limited
---	--------------------------------

4	The South India Co-Operative Spinning Mills Limited
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5	The Salem Co-Operative Spinning Mills
---	---------------------------------------

6	Gowri Sankar Spinning Mills (Private) Limited
---	---

7	S.K.G. Mills (Private) Limited
---	--------------------------------

8	Veena Textiles Limited
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Total -8

Total 14 (During the Year- 2006-07 Upto January-2007)

Grand Total—28

**Sick Industries**

1894. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has held any meeting with the officials of West Bengal to revive sick industries in the State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. However, whenever officials of the concerned States have any issues requiring the consideration of and initiative by this department to revive sick units in their respective states, such discussions are welcome and encouraged.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides providing a policy regime that facilitates and fosters growth and development of industries, steps taken for revival of sick industrial units, *inter-alia*, include setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and issue of guidelines by Reserve Bank of India to banks for financial support and amalgamation of sick units with healthy units. Wherever feasible rehabilitation schemes are sanctioned for the revival of the units registered with the BIFR which, *inter alia*, include restructuring of the capital, induction of fresh funds by the promoters, Government assistance for public sector units, merger with other companies, relief and concessions in the form of rescheduling of dues by Financial Institutions, banks and Government and change of management.

[Translation]

#### Special Economic Zones

1895. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land acquired by the Government so far for the Special Economic Zones and the details thereof;

(b) the names of the promoters of the land that has been acquired;

(c) the investment likely to be made by these promoters; and

(d) the provisions made for acquisition of land for SEZs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date, the extent of land involved is 33,807 hectares of which approximately 17,800 hectares of land was already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations. The rest of the lands were those which were already in the possession of the developers. Thus in all these 234 cases, there was no fresh acquisition of land.

(c) Out of the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date, 63 Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been notified. In these 63 notified SEZs, investment of Rs. 13,435 crores has already taken place. Expected investment in these SEZs is of the order of Rs. 53,561 crores by December 2009. If all the 234 SEZs for which formal approval has been granted become operational, investment of the order of Rs. 3,00,000 Crores is expected to take place.

(d) In cases where land is not in possession of the SEZ Developer, the developers directly purchase the land from the land owners or the State Governments initiate land acquisition proceedings under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 as amended. Each State acquires land, for various purposes including for SEZs.

[English]

#### Annual Action Plan

1896. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:  
SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented/launched in the States including Andhra Pradesh to empower the women socially and economically, State-wise;

(b) whether the financial assistance is provided to the States under the said schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three year, State-wise;

(d) whether the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh have submitted their Annual Action Plan for the last three years under various schemes to empower the women in the States;

(e) if so, the details of the Annual Action Plan, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI

RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Details of the schemes are available on the website of the Ministry of Women and Child Development ([www.wcd.nic.in](http://www.wcd.nic.in))

(c) Details of the funds released are given in the respective Annual Reports of the Ministry, which are also available on the website.

(d) and (e) State Governments including Andhra Pradesh have submitted Annual Action Plan under the Swayamsidha scheme. The Plan includes activities such as training programmes, exposure visits, community oriented innovative interventions, administrative expenses etc.

(f) Based on the Annual Action Plan and fund utilization further grants were released to the States as indicated in the statement at Annexure.

#### **Statement**

#### *Details of the grants released under Swayamsidha Scheme*

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh		143.67	110
2. Arunāchal Pradesh			
3. Assam			100
4. Bihar			100
5. Chhattisgarh	39	25	60
6. Gujarat			30.60
7. Haryana	69	33.6	69.62
8. Himachal Pradesh	3.63	39.17	32.39
9. Jammu & Kashmir		28	70.98
10. Jharkhand	51.01		25
11. Karnataka	99.06	25.22	110
12. Kerala	33.89	20	132.43
13. Madhya Pradesh		45	200
14. Maharashtra	81	136	159.48

	1	2	3
15. Manipur	12.39	19.31	
16. Meghalaya	6	5	29
17. Mizoram	5	13.74	27.12
18. Nagaland	11.41	23.92	46.71
19. Orissa	50	92.14	113.45
20. Punjab			25
21. Rajasthan		25	180
22. Sikkim	8	17	25.75
23. Tamil Nadu	70	175	167.02
24. Tripura	9	6.5	10.94
25. Uttar Pradesh	122.44		
26. Uttaranchal		25	83
27. West Bengal	76.98	50	99.63
28. A&N Islands			
29. Delhi	5.68		
30. Lakshadweep			
31. Pondicherry			13.4

#### **Assistance for Infrastructural Development**

1897. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the overseas agencies who are providing fund for the infrastructural development in the country, agency-wise;

(b) the amount of assistance sanctioned by these agencies for the infrastructural development in the country during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any assistance/fund obtained from the Indo-US CEO Forum during the same period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

#### **Textile Industry**

1898. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether textiles is a low profit and capital intensive industry, hence scaling up of operations is essential for it to be viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the textile sector and make it competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Not all segments of textiles are capital intensive. Only spinning and processing may be said to be capital intensive. However, low profitability of any business including the textiles depends on a number of factors like management skill, type of technology/machinery being used in the unit, productivity of the unit, marketing strategy etc. These days textile sector has immense possibilities and opportunities, domestically as well as globally, mainly after the removal of quota restrictions with effect from 1.1.2005 and surge in the organized retail industry. Scaling up of operations to reach at least the minimum economic size makes the unit more competitive and results in economic and financial viability of the unit. It is a continuous process or any business and has to be decided in view of opportunities and threats in the business. In order to boost the textiles sector and make it competitive Government has taken a number of measures as furnished in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

##### *Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector*

- (i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the **Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)**. The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The **Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)** was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganised sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced

w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

- (iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "**Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)**" has been introduced in August 2005.
- (v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-added Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.
- (vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.
- (vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- (viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:
  - \* Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.
  - \* Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
  - \* Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.
  - \* Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP)

(ix) In the Budget 2007-08 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:

- Enhancement in provision under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) from Rs. 189 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 425 crore in 2007-08.
- Continuation of the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme in the Eleventh Plan with enhanced allocation of Rs. 911 crore in 2007-08 from Rs. 535 crore in 2006-07
- Enhancement in the allocation for the Handloom sector from Rs. 241 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 321 crore for 2007-08.
- Reduction in the customs duty on polyester fibres and yarns from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

(x) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(xi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

(xii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route,

(xiii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(xiv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

(xv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:

- Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International Benchmarking.

- appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.

- Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.

*[Translation]*

#### Setting up of Finishing Schools

1899. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up 'finishing schools' to make the Engineering Graduates capable keeping in view of the lack of ability to get employment in most of the engineering graduates as reported in 'The Times of India' dated February 7, 2007;

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

(c) the number of graduate engineers likely to be benefited from the above 'finishing schools'; and

(d) the time by which the above schools are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In order to impart communication and IT skills to engineering graduates as well as to brush-up their knowledge of core subjects so *s/s* to make them employable in IT/ITeS sectors, it has been decided to start Finishing Schools, initially in seven National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at Jaipur, Kurukshetra, Durgapur, Warangal, Trichy, Calicut and Surathkal as well as at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. The Finishing School courses would be organized during May-July, 2007. Each Institute would conduct Finishing School courses for a period of 8 to 10 weeks for engineering graduates who are unemployed. The Institutes would utilize their existing infrastructure for conducting the courses.

*[English]***Funds under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana**

1900. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds proposed to be allocated under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) to each State/Union Territory for the year 2007-08; and

(b) the criteria fixed for release of funds?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), allocation of funds is related to the allocation of targets to States/Union Territories (UTs) by the Central Government. The criteria for allocation of targets include population of the States/UTs, number of educated unemployed youth registered with the employment exchanges, performance of the Scheme in the State/UT during the preceding year, recovery of loan overdues and the requests of States/UTs for allocation of targets and Central funds. An amount of Rs.345.39 crore have been proposed for the year 2007-08 in the Demand for Grants under PMRY.

Funds to individual State/UT will be allocated and released for the year 2007-08 on the basis of their eligibility in accordance with the criteria mentioned above, after closure of the current financial year i.e. 2006-07.

**Spices Board**

1901. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Spices Board has been entrusted two projects recently to Cochin University Science and Technology (CUSAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which these projects are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Setting Up of Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair in JNU**

1902. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair in the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether various organisations of Jawahar Lal Nehru University have sent any proposals to the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the Jawaharlal Nehru University a proposal to set up Shaheed Bhagat Singh Chair in the University was received from one of the faculty members and the JNU Teachers Association. The proposal is yet to be considered by the Academic Council and the Executive Council of the University.

**World Bank Report on Trade Investment**

1903. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has made any review in its report for the year 2005-06 regarding conducive environment for trade investment in South-Asian countries, particularly India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has also termed Pakistan as more business friendly country to India for its investment purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the names of metropolitan cities in India termed as 'more friendly business cities' on the basis of assessment made; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide more facilities to develop remaining cities as business friendly cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The World Bank has published a report on "Doing Business" in South-Asia for the year 2007. Data in the above report pertain to years 2005-06. Doing Business in South Asia 2007 is third in a series of regional Doing Business reports. "Doing Business" report investigates the scope and manner of regulations that enhance business activity and those that constrain it. New quantitative indicators on business regulations and their enforcement have been compared across 8 countries in the region and overtime, together with global best practices. Doing Business in South Asia builds indicators for 12 cities in India, 6 in Pakistan and 4 in Bangladesh. In all, economies of 8 South Asian Countries, namely, Maldives, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, India, Bhutan and Afghanistan have been studied and ranking has been awarded keeping in view of the ease/constraints of Doing Business. The World Bank in its report has evaluated the economic performance broadly based on 10 parameters. Those parameters are as follows:

1. Starting of business
2. Dealing with licenses
3. Employing workers
4. Registering property
5. Getting credit
6. Protecting investors
7. Paying taxes
8. Trading across borders
9. Enforcing contracts
10. Closing a business

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ranking as published by World Bank of South-Asian Countries is as follows:

	Country's Name	Rank
1.	Maldives	53
2.	Pakistan	74
3.	Bangladesh	83
4.	Sri Lanka	89
5.	Nepal	100
6.	India	134
7.	Bhutan	138
8.	Afghanistan	162

(e) The World Bank Report has compared the business practices amongst 12 Indian cities and they have been given ranking as listed below:

	City	Rank
	Hyderabad	1
	Bangalore	2
	Jaipur	3
	Chennai	4
	Bhubaneswar	5
	Lucknow	6
	Chandigarh	7
	New Delhi	8
	Patna	9
	Ranchi	10
	Mumbai	11
	Calcutta	12

(f) Action to further improve the business environment in various cities has been initiated and measures on various fronts are being taken as elaborated below:

On line registration of companies initiated through MCA-21, on line registration of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Employees Provident Fund (EPF), obtaining Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Account Number (TAN) simultaneously through a single source, computerization of offices of Sub-Registrar across States, abolition of Central Sales Tax (CST) by 2010, reduction of documentation in case of import and export—are some of the measures being taken to improve business environment in the country.

#### FDI in Mining Sector

1904. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) at large scale for exploration and mining work in mineral sector;

(b) if so, the details of new mining policy;

(c) the details of FDI made during the last three years and the minerals for whose production, refinement and exploration, it has been utilised; and

(d) the proposed target of FDI for 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The National Mineral policy, 1993 for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals, has thrown open the mining sector for private investment including foreign direct investment (FDI). The above policy envisages that foreign technology and foreign participation in exploration and mining of high value and scarce minerals will be encouraged. FDI upto 100% is now allowed under the automatic route for all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including diamonds and precious stones.

(c) Mineral concessions are granted by the respective State Governments, which are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdiction, to individuals, public sector companies, private sector companies and companies with foreign equity participation. According to the information received from Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, the FDI inflow in the metallurgical industries, including mining, during the last three years are as follows:

Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 (upto Dec. 2007)
FDI inflow (in Rs. Crores)	146.06	880.95	680.84	678.11

(d) The Government has not fixed any target for FDI in 2007-08.

*[English]*

#### Revival of Bharat Gold Mines

1905. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML);

(b) whether the Government proposes to revive BGML;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of rehabilitation measures taken by the Government for the employees of BGML; and

(e) the time by which mining work in BGML is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) was closed with effect from 1st March, 2001 under Section 25(0) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

(b) to (e) Karnataka High Court in its order dated 26.9.2003 had given certain recommendations including, inter alia, that Government should take appropriate steps to enable such of the employees, who have accepted the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), to form an Employees Co-operative by providing them appropriate land and such machinery and equipment as it can spare, so that they can take up projects with their specialised knowledge and experience. Government has decided to invite global bids for assessment/sale of the assets of the BGML and to make counter offer to society/company

floated by the co-operative society of ex-employees of BGML, at the highest bid received or the value assessment made by the in-house Committee (to be reassessed at the time of transfer) whichever is higher. This is subject to approval of Karnataka High Court (company court) and viability of the project. Company Application has been filed in the Karnataka High Court in this regard.

#### Hand Woven Khadi

1906. SHRI NARHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of hand-spun, hand-woven woollen and silk khadi produced in the country including West Bengal and Orissa during last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the quantity of mineral, forest crop, agro and food, chemical and polymer, hand made paper produced and manufactured during the same period alongwith the details of production in rural engineering sector, State-wise;

(c) the assistance provided by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the said period; and

(d) the names of said units of Khadi and Rural Industry and quantity produced by these units alongwith the assistance provided?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of the quantity of hand-spun, hand-woven cotton, woollen and silk khadi produced in the country, including West Bengal and Orissa, during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement I, II and III respectively.

(b) Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) promotes off-farm, post harvesting activities and the forest crop does not fall under its purview. The village industries promoted by KVIC are categorised under seven broad groups, namely, (1) Mineral based industry [MBI] (2) Forest based industry [FBI] (3) Agro and Food processing industry [AFPI] (4) Polymer and chemical based industry [PCBI] (5) Handmade paper and fibre industry [HMPFI] (6) Rural engineering and bio-technology industry [REBTI], and (7) Service activities. The State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of the value of production of these seven groups of village industries, during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement IV, V and VI respectively.

(c) Financial assistance is provided by KVIC mainly as (i) assistance from Government of India's budgetary source (ii) Assistance to avail of credit from banks. The details of assistance provided through Government of India's budgetary source during the last three years are given below:

Year	Khadi		Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) Margin Money Assistance
	Grant	Loan	
2003-04	94.73	3.89	296.43
2004-05	85.56	1.91	322.22
2005-06	85.33	1.61	377.72

For assistance to avail bank loans, under Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) scheme, KVIC issues ISECs to Khadi/Polyvastra implementing agencies for availing loans from banks at concessional rate of interest. Under REGP, which is a credit linked scheme, loans are provided by banks to entrepreneurs in combination with margin money assistance from KVIC. The details of the above assistance through banks are given below:

Year	Credit availed under ISEC (Rs. crore)	Credit availed under REGP (Rs. crore)
2003-2004	362.70	669.35
2004-2005	278.47	665.53
2005-2006	233.23	730.18

(d) Under REGP as on 31.03.2006, 2,36,355 village industry units were set up., Khadi is implemented by khadi institutions (NGOs) registered with KVIC/Khadi and Village Industries Boards of States/Union Territories

(KVIBs). 1891 NGOs are implementing the khadi programme. The cumulative performance in terms of value of production of these khadi and village industry units is given below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Khadi Production	Village Industries Production	Total Khadi and Village Industries
2003-2004	453.50	9228.27	9681.77
2004-2005	461.54	10458.89	10920.43
2005-2006	468.30	11915.54	12383.84

**Statement I***State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Khadi during 2003-04*

(lakh square meters)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Cotton Khadi	Woollen Khadi	Silk Khadi	Total Khadi
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
2.	Delhi	3.69	0.54	0.00	4.23
3.	Haryana	27.52	11.36	0.00	38.88
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.79	1.34	0.00	2.13
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.17	4.54	0.00	4.71
6.	Punjab	17.80	0.90	0.00	18.70
7.	Rajasthan	24.26	9.92	0.00	34.18
8.	Bihar	11.81	0.79	0.76	13.36
9.	Jharkhand	0.98	0.01	0.90	1.89
10.	Orissa	1.78	0.00	1.61	3.39
11.	West Bengal	10.48	0.00	33.21	43.69
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
13.	Assam	0.07	0.00	1.88	2.58
14.	Manipur	0.52	0.00	0.21	0.73
15.	Meghalaya	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.03

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Mizoram	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.05
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.21	0.21
18.	Sikkim	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.11
19.	Tripura	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.12
20.	Andhra Pradesh	29.11	0.62	1.22	30.95
21.	Karnataka	34.25	7.55	3.39	45.19
22.	Kerala	14.96	0.00	0.18	15.14
23.	Pondicherry	0.16	0.00	0.02	0.18
24.	Tamilnadu	32.02	0.00	7.04	39.06
25.	Gujarat	27.52	1.05	0.08	28.65
26.	Maharashtra	3.96	0.00	0.01	3.97
27.	Chhattiagarh	1.52	0.11	2.46	4.09
28.	Madhya Pradesh	4.12	0.92	0.46	5.50
29.	Uttarakhand	12.46	2.30	0.00	14.76
30.	Uttar Pradesh	317.95	11.91	0.51	30.37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>578.80</b>	<b>53.87</b>	<b>54.21</b>	<b>686.88</b>

**Statement II***State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Khadi during 2004-05*

(lakh square meters)

SI.No.	State/Union Territory	Cotton Khadi	Woolen Khadi	Silk Khadi	Total Khadi
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
2.	Delhi	4.64	0.80	0.00	5.44
3.	Haryana	31.21	12.60	0.00	43.81
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.81	1.34	0.00	2.15
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.14	3.30	0.00	3.44
6.	Punjab	18.80	10.35	0.00	29.15
7.	Rajasthan	24.86	10.22	0.00	35.08
8.	Bihar	11.51	1.08	1.00	13.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Jharkhand	0.98	0.01	0.90	1.89
10.	Orissa	1.24	0.00	1.15	2.39
11.	West Bengal	10.78	0.00	23.19	33.97
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.02
13.	Assam	1.07	0.00	1.85	2.92
14.	Manipur	0.53	0.00	0.24	0.77
15.	Meghalaya	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
16.	Mizoram	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.05
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.28	0.28
18.	Sikkim	0.12	0.02	0.00	0.14
19.	Tripura	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.13
20.	Andhra Pradesh	28.38	0.49	1.24	30.11
21.	Karnataka	34.91	7.65	3.26	45.82
22.	Kerala	13.99	0.00	0.29	14.28
23.	Pondicherry	0.16	0.00	0.02	0.18
24.	Tamilnadu	32.60	0.00	7.13	39.73
25.	Gujarat	28.62	1.45	0.08	30.15
26.	Maharashtra	4.31	0.00	0.01	4.32
27.	Chhattisgarh	1.79	0.07	2.51	4.37
28.	Madhya Pradesh	2.81	0.65	0.68	4.14
29.	Uttar Pradesh	319.74	12.08	0.53	332.35
30.	Uttarakhand	16.07	2.12	0	18.19
Total		590.24	64.24	44.42	698.90

**Statement III***State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Khadi during 2005-06**(lakh square meters)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Cotton Khadi	Woollen Khadi	Silk Khadi	Total Khadi
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01
2.	Delhi	4.54	0.86	0.00	5.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Haryana	31.53	12.72	0.00	44.25
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.82	1.35	0.00	2.17
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.13	2.88	0.01	3.02
6.	Punjab	12.57	10.80	0.00	23.37
7.	Rajasthan	23.59	10.66	0.00	34.25
8.	Bihar	8.17	0.55	0.76	9.48
9.	Jharkhand	0.99	0.01	0.92	1.92
10.	Orissa	1.04	0.00	0.98	2.02
11.	West Bengal	11.57	0.00	23.39	34.96
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.03
13.	Assam	0.48	0.00	3.42	3.90
14.	Manipur	0.48	0.00	0.17	0.85
15.	Meghalaya	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04
16.	Mizoram	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.05
17.	Nagaland	0.01	0.16	0.31	0.48
18.	Tripura	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.17
19.	Sikkim	0.04	0.02	0.00	0.06
20.	Andhra Pradesh	13.45	0.29	1.94	15.68
21.	Karnataka	34.51	5.96	4.50	44.97
22.	Kerala	17.26	0.00	0.21	17.47
23.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
24.	Tamilnadu	35.22	0.00	5.85	41.07
25.	Gujarat	29.23	1.39	0.08	30.70
26.	Maharashtra	4.35	0.00	0.01	4.36
27.	Chhattisgarh	1.02	0.05	2.77	3.84
28.	Madhya Pradesh	2.32	1.72	1.25	5.29
29.	Uttarakhand	15.92	2.34	0	18.26
30.	Uttar Pradesh	337.01	12.26	2.32	351.59
Total		586.46	64.03	48.98	699.47

**Statement IV****State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Village Industries during 2003-04**

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	MBI	FBI	AFPI	PCBI	HMPFI	REBTI	Service Industry	Total village Industries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Chandigarh	245.71	119.53	452.51	275.93	78.93	306.90	145.08	1624.59
2.	Delhi	816.61	423.18	1527.21	892.52	268.79	1026.52	461.07	5415.90
3.	Haryana	3963.74	2585.62	6067.70	3658.20	1185.74	5295.06	830.78	23586.84
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4051.77	2529.96	7236.99	4179.74	1180.14	5485.40	1554.21	26218.21
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3052.33	1785.48	5426.01	3239.81	1043.07	3973.63	1311.28	19831.61
6.	Punjab	6937.82	5166.61	10725.33	7332.51	1773.04	8784.91	2122.84	42843.06
7.	Rajasthan	14908.55	7858.31	23569.85	13672.32	4396.13	18219.31	5273.27	87897.74
8.	Andaman & Nicobar	89.03	73.61	126.22	89.45	21.89	129.96	79.60	609.76
9.	Bihar	3251.89	1437.55	5097.47	2974.86	882.11	3524.29	1513.10	18681.27
10.	Jharkhand	1581.21	343.36	223.90	64.25	46.27	308.79	444.74	3012.52
11.	Orissa	2484.57	1427.81	4063.30	2369.39	781.21	3142.02	917.40	15185.70
12.	West Bengal	4753.38	4353.68	7576.52	5174.20	1411.91	6302.84	1234.27	30806.80
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.39	72.47	60.38	82.08	57.46	147.82	49.17	520.77
14.	Assam	1366.08	950.34	2136.70	1035.11	329.10	1658.72	497.12	7973.17
15.	Manipur	928.01	477.80	1674.89	988.56	430.80	1171.46	479.34	6150.86
16.	Meghalaya	673.85	505.74	939.89	545.76	129.99	729.59	180.30	3705.12
17.	Mizoram	531.83	372.90	835.82	611.84	170.87	683.04	673.44	3879.74
18.	Nagaland	839.02	441.81	1282.90	755.25	245.32	990.21	367.38	4921.89
19.	Sikkim	92.96	101.31	190.28	80.96	130.15	142.61	24.65	762.92
20.	Tripura	688.49	216.88	823.44	406.33	223.66	659.04	123.37	3141.21
21.	Andhra Pradesh	7948.54	5225.84	10949.28	6702.93	1889.97	8155.66	2041.80	42914.02
22.	Karnataka	13144.07	5665.20	23591.70	12963.45	3849.21	14886.57	5079.42	79179.62
23.	Kerala	8500.84	4601.17	12947.18	7105.29	2444.65	9604.25	2477.21	47680.59

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Lakshadweep	17.02	9.44	28.29	16.01	3.68	23.84	6.77	104.85
25.	Pondicherry	67.02	36.55	181.02	59.78	28.89	89.24	85.34	547.84
26.	Tamil Nadu	11201.28	5778.33	19792.31	11386.03	3614.27	14288.46	5305.76	71386.44
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14.79	3.73	36.32	8.13	0.15	9.35	19.79	92.26
28.	Goa	468.29	323.63	778.72	499.04	146.06	600.87	186.69	3003.30
29.	Gujarat	6785.31	3406.25	12560.00	7355.23	2247.24	8515.63	3939.41	44809.07
30.	Maharashtra	20499.09	11380.83	38544.26	21924.66	6482.50	25831.32	10275.61	132938.27
31.	Chhattisgarh	2588.89	873.77	2216.11	1266.73	292.58	1720.56	272.61	9231.25
32.	Madhya Pradesh	8464.92	4672.61	14266.84	8387.78	2667.02	11108.57	3738.16	53305.90
33.	Uttar Pradesh	19066.68	11198.81	34406.93	19245.66	5682.20	24198.04	8556.45	122354.77
34.	Uttaranchal	1487.19	1075.29	2050.31	1115.88	595.97	1901.26	303.80	8529.30
Total		151562.17	85495.4	250386.58	146465.47	44730.97	183615.54	60571.03	922827.16

**Statement V***State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Village Industries during 2004-05*

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	MBI	FBI	AFPI	PCBI	HMPFI	REBTI	Service Industry	Total village Industries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Chandigarh	245.71	133.97	528.32	275.93	78.93	329.27	148.73	1740.86
2.	Delhi	816.61	423.18	1538.92	900.4	268.79	1026.52	471.23	5445.65
3.	Haryana	5150.72	2535.49	9967.05	4282.86	1748.07	7543.5	974.46	32202.15
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4099.47	2640.47	7939.7	4341.86	1231.43	6355.12	1687.11	28295.16
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3111.76	1874.63	5983.77	3692.31	1237.79	5386.14	2365.19	23651.59
6.	Punjab	7382.57	5451.86	10903.61	7878.65	2254.62	10413.45	2234.58	46519.37
7.	Rajasthan	18958.93	8225.65	27021.04	14750.93	4592.26	20326.56	5969.1	99844.47
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	93.49	77.29	126.22	89.45	21.89	129.96	80.97	619.27
9.	Bihar	2636.63	462.96	12425.33	1688.68	26.1	2803.9	462.79	20306.41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10.	Jharkhand	1626.37	348.24	463.04	104.5	64.57	459.47	364.29	3430.48
11.	Orissa	3164.18	1609.04	5649.12	2822.47	1007.75	4048.22	965.66	19296.44
12.	West Bengal	5363.5	4361.1	7633.36	8731.68	2034.2	4963.05	4314.22	37421.11
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	96.91	132.11	78.65	94.21	57.46	271.41	57.92	788.67
14.	Assam	1659.73	1492.22	1234.21	2378.65	244.61	1701.97	420.68	9132.07
15.	Manipur	984.82	496.7	1769.6	1026.41	442.14	1248.01	493.19	6460.87
16.	Meghalaya	911.1	537.77	1163.02	576.84	143.69	949.57	208.52	4490.51
17.	Mizoram	663.45	383.51	1022.51	639.77	180.95	954.31	744.8	4589.3
18.	Nagaland	941.82	489.85	1453.79	755.25	245.32	1383.07	403.3	5672.4
19.	Tripura	980.58	134.94	302.63	492.32	98	845.57	492.41	3346.45
20.	Sikkim	123.21	97.42	234.98	52.71	65.33	239.05	150.4	963.1
21.	Andhra Pradesh	9821.08	5939.63	17161.76	8397.13	2629.07	11802.07	2318.44	57869.18
22.	Karnataka	13961.81	5868.59	25546.49	13521.95	4128.46	16003.56	5399.81	84470.67
23.	Kerala	8742.05	4816.83	14591.68	7939.47	2714.45	11201.88	2635.79	52642.15
24.	Pondicherry	59.91	48.56	109.59	62.72	28.89	167.59	88.46	565.72
25.	Tamilnadu	12084.12	5915.26	21692.98	11908.06	3955.51	15482.63	6367.94	77406.5
26.	Lakshadweep	17.02	9.44	28.29	16.01	3.68	23.64	6.77	104.85
27.	Dadra & Nagar-Haveli	14.79	3.73	36.32	8.13	0.15	9.35	19.79	92.26
28.	Goa	484.93	323.63	718.49	778.72	146.06	639.72	205.87	3297.42
29.	Gujarat	7005.23	3437.12	12974.92	7796.44	2354.92	9498.85	4838.7	47908.18
30.	Maharashtra	21616.64	11712.66	39312.29	22692.52	6841.07	27323.43	10375.16	139873.77
31.	Chhattisgarh	4319.55	1207.11	3926.39	1741.96	326.91	2319.17	395.27	14236.36
32.	Madhya Pradesh	17576.98	2415.53	13809.45	9942.87	2291.66	11518.05	4563.87	62118.41
33.	Uttarakhand	1762.4	1140.92	3058.68	1339.86	693.88	2296.06	425.5	10717.3
34.	Uttar Pradesh	21438	13621.16	40482.51	21049.1	6437.3	27598.22	9754.08	140380.37
Total		177956.07	86368.59	290888.74	162772.82	48595.91	206862.34	70425.20	1045889.47

**Statement VI***State/Union Territory-wise details of production of Village Industries during 2005-06*

(Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	MBI	FBI	A&FPI	PCBI	HMP/ FIBRE	REBT	Service Industry	Total Village Industries
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Chandigarh	245.71	133.97	534.62	275.93	78.93	329.27	153.66	1752.09
2.	Delhi	816.61	447.12	1568.32	912.27	273.10	1040.59	479.67	5537.68
3.	Haryana	6644.91	2809.59	13238.96	4512.08	1809.81	9409.14	1204.82	39629.31
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4474.01	2781.74	8867.80	4560.10	1356.59	7715.92	1846.24	31602.40
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3811.90	2049.67	7559.18	3861.10	1325.31	6261.37	2444.66	27313.19
6.	Punjab	8055.57	5627.63	12485.94	8035.93	2321.30	11314.56	2324.81	50185.74
7.	Rajasthan	21210.03	8788.40	32086.04	15285.85	4872.66	23140.40	6855.69	112239.07
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	277.29	123.22	539.87	129.82	44.68	359.75	102.24	1576.87
9.	Bihar	3115.84	582.79	13503.63	1803.24	80.75	3202.93	569.68	22858.86
10.	Jharkhand	1921.32	421.94	1126.64	171.22	99.12	828.13	405.51	4973.88
11.	Orissa	3859.81	1762.24	7129.41	2980.50	1088.96	5020.05	1096.43	22917.40
12.	West Bengal	6926.95	4802.15	11482.11	9062.48	3356.89	6285.74	4800.00	48526.32
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	136.28	234.28	148.84	120.25	62.76	406.76	86.58	1195.75
14.	Assam	4112.48	2063.42	6374.96	2935.73	530.21	4563.17	675.65	21255.62
15.	Manipur	1020.21	507.30	1851.03	1026.41	442.14	1294.05	503.73	6644.87
16.	Meghalaya	1107.77	586.91	1605.53	622.78	168.26	1195.38	236.23	5522.86
17.	Mizoram	1499.67	592.57	2904.06	832.23	285.48	1999.59	840.55	8954.15
18.	Nagaland	1182.22	549.91	1994.70	810.53	275.34	1683.58	430.90	6927.18
19.	Sikkim	240.39	126.72	498.69	78.75	79.98	385.52	163.92	1573.97
20.	Tripura	1207.22	159.20	527.80	649.40	177.54	1181.83	539.73	4442.72
21.	Andhra Pradesh	17252.86	7120.67	22188.32	9181.06	3015.58	13795.57	2803.52	75157.58
22.	Karnataka	15407.82	8245.06	28755.03	13864.15	4306.70	17786.09	5826.83	92191.68
23.	Kerala	10088.89	5143.01	17622.08	8260.40	2882.77	12885.45	2891.88	59774.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
24.	Lakshadweep	33.56	9.44	58.06	16.01	3.68	23.64	10.74	155.13
25.	Pondicherry	70.52	51.19	133.48	64.87	30.36	180.87	89.70	620.99
26.	Tamilnadu	13204.68	6033.65	22723.24	12275.29	4818.35	17894.27	7245.94	84195.42
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	14.79	3.73	36.32	8.13	0.15	9.35	19.79	92.26
28.	Goa	500.94	323.63	910.54	778.72	146.06	643.71	239.10	3542.70
29.	Gujarat	7746.99	3622.55	14643.90	7967.18	2437.14	10426.05	5916.38	52760.19
30.	Maharashtra	22942.11	12051.87	42388.84	22851.96	7000.03	29011.10	10560.83	146806.74
31.	Chhattisgarh	6329.77	1324.03	6239.38	2173.88	496.85	2899.51	527.39	19990.81
32.	Madhya Pradesh	18513.00	2649.51	15915.49	10054.01	2413.88	12688.07	4850.44	67084.40
33.	Uttarakhand	1979.38	1204.87	3894.94	1582.73	949.71	2937.03	549.79	13098.45
34.	Uttar Pradesh	23501.05	14161.97	45255.19	21520.60	6718.03	30214.40	11102.17	152478.41
Total		209452.55	95095.95	346802.94	169265.59	53929.1	239012.84	77995.2	1191554.17

#### Indo-Japan Bilateral Trade

1907. ADV. SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the report of Indo-Japan Study Group on the bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has considered the report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Study Group (JSG) has recommended that the Government of Japan and India launch an inter-governmental negotiation to develop an Economic partnership Agreement (EPA)/comprehensive Economic partnership Agreement (CEPA), within a reasonable period of time. The JSG also recommended that negotiations on the proposed EPA/CEPA be conducted in a specially-constituted Joint task force, or another mutually agreed suitable mechanism, consisting of government officials.

(c) and (d) The report of the JSG was considered by the Government and the constitution of Joint Task Force to negotiate EPA/CEPA with Japan was approved. The first meeting of India-Japan Joint Task Force was held during January 31—February 2, 2007 in New Delhi.

#### Police Net Project

1908. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Police Net Project (POLNET) launched by the Ministry three years back;

(b) the details of the States which defaulted on this count and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the funds spent on this project, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A satellite based police telecommunication system known as POLNET is presently under implementation through Directorate of Coordination Police Wireless (DCPW), New Delhi. Installation of Satellite portion of POLNET project has been completed at all the State Headquarters/District Headquarters (except a few new districts) and is fully

functional. The installation of POLNET Multi Access Radio Telephone (MART) Radio Subscriber Units (RSUs) has been completed at all the feasible sites of 15 States/ Union Territories and installation work on the feasible locations is in progress in 14 States. The sites in Lakshadweep are not feasible for installation of MART RSUs.

(b) In Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and States of Bihar & Orissa, the installation of Multi Access Radio Telephone Radio Subscriber Units has not yet started due to geographical conditions, non-completion of sites, finalisation of tender for equipment. Also States of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh had initially shown reluctance for installation of the MART equipment of the terrestrial links but have now indicated their willingness for installation of the MART equipment.

(c) The POLNET Project is funded by Government of India under the Scheme of Modernisation of State Police Forces. Out of the total cost of Rs. 99.06 crores to implement the POLNET Project, an expenditure of Rs. 91.48 crores has been incurred. The total share of the expenditure till date in respect of States/Union Territories and Central Para Military Forces is Rs. 914862045/ States/ Union Territories and Central Para Military Forces-wise details of the expenditure is given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

S.No.	State/Union Territories/Central Para Military Forces	Total Expenditure by the Organisation as on date (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37267283
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11390580
3.	Assam	22732737
4.	Bihar	35955486
5.	Chhattisgarh	14698984
6.	Goa	4816845
7.	Gujarat	23766126
8.	Haryana	17177436
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12105320
10.	Jharkhand	17488668

1	2	3
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	14119365
12.	Karnataka	27184355
13.	Kerala	19613071
14.	Madhya Pradesh	37151244
15.	Maharashtra	37189232
16.	Manipur	9305785
17.	Meghalaya	8341239
18.	Mizoram	5619257
19.	Nagaland	9217259
20.	Orissa	23515623
21.	Punjab	19382941
22.	Rajasthan	32868074
23.	Sikkim	6211551
24.	Tamil Nadu	34919147
25.	Tripura	5781977
26.	Uttar Pradesh	55528654
27.	Uttaranchal	10930923
28.	West Bengal	21019343
<b>Total</b>		<b>575298505</b>
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	4717388
2.	Chandigarh	2331214
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3270638
4.	Daman & Diu	3242792
5.	Delhi	8661036
6.	Lakshadweep	4041789
7.	Pondicherry	7123799
<b>Total</b>		<b>33388656</b>
1.	Assam Rifles	21846607
2.	Central Reserve Police Force	22700641

1	2	3
3.	Directorate Coordination Police Wireless	202935724
4.	Border Security Force	33251576
5.	Indo-Tibetan Border Police	8661109
6.	Central Industrial Security Force	4300289
7.	Sashastra Seema Bal	12278938
Total		305974884
Grand Total		914662045

#### Reserves of Mineral Wealth

1909. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has lot of reserves of coal, iron ore and manganese for mineral prospects and need huge investments and fast technology; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government for desired investments and technology for exploration of such reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As per available information, total reserves of coal, iron ore and manganese ore in the country as on 1.4.2005 are given below:

Mineral	Reserves (in million tonnes)
Coal (as on 1.1.2007)	255170
Iron ore	7211
Manganese ore	138

For encouraging investment and technology inflow in the mining sector, the National Mineral Policy, 1993 has thrown open the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including iron ore & manganese to private investment. Modernization programme for exploration of minerals has been undertaken in Geological Survey of India by acquiring airborne geophysical system and deep capacity drills.

#### Swayamsidha Scheme

1910. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the State Governments including Kerala for extending the Swayamsidha Scheme to March 31, 2008 with a revised allocation;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and action taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Request for extending the Scheme of Swayamsidha till March 31, 2008 with revised allocation has been received from the State Governments of Manipur and Mizoram. No such request has been received from Government of Kerala.

(b) The State Governments of Manipur and Mizoram have sent the Annual Action Plan for 2007-08 under Swayamsidha for Rs. 23.53 lakhs and Rs. 39.24 lakhs respectively.

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

#### Silk Projects

1911. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of the country including West Bengal in which silk projects have been implemented during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of work on which funds have been spent in these areas during the last three years alongwith the amount of such funds, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(c) the details of achievements of these projects, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) Out of the total outlay of Rs. 534.98 crores approved by the

Government of India for sericulture during the X Five Year Plan, an outlay of Rs. 244.47 crores has been earmarked for implementation of Catalytic Development Programme (CDP). State-wise details of the funds released during the last three years under CDP are

furnished in the enclosed Statement-I. Details of the activities undertaken under CDP and the fund released activity-wise, the physical and financial achievements are furnished in the enclosed Statement II and III respectively.

**Statement I**

*State-wise funds released, funds utilized and unspent balances with States under CDP during last three years of X Plan (from 2003-04 to 2005-06)*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
		Fund Released	Fund Utilized	Unspent Balance	% of UCs Recd.	Fund Released	Fund Utilized	Unspent Balance	% of UCs Recd.	Fund Released	Fund Utilized	Unspent Balance	% of UCs Recd.
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Karnataka	764.24	764.24	0.00	100%	825.38	825.38	0.00	100%	1112.43	1112.43	0	100%
2.	Tamilnadu	152.33	152.33	0.00	100%	166.58	166.58	0.00	100%	269.42	257.83	11.59	96%
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	313.61	313.61	0.00	100%	262.84	262.84	0.00	100%	594.79	465.89	128.9	78%
4.	Andhra Pradesh	878.68	878.68	0.00	100%	1203.59	1203.59	0.00	100%	1658.04	1499.02	159.02	90%
5.	West Bengal	48.47	48.47	0.00	100%	112.84	112.84	0.00	100%	133.97	114.00	19.97	85%
6.	Maharashtra	104.48	104.48	0.00	100%	50.80	50.80	0.00	100%	48.83	38.38	10.45	79%
7.	Madhya Pradesh	74.92	74.92	0.00	100%	79.83	79.83	0.00	100%	187.04	187.04	0.00	100%
8.	Orissa	82.29	82.29	0.00	100%	24.32	24.32	0.00	100%	154.49	116.16	38.33	75%
9.	Bihar	38.30	38.30	0.00	100%	88.99	88.99	0.00	100%	161.79	130.52	31.27	81%
10.	Uttar Pradesh	52.91	52.91	0.00	100%	92.05	92.05	0.00	100%	60.24	60.24	0	100%
11.	Kerala	82.30	82.30	0.00	100%	106.32	106.32	0.00	100%	34.32	34.32	0	100%
12.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.39	0.39	0.00	100%	0.00	0	0	—
13.	Himachal Pradesh	349.62	349.62	0.00	100%	308.41	308.41	0.00	100%	17.91	17.91	0	100%
14.	Chattisgarh	125.23	125.23	0.00	100%	156.35	156.35	0.00	100%	128.55	128.55	0	100%
15.	Jharkhand	83.77	83.77	0.00	100%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	100.84	90.04	10.80	89%
16.	Uttaranchal	112.30	112.30	0.00	100%	117.43	117.43	0.00	100%	178.38	174.87	3.51	98%
17.	Sikkim	16.45	16.45	0.00	100%	43.27	43.27	0.00	100%	25.51	25.51	0	100%
18.	Assam	315.28	315.28	0.00	100%	442.21	442.21	0.00	100%	922.53	704.57	217.96	76%

1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	48.79	48.79	0.00	100%	88.63	88.63	0.00	100%	54.19	54.19	0	100%
20.	Manipur	24.00	24.00	0.00	100%	67.24	67.24	0.00	100%	80.25	80.25	0	100%
21.	Meghalaya	87.39	87.39	0.00	100%	173.19	173.19	0.00	100%	18349	183.49	0.00	100%
22.	Mizoram	106.97	106.97	0.00	100%	141.71	141.71	0.00	100%	367.91	308.99	58.92	84%
23.	Nagaland	32.31	32.31	0.00	100%	106.45	106.45	0.00	100%	151.59	151.59	0.00	100%
24.	Tripura	28.01	28.01	0.00	100%	185.73	185.73	0.00	100%	130.43	130	0	100%
Total		3922.65	3922.65	0.00	100%	4844.15	4844.15	0.00	100%	6756.94	6066.22	690.72	90%

UCs received shown includes amount spent/released in respect of Post Cocoon Sector, CSB Institutes and Cluster Units of CSB (Kerala, Bihar & Himachal Pradesh)

### Statement II

#### *Catalytic Development Programme during X Plan*

#### *Achievements made during last three years of X Plan (2003-04 to 2005-06)*

(Rs. in Crores and Physical units as indicated)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme components	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
		Physical Achievement	Expenditure	Physical Achievement	Expenditure	Physical Achievement	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>A. Ongoing Schemes</b>							
<b>I. Mulberry Sector/ Component</b>							
1.	Reimbursement of cost of saplings to DOS	2.42 crore saplings	1.11	4.67 crore saplings + 8000 M.Trees	1.64	7.60 crore saplings + 4000 M.Trees + 7.241	1.92
2.	Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments to:					lakh mulberry plants	
(a)	Onfarm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists (for general farmers)	12824 Nos.	2.36	13570 Nos.	249	17713 Nos.	3.20
(b)	Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments (including improved mountages) to farmers	5197 Nos.	3.07	5982 Nos. & 3 SHGs.	4.08	8002 Nos	4.55
3.	Assistance for Drip irrigation and other Water Conservation and usage techniques	1975 ha	5.30	2558 Ha.	7.31	2978.70 Ha.	8.14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Supply of quality disinfecting materials	18785 PI/F1 farmers	0.97	11834 PI /F1 Farmers	1.06	15085 PI /F1 Farmers	1.06
5.	Equipment upgradation of existing State/Parastatal/Co-operative infrastructure in seed and reeling	79 units	0.94	69 units	0.87	71 units	0.63
6.	Assistance to farmers for construction of rearing houses	7421 Nos	11.79	10596 Nos.	17.11	9612 Nos.	14.22
7.	Chawkie rearing centres—Assistance for construction of CRC building and procurement of chawkie rearing equipments	61 Buildings	0.76	134 CRCs	1.75	119 CRCs	1.62
8.	Crop Insurance support	2.00 lakh dfls	0.02	4.02 lakh dfls	0.03	3000 DFLs	
	Total for Mulberry (ongoing)	—	26.32		36.14	—	35.34
<b>II. Tassar Sector/Component</b>							
1.	Assistance for augmentation/maintenance of systematic tasar/oak tasar host plantation.	1617 ha. (tassar) 1441 farmers (chawkie) 110 ha. (oak tasar)	0.35	1620 ha.(tassar) 3330 farmers (chawkie) 360 ha. (oak tasar)	0.53	2467 ha (tassar) 5967 farmers (chawkie) 395 ha. (oak tasar)	0.82
2.	Assistance for maintenance of tasar/oak tasar seed multiplication infrastructure in the states.	6 PPCs , 2 Oak tassar grainages, 426 seed rearers, 155 oak tassar seed rearers	0.38	31 PPCs, 758 tasar, 113 oak tassar seed rearers	0.71	26 PPCs, 728 tassar, 318 oak tassar seed rearers & 2 oak tasar grainages	0.81
3.	Support to private tasar graineurs	357 graineurs 952 ha.	1.25	110 graineurs 1365 ha.	1.27	421 graineur groups 2543 ha.	2.92
4.	Crop Insurance support for Tassar	38.02 lakh dfls	0.20	8.55 lakh dfls Dependant	0.05	10.31 lakh DFLS	0.05
	Total for Tassar Sector	—	2.18	—	2.56	—	4.60
<b>III. Eri Sector/Component</b>							
1.	Augmentation of Eri food plants with training and startup tools	2299 half acre units	0.74	3460 half acre units	0.69	11440 half acre units	2.32
2.	Assistance to states for the strengthening of eri farm-cum-grainages	8 farm-cum- grainages	0.30	25 farm-cum- grainage	0.25	21 farm-cum- grainages	0.69

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assistance for construction of en rearing houses	688 Nos.	0.49	2948 Nos.	1.91	5635 Nos.	4.25
4.	Support to Private graineurs (Nos)						
Total for Eri Sector		—	1.53	—	3.05	—	7.26
<b>IV. Muga Sector/Component</b>							
1.	Augmentation of Muga food plants	1535 acres + 710 seed rearers	0.87	2419 acres + 876 seed rearers	1.57	2915 acres + 1244 seed rearers	1.96
2.	Strengthening of muga seed multiplication infrastructure	2 farms - cum-grainages	0.31	3 farm-cum-grainages	0.23	11 farm-cum-grainage	1.27
3.	Support to muga private grainers	163 graineurs 718 farmers	1.31	204 graineurs 942 farmers	1.66	248 graineurs 677 farmers	2.24
4.	Crop Insurance support: for Muga	0.04 lakh dfls		0.50 lakh dfls	neg. (Rs. 33,000/-)	2.40 lakh dfls	0.03
Total for Muga Sector		—	2.49	—	3.46	—	5.50
<b>V Post Cocoon Sector/Component</b>							
1.	Supply of multiend silk reeling machines		0.45	—	0.08 (Backlog)	1 no .4 nos.Uahna Koti	0.07
	(i) 6 Basin Units						
	(ii) 10 Basin Units	2 Nos.					
	(iii) 20 Basin Units						
	(iv) Training/Interaction						
2.	Support to Reeling Units:						
(a)	Interest subsidy on Working Capital loan sanctioned by Bank to reeling units						
	(i) Mulberry	23 Nos.	0.47	3 Nos.	0.04	9 Units	0.21
	(ii) Tasar/Muga reeling units						
	(iii) Tasar/Muga/Eri spinning units						
(b)	Incentive for production of bivoltine silk on multiend reeling machines	192 MT	0.99	109.10 MT	0.62	182.36 MT.	0.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Quality Service Clubs :						
	(i) Procurement of cocoon quality grading equipments.	—		3 Nos.	0.02		
	(ii) Procurement of raw silk testing equipments	—		1 No.	0.01		
4.	Providing Master Reelers/Vweavers/Dyers to States	—	0.01	11 Nos.	0.01	9 Nos.	0.02
5.	Installation of Common Facility Centre						
	(i) Mulberry		0.04	Backlog + 1	0.15 (Backlog)	6 Nos.	0.08 (Backlog)
	(a) Category-I						
	50 Kgs. capacity	—					
	100Kgs. capacity	—					
	(b) Category—II						
	50 Kgs capacity	—	—				
	(c) Training/Marketing Linkage programmes	—	—				
	(ii) Non-mulberry	—	—				
6.	Quality linked price support scheme for cocoons and silk yarn:						
	(a) Quality linked purchase of cocoons	8 States	2.25	4 States	1.18	12 States	3.11
	(b) Quality linked purchase of silk yarn	7 States	1.54	1 State	0.25	2 States	0.19
7.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-operative Societies) for upgradation and popularization of improved reeling/spinning devices		0.41		0.52		0.19
	(i) Reeling Devices	67 nos.		822 Nos.		312 Nos	
	(ii) Spinning Devices	172 nos.		1200 Nos.		670 Nos.	
	Total for Post Cocoon (ongoing)	—	6.16	—	2.38	—	4.82
VI.	Enterprise Promotion and Training	14 Nos.	0.14	16 Nos.	0.06	18 Nos.	0.44
VII.	Extension & Publicity material in local languages	13 States	0.41	11 States	0.27	21 States	0.98
Total for On-going CDP Schemes			39.23		48.44		58.94
B.	Additional Inputs to CDP approved by EFC/CCEA						
I.	Mulberry Sector						
1.	Support for construction of Vermi Compost Sheds					1053 Nos.	074

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Supply of Rearing Appliances - Improved Mountages					595 Nos.	1.00
3.	Drip Irrigation					400 ha.	1.56
4.	Assistance to Private Licensed Silkworm Seed Producers						
Total for Mulberry Components							3.90
<b>II. Post Cocoon Sector</b>							
1.	Setting up of Automatic Reeling machines					3 Nos.	1.50
2.	Establishment of Cottage Basin Units Establishment of Hot air drying						
3.	Chambers					30 Nos.	1.08
	(a) For 50 Kgs per day				(100 Kg.)		
	(b) For 120 Kgs per day						
4.	Scheme to dissuade child labour with use of improved technologies.						
	(a) Motorized Charkas						
	(b) Dupion Silk Reeling; Machine						
	(c) Pressurized Cooking Machine						
5.	Common Facility Centre for Yarn Processing						
	(a) CFC without arm dyeing						
	(b) CFC with arm dyeing						
	(c) Fabric Dyeing						
6.	Promotion of improved Handlooms developed by CSTRl						
	(a) Handloom with jacquard						
	(b) Handloom without jacquard						
	(c) Ball to beam conversion device						
	(d) Additional equipments for p.t looms						
7.	Setting up of CFCs for Vanya silk yarn processing linked to mechanized spun silk system					2 Nos.	2.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	(a) CFCs						
	(b) Spun Silk Mills						
8.	Incentive for Bivoltine Silk Reelers						
	Total for PCT Components						4.83
<b>III</b>	<b>Other Schemes</b>						
1.	Support for Bye-product utilisation						
2.	Establishment of Vanya Silks Market Promotion Cell						
3.	Setting up of Eri Raw Material Bank					—	0.50
	Total for Other Components	—	—	—	—	—	0.50
	Total for Addl. inputs under CDP	—	0		0	—	8.63
	Total for CDP (Ongoing + Additional inputs)	—	39.23	—	48.44	—	67.57

**Statement III***12 March-2007*

*Catalytic Development Programme in West Bengal State during X Plan  
[Physical Achievements and Expenditure during 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06]*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Amount spent/leased		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
<b>I</b>	<b>Mulberry Sector/Component</b>			
1.	Reimbursement of cost of saplings to DOS (Saplings in thousands)	1.88 750	3.25 1300	2.50 1000
2.	Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments to farmers:			
	(a) On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists (for general farmers) - No. of farmers	11.50 1000	25.18 2252	28.75 2500
	(b) Supply of rearing appliances/farm equipments to tanners (for bivoltine farmers)—No. of tool kits			
3.	Supply of quality disinfecting materials (No. of farmers)	12.98 2900	0.78 324	1.25 500

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Assistance for construction of Varmi Compost Sheds			2.80
	(No. of units)			40
5.	Assistance to farmers for construction of rearing houses		50.00	55.75
	(No. of rearing houses)		850	926
6.	Equipment upgradation of existing State/Parastatal/ Co-operative infrastructure in seed and reeling		0.50	2.50
	(No. of units)		20	
7.	Crop Insurance support	0.68	0.68	
	(lakh dfls)	1.00	1.00	
<b>Sub-total for mulberry sector</b>		<b>26.44</b>	<b>80.37</b>	<b>93.55</b>
<b>II Tassar Sector/Component</b>				
1.	Assistance for augmentation/maintenance of systematic tassar/oaktassar host plantation.			
(a)	Assistance to tassar seed rearers for maintenance of systematic tassar host plantation (hectares)	0.36	1.71	1.71
		37	175	175
(b)	Assistance to tassar commercial rearers for development of chawkie garden (no of rearers)	0.49	0.79	0.68
		162	264	225
(c)	Augmentation of oak tassar host plantation (hectares)			
2.	Assistance for maintenance of tassar/oak tassar seed multiplication infrastructure in the states.			
(a)	Assistance for maintenance of tassar seed multiplication infrastructure in States (No. of PPCs)	0.13	1.53	3.13
			3	3
(b)	Assistance for maintenance of oak tassar seed multiplication infrastructure in States (No. of oak tassar grainages)			
(c)	Rearing equipment support to tassar seed rearers (No. of tassar seed rearers)	1.33	1.57	1.31
		50	60	50
(d)	Rearing equipment support to oak tassar seed rearers (No. of oak tassar seed rearers)			
3.	Support to private tassar graineurs and Assistance to tassar commercial rearers for procurment of improved rearing equipments			

1	2	3	4	5
(a)	Support to private tasar graineurs	0.13	1.25	1.25
	(No. of pvt. graineurs)	1	5	5
(b)	Support to tasar commercial rearers for procuring rearing equipments (Ha.)	5.40	7.88	6.30
		120	175	140
4.	Crop Insurance support for Tasar (lakh dfls)	2.46	2.82	
		4.00	4.50	
Total for tasar sector		10.30	17.55	14.38
<b>III Eri Sector/Component</b>				
1.	Augmentation of Eri food plants with training and start up tools (No. of rearers)	071	1.41	2.82
		37	75	150
2.	Assistance to states for the strengthening of eri farm-cum-grainages (No. of farm-cum-grainages)		2.10	0.90
			1	1
3.	Construction of Eri rearing houses (Nos.)	0.69	0.75	1.50
		12	15	30
Total for Eri sector		1.40	4.26	5.22
<b>IV Muga sector/component</b>				
1.	Augmentation of Muga food plants			
(a)	Augmentation of Muga food plants (Acres)	2.10	3.50	4.37
		60	100	125
(b)	Assistance muga seed rearers for maintenance of plantation (No of seed rearers)	0.10	0.15	0.38
		20	30	75
2.	Assistance for maintenance of muga seed multiplication infrastructure in the States (No. of farm-cum-grainages)		1.24	3.27
			1	1
3.	Support to muga private graineurs			
(a)	Support to muga private graineurs (No. of graineurs)	0.13	1.00	1.50
			4	6
(b)	Equipment support to muga seed rearers (No. of seed rearers)	1.26	1.80	3.38
		28	40	75

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Crop Insurance support for Muga (Lakh dfls)	0.26 0.04	0.33 0.50	
	Total for muga sector	3.85	8.02	12.90
<b>V</b>	<b>Post cocoon Sector/Component</b>			
1.	Supply of multiend silk reeling machines			
2.	Quality Service Clubs :			
	(i) Procurement of cocoon quality grading equipments. (No. of units)		0.25 1	
	(ii) Procurement of raw silk testing equipments (No of units)		0.50 1	
3.	Quality linked price support scheme for cocoons and silk yarn			
	(a) Quality linked purchase of cocoons (Not Quantifiable)	250		3.75
	(b) Quality linked purchase of silk yarn (Not Quantifiable)			
4	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-operative Societies) for upgradation and popularization of improved reeling/spinning devices	2.73		048
	(i) Reeling Devices (Nos.)			15
	(ii) Spinning Devices (Nos.)			21
	Total for Post cocoon sector	5.23	0.75	4.23
<b>VI</b>	<b>Enterprise Promotion and Training</b>		0.44	1.00
	(No. of Programmes)		1	2
<b>VII</b>	<b>Extension &amp; Publicity material in local languages (Not Quantifiable)</b>	1.25	1.25	2.69
	Total I to VII)	48.47	112.64	133.97

**Foreign Companies in Textile Manufacturing**

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

1912. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(c) the incentives sought by the foreign companies from the Government?

(a) whether some foreign companies have shown their interest to start textile manufacturing in Andhra Pradesh;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c)

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Technology Mission on Indian Silks

1913. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a "Technology Mission for Indian Silks" for promotion and development of sericulture industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Member Secretary, Central Silk Board (CSB) had submitted a document called "Technology Mission for Indian Silks" which, on examination, was found unsatisfactory by the Government and the same has been returned to CSB for modifications in consultation with the State Governments and with the formal approval of the Board of CSB.

#### Silk Yarn Units

1914. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of silk yarn units in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish modern raw silk yarn reeling units in the country;

(c) if so, the details of such units set up during each of last three years and till date, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) the estimated cost thereof;

(e) whether some State Governments/Union Territories have sought financial assistance for the purpose from the Union Government; and

(f) if so, the assistance provided/likely to be provided during the said period by the Government in this regard, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The State wise number of silk yarn units in the country is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has approved setting up of two modern automatic raw silk yarn reeling units in the country during the year 2006-07 with machineries imported from China. The Units are being established in Jangaon, Warangal District of Andhra Pradesh and at Gobichettypalyam in Erode District of Tamilnadu. The Units are likely to commence operation during 2007-08. The cost towards each of the machine is estimated to be around Rs.100.00 lakhs.

(e) and (f) Government is providing a maximum subsidy of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for each Unit towards the cost of machinery and equipment.

#### Statement

##### *Statewise Silk Yarn Basins in the Country during 2005-06*

	Filature Basins	Cottage Basins	Charkha Basins	Multiend Basins
	1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	129	114	903	144
Assam		622		36
Arunachal Pradesh				
Bihar		90	162	

	1	2	3	4
Chattisgarh	42	34	30	24
Gujarat				
Himachal Pradesh		18		
Haryana				
Jammu & Kashmir				
Jharkhand		6		10
Karnataka	30	21445	18403	1902
Kerala				30
Madhya Pradesh		30	6	60
Maharastra		110	14	140
Manipur		36	2916	50
Mizoram				
Meghalaya		12		20
Nagaland		5		10
Orissa	36	6		22
Punjab				
Rajasthan				
Sikkim				
Tamilnadu		981	133	108
Tripura		6		20
Uttarakhand				
Uttar Pradesh**		34		181
West Bengal	780	1806	28872	180

Source: DOSs of all the State, reported in their MIS Report Note:

Note : \*\* In UP out of 181 Multiend basins, only 80 basins are working

\*\* In UP out of 34 Cottage basins, only 26 basins are working

*[Translation]***Handicrafts Trade**

1915. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual volume of trade in handicrafts in the country including Rajasthan, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to promote the handicraft trade; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No data on volume of trade in handicrafts in the country including the State of Rajasthan, State-wise and Union Territory-wise is maintained.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to promote handicrafts trade in the country including in the State of Rajasthan, the Government is implementing various schemes, which include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft clusters; Marketing Support and Services; Design & Technology Up-gradation; Export Promotion; Research &

Development and Special Handicrafts Training Project (SHTP) etc.

**Closure of Spinning Mill**

1916. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA:  
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills closed down during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the scheme of the Government for revival of spinning mills lying closed for a long time in the country including Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the pitiable condition of the employees due to closure of the mills;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy for revival of these mills; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) State-wise number of spinning mills (Non-SSI) closed during last 3 years and the current year (01.04.2003 to 31.01.2007) is given below:

State	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 upto 31.01.07	Total
Andhra Pradesh	4		1		5
Gujarat		2		1	3
Haryana	2	1			3
Karnataka			1		1
Kerala	5				5
Madhya Pradesh	2				2
Maharashtra	2		1		3
Orissa	1	1	1		3
Punjab				1	1
Rajas than	1	1	1		3
Tamilnadu	28	3	1	1	33
Uttar Pradesh		3		3	
Pondechery	1				1
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>66</b>

(b) For the sick mills which may or may not be closed including spinning mills, the Government has set up Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act with a view to arranging the timely detection of sick and potentially sick companies and for the speedy determination of preventive, ameliorative and remedial measures which need to be taken in respect of such companies. BIFR appoints operating agencies for preparation of rehabilitation proposals in respect of potentially viable units. The decision on rehabilitation is taken by BIFR based on its findings. However, co-operative sector is not covered under BIFR. The BIFR Scheme is applicable to mills all over India including mills in the state of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) In order to provide interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile units, Government has introduced the **Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme** with effect from 15th September, 1986. Since the inception of the scheme till 20th December, 2006, 32 units in Gujarat, 3 units in Maharashtra, 4 units in Madhya Pradesh, 4 units in Tamilnadu, 2 units in Karnataka, 1 unit in Delhi and 1 unit in West Bengal, i.e. a total of 47 mills were found eligible under the scheme. A total of 80264 workers of these mills have been disbursed relief of Rs. 186.56 crore.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Purulia Arms Dropping Case**

1917. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI has issued look out notices against persons allegedly involved in Purulia arms dropping case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has enquired into the matter in the past; and

(d) if so, the details of findings along with the reasons of air dropping of arms there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has issued Look Out Notices against 14 persons.

(c) and (d) The investigations have, inter-alia, disclosed that the arms dropping was a result of an international conspiracy to clandestinely procure arms and air-drop them in Purulia to be meant for some protists of Anand Marg.

#### **Fluctuations in Prices**

1918. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed a Committee to study the fluctuations in prices and other issues related to rubber, coffee, tea and spices of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the report from the said committee;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein;

(d) whether the insurance cover is presently available in the plantation sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to extend the accident insurance cover to all workers engaged in the plantation estates;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to implement weather-linked insurance cover for the plantation sector particularly coffee, to protect the small scale farmers and ensure stability of prices of cash crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Department of Commerce constituted a Task Force for

undertaking a study to evolve a mechanism to protect the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and spices from adverse effect of price volatility in the Plantation sector, the feasibility of making direct compensation to the growers for the losses suffered by them, the feasibility of introducing an instrument which enables the growers to park surplus funds during good crop years and offers market related interest rate, the feasibility of a risk management support mechanism to small growers to mitigate the effects of adverse weather and pest related risks etc. The Task force submitted its report on 30th January, 2007. The major recommendations of the Task Force include (i) introduction of insurance crop scheme in certain crops in preference to a price risk cover, (ii) introduction of enlarged personal accident cover and cover for individual assets of the growers as well as the permanent workers, (iii) creation of infrastructure facilities in plantation areas to give better accessibility to the growers by way of introduction of Plantation Development Bonds, (iv) reduction of interest rates on crop loans at refinance rates of NABARD, (v) strengthening Price Stabilisation Fund Trust (PSFT) to enable it to play a pivotal role in the scheme of things, etc.

(d) to (e) As far as Rubber and Tea are concerned, crop and/or garden/factories insurance cover is already in force to set off the damages due to natural calamities such as fire, lightning, wind, flood, hailstorm, landslide etc. either through the Board or directly by the growers themselves.

(f) to (h) Though in some of the plantation sectors like Rubber, Group insurance scheme covering personal accident insurance is already available, the Task Force has recommended for personal accident cover to the growers/ permanent workers in entire Plantation industry.

## 2. New Insurance Scheme

Name of State	2003-04 Weavers covered	2004-05 Weavers covered	2005-06 Weavers covered
1	2	3	4
Delhi	—	441	687
Gujarat	5763	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	1511	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	929
Rajasthan	5575	4343	4690
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,849</b>	<b>4,784</b>	<b>6,306</b>

## Insurance Scheme for Weavers

1919. SHRI FRANCIS FANTHOME: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of weavers covered under the various Insurance Schemes during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of insurance scheme for weavers;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the number of weavers proposed to be covered in various schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The State-wise number of weavers covered under various Insurance Schemes during the last three years are as under:

### 1. Group Insurance Scheme

Name of the State	2003-04 Weavers covered
West Bengal	7177
Gujarat	5539
Madhya Pradesh	1202
Karnataka	30899
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,813</b>

The Group Insurance Scheme was replaced by the Bunkar Bima Yojana in December 2003.

1	2	3	4
<b>3. Bunkar Bima Yojana</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	8,427	66,598	51,210
Assam	—	4,010	5,859
Delhi	—	—	942
Gujarat	—	2,625	2673
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	25
Karnataka	8,077	25,013	23,645
Kerala	865	911	2,145
Madhya Pradesh	—	3,852	2,361
Maharashtra	—	75	55
Orissa	16,613	16,148	2,864
Rajasthan	—	1,077	1,183
Tamil Nadu	—	78,129	59
Uttar Pradesh	—	12,576	1,595
Uttaranchal	—	1,077	96
West Bengal	—	1,708	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,982</b>	<b>2,13,599</b>	<b>94,712</b>

The Bunkar Bima Yojana was modified in 2005-06 and rechristened as Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) which was launched on 2nd October 2005.

**4. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana:**

Name of State		2005-06 Weavers covered	1	2
1	2			
Andhra Pradesh	14,238	Madhya Pradesh	1,692	
Assam	3,123	Maharashtra	5,631	
Gujarat	804	Orissa	20,505	
Himachal Pradesh	3,505	Rajasthan	2,405	
Jammu & Kashmir	366	Tamil Nadu	1,17,724	
Karnataka	4,220	Uttar Pradesh	16,016	
Kerala	1,711	Uttaranchal	411	
		West Bengal	3,986	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1,96,337</b>	

5. **Health Insurance Scheme** was launched on 3rd November 2005. The number of weavers covered under this scheme during 2005-06 are as under:

Name of State	2005-06 Weavers covered
Andhra Pradesh	42,794
Arunachal Pradesh	8
Chattisgarh	82
Delhi	215
Gujarat	528
Himachal Pradesh	423
Jammu & Kashmir	163
Jharkhand	11,000
Karnataka	15,033
Kerala	5,699
Madhya Pradesh	1,175
Maharashtra	17
Manipur	31
Orissa	10,602
Rajasthan	328
Tamil Nadu	130,000
Uttar Pradesh	9,703
Uttaranchal	3,300
West Bengal	9,717
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,40,868</b>

(b) Yes, Government of India have been reviewing the implementation of insurance schemes for weavers from time to time.

(c) The Government of India, the State Governments, and the Insurance Companies namely the LIC and the ICICI Lombard have been making efforts to increase the enrollment under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and Health Insurance Scheme. Under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana, 298765 weavers have been

covered during the period October 2005 to January 2007. Under the Health Insurance Scheme 481860 weavers have been covered during the period November 2005 to February 2007.

(d) The State Governments, LIC and ICICI Lombard have been requested to increase the coverage of weavers under the Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana and the Health Insurance Scheme.

#### Reduction in Duties

1920. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite reduction in the various duties prices of tyres have been going up in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb the rise in prices of tyre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) Tyre prices have increased primarily due to increase in input-prices and the increased demand of tyres. Tyre prices are determined by market forces. Though there has been no reduction in the excise duty rates in the recent past, the Government has announced a reduction in customs duty from 12.5% to 10% in the Budget 2007-08 to make imports of tyres cheaper and augment the supply of tyres.

[Translation]

#### VRS in BALCO

1921. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether BALCO company has retired a large number of its employees by giving them Voluntary Retirement Scheme (V.R.S.);

(b) if so, whether the company has not made timely payment of V.R.S. amount to such employees;

(c) whether BALCO is not making payment to its private contractors even after they have fully executed their contracts;

(d) if so, since when the said payments have not been released; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government against the BALCO company to ensure speedy payment to all the V.R.S. employees and contractors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As informed by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), out of 2733 Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) applications received after disinvestment/pending as on date of disinvestment, VRS applications of 2184 employees were accepted post disinvestment. All payments due on acceptance of VRS have been made and no amount is outstanding.

(c) and (d) The Company has informed that payments are made to the contractors in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions of contract(s).

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

[English]

#### **Town of Excellence**

1922. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared certain areas of trade in the country as "Town of Excellence";

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

(c) whether the Government has provided any assistance for the upgradation of infrastructure in these areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for the upgradation of infrastructure in Aroor and Alappuzha which are declared as "Town of Excellence" and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Department of Commerce has provided assistance under 'Assistance to States for developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Scheme' (ASIDE) to States/UTs/Central agencies for taking up infrastructure projects related to exports. The details of projects taken under ASIDE scheme in areas falling under T.E.E.s are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Following four projects have taken in Aroor under ASIDE scheme

- i. Setting up of a full fledged laboratory at Aroor.
- ii. Upgradation of electricity distribution system for Aroor in Cherthala Taluk.
- iii. Upgradation of Sea Lab, Aroor, and Pre-Processing of Sea food in Aroor.

No Proposal for Upgradation of infrastructure in Alappuzha has been taken up

#### **Statement I**

##### *Notified Towns of Export Excellence*

Total Number of 12 towns are recognized as Towns of Export Excellence as on date.

#### **List of Notified Towns:**

S.No	Town of Export Excellence	State	Product Category
1	2	3	4
1.	Tirupur	Tamil Nadu	Hosiery
2.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Woolen Knitwear

1	2	3	4
3.	Panipat	Haryana	Woolen Blanket
4.	Kanoor	Kerala	Handlooms
5.	Karur	Tamil Nadu	Handlooms
6.	Madurai	Tamil Nadu	Handlooms
7.	AEKK:(Aroor, Ezhupunna, Kodanthuruthu & Kuthiathodu)	Kerala	Seafood
8.	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	Handicraft
9.	Kekhra	Uttar Pradesh	Handlooms
10.	Dewas	Madhya Pradesh	Pharmaceuticals
11.	Alleppey	Kerala	Coir Products
12.	Kollam (Quilon)	Kerala	Cashew Products

**Statement II***Funding of Projects under ASIDE to Towns of Export Excellence*

Sl.No	Town	Project Name	Amount of Assistance (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1.	Aroor	Upgradation of Sea Lab, Aroor	300.00
2.	Aroor	Pre-Processing of Sea food in Aroor	135.00
3.	Dewas, Madhya Pradesh	Upgradation of Infrastructure at IA, Dewas	138.00
4.	Dewas, Madhya Pradesh	Upgradation of Industrial Area Sector 1, 2 & 3 and Industrial area Ujjain Road, Dewas	321.84
5.	Ludhiana, Punjab	2 Nos CETPs for Dyeing and Electroplating Industries, Ludhiana	211.50
6.	Ludhiana, Punjab	Development of Road and Other Export Infrastructure, Ludhiana	300.00
7.	Ludhiana, Punjab	Strengthening of R & D center for Bicycles and Sewing Machine at Ludhiana	327.00
8.	Ludhiana, Punjab	Upgradation of Punjab Trade Center, Ludhiana	223.00
9.	Ludhiana, Punjab	Setting up of CETP for Dyeing Units at Ludhiana	478.00
10.	Ludhiana, Punjab	Upgradation of PSIEC Stockyards at Ludhiana	432.00

1	2	3	4
11.	Jodhpur, Rajasthan	SEZ for Handicraft at Boaranada, Jodhpur	500.00
12.	Kollam, Kerala	Augmentation of Testing Laboratory at CEPC	100.00
13.	Aroor, Kerala	Setting up of a full fledged Laboratory at Aroor	315.00
14.	Aroor, Kerala	Upgradation of Electricity Distribution System at Aroor in Cherthala Taluk	12.75
15.	Tirupur, Tamil Nadu	Tirupur Water Supply Project	3000.00
16.	Madurai, Tamil Nadu	Development of Industrial Park for the Electroplating Industry, Madurai	500.00
17.	Tirupur, Tamil Nadu	ETP for Tirupur Textile Processing Industries at Tirupur	1000.00

### Patent Law

1923. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee headed by an eminent scientist was formed to examine the India's patent laws which are in compliance with the WTO agreement on Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, the whether there is any controversy about plagiarized material being included in the report on patents law;

(c) if so, whether the committee has withdrawn its report in view of this controversy; and

(d) if so, the time by which the committee is likely to submit its revised report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) A Technical Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was set up to examine the following two patent law issues:

(i) whether it would be TRIPS (Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) compatible to limit the grant of patent for pharmaceutical substance to new chemical entity or to new medical entity involving one or more inventive steps; and

(ii) whether it would be TRIPS compatible to exclude micro-organisms from patenting.

(b) There are some reports in the media regarding plagiarism in the Report of Technical Expert Group (TEG).

(c) and (d) The Chairman of the Group requested the Government for approval to "withdraw the Report, re-examine it and resubmit a Report, which meets with the requirements of the highest standards." He also stated that "it will take the TEG three months to resubmit the Report from the time the TEG is given time to re-examine the Report." The Government has agreed to allow the TEG to remove the "technical inaccuracies" in the Report.

[Translation]

### Quality of Khadi

1924. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for improving the quality of Khadi in view of its increasing demand in domestic and foreign markets;

(b) if so, the number of persons likely to be benefited by promoting Khadi industry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to promote production of Khadi in rural and tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) in consultation with Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has formulated a scheme for enhancing productivity and competitiveness of khadi industry and artisans by overhauling, repairing and renewal of spinning/weaving and allied equipment, replacement of obsolete equipment in operation with 200 of the best performing khadi institutions registered with KVIC, setting up service centres, product and design development, capacity building of artisans as well as khadi institutions. This scheme has the principal objective of upgradation of quality of khadi products for domestic market as well as external market.

(b) The scheme is proposed to be implemented over a period of five years and after the complete implementation of the scheme, around 24,000 new employment opportunities are expected to be added to the existing 8.68 lakh persons employed in the khadi sector.

(c) To increase the production of khadi in the country, including rural and tribal areas, and make khadi products competitive in the global economy, Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) has been implementing Schemes like Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate scheme (ISEC) providing subsidized rates of interest on bank loans, Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improving designs and packaging of khadi products and Rebate Scheme for providing rebate on sales of khadi through KVIC. Assistance is also provided to khadi institutions by KVIC to participate in exhibitions at the national, sub-national levels to assist marketing of khadi products. Further, the Government has launched the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) to develop 100 clusters (25 khadi, 50 village industries and 25 coir clusters) over a period of five years beginning 2005-06. SFURTI envisages assistance for setting up of common facility centres, quality improvement, training and capacity building, development of new products, improved packaging, new design, market promotion, etc.

*[Translation]*

#### Harassment of Parents

1925. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of harassment to the parents by their children are increasing in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to bring a Bill to protect ageing parents;

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

(e) the time by which the Bill is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) No such data is maintained centrally.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is in the process of formulating a legislation to ensure the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens. The Bill envisages setting up of Tribunals in every district to enforce the maintenance right of parents. The Bill also contains provisions for setting up of old age homes, better medical facilities for senior citizens and steps to ensure protection of their life and property. The Bill has been finalized but it is not possible to indicate a specific time frame by which it will come into force.

#### Weavers Service Centre in Tamilnadu

1926. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand for setting up of "Weavers Service Centre" in the country particularly in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for setting up of these centres; and

(c) the time by which these Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No Sir, at present three Weavers' Service Centres at Chennai, Kancheepuram & Salem are already working for Tamilnadu State under the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) Not Applicable.

[Translation]

#### Autonomy to Universities

1927. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide autonomy to the Universities in country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal/scheme prepared in this regard;

(c) whether the various Universities have demanded granting of the autonomy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Universities enjoy autonomy for conducting their academic, administrative and financial affairs in accordance with the provisions of the legislative Acts establishing them and are subject to parliamentary laws for the maintenance of standards of higher education.

[English]

#### Export of Khadi Garments

1928. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi garments are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the Khadi garments exported during each of the last three years, country-wise; and

(c) the value and quantity of the Khadi garments imported alongwith the names of the countries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Khadi products worth Rs. 88.38 lakh were exported to different countries, namely, United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Japan, Morocco and Spain during the last three years. The khadi products exported included various varieties of khadi fabrics like silk scarf, sarees and other garments of different types. The data of khadi garments exported is maintained by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) only in terms of value of items exported and not in terms of quantity.

(c) Khadi is produced only in India, and khadi fabric and readymade garments are being exported to different countries. The information regarding the value and quantity of the khadi garments imported, if any, is not available.

#### Vacancies in PMF

1929. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies lying unfilled in Para Military Forces as on date, category-wise and Force-wise; and

(b) the time by which such vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Total number of vacancies reported by Central Police Forces (CPFs) as on date is as under:

Category	Vacancies in PMF					
	CRPF	BSF	ITBP	CISF	SSB	Assam Rifles
Gen	16484	4069	4091	3738	5093	157
SC	4451	1385	1040	1115	1109	216
ST	2532	755	565	900	418	56
OBC	4926	1943	1750	1495	1338	142
Ex-Servicemen	—	36	—	1750	—	—
Total	28393	8188	7446	8998	7958	571

(b) These vacancies are filled through annual recruitment programme.

*[Translation]*

#### **Forward Trade Regulation Act**

1930. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring any amendments in the Forward Trade (Regulation) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been steep increase in prices of food items after the implementation of the said Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has made any review in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb the prices of food items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) Yes, Sir. A Bill to amend the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 21.03.2006.

(b) The amendments proposed in the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 mainly relate to (i) increasing the number of Members of Forward Markets Commission (FMC), which is the Regulator for commodity futures market from four to nine with up to three whole-time Members and a Chairman; (ii) enhancing the powers of FMC; (iii) conferring power upon FMC to recruit its officers and employees; (iv) creating FMC General Fund to which all receivables will be credited; (v) registration of intermediaries with FMC; (vi) Corporatisation and Demutualisation of the existing commodity Exchanges; (vii) permitting trading in options in goods; and (viii) enhancement of penal provisions. It is also proposed to designate the Securities Appellate Tribunal as the Appellate Authority for the purposes of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.

(c) and (d) Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 has been in force since 1952. Price levels of various commodities mainly are determined on the basis of fundamental factors linked to demand and supply positions. Futures markets provide an efficient platform for price discovery and price risk management so that producers, exporters, consumers etc. can take informed decisions about production, sales and purchase of commodities.

(e) and (f) The Government has set up an Expert Committee on 2nd March, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Professor Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to study, inter-alia, the extent of impact, if any, of futures trading on wholesale and retail prices of agricultural commodities.

(g) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Package for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries**

1931. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a package for the development and promotion of Khadi and Village Industries Sector is under consideration; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has proposed a new scheme named 'Package for Developing Infrastructure for Khadi Institutions and Nursing Fund for weak Institutions'. The scheme is in its conceptual stage.

#### **Schemes for Karnataka**

1932. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals received by the Union Government from the Government of Karnataka during the last one year;

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

(c) the amount provided/likely to be provided by the Government during the above period and further year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The activities in the textiles sector are mainly concentrated in the decentralized sector and the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Generally, proposals are received directly from the implementing agencies, which include NGOs, Cooperatives, Autonomous Bodies, etc.

The Government of Karnataka had submitted proposals for the development of handlooms and sericulture. During 2005-06 and 2006-07, Rs.1196.39 lakhs and Rs. 325.80 lakhs (January 2007) were released for the development of handlooms respectively. In the Sericulture sector, under the Catalytic Development Programme, Rs. 12.02 crores was released during 2006-07 (February 2007).

Future releases will depend on the proposals received from the implementing agencies.

#### **Silk Apparel Parks**

1933. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Silk Apparel Park in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Park is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), the Industry Associations/Group of Entrepreneurs are the main promoters of Textile Park. So far no proposal for setting up of exclusive Silk Apparel Park in Tamil Nadu has been received. However, under the SITP, five (5) Textile Park projects in Tamil Nadu have been sanctioned. These projects are expected to be completed by March 2008.

*[Translation]*

#### **Change of Definition of PMF**

1934. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of distinct duties and responsibilities of Para-Military Forces (PMF), the Government is considering to place them separate from the definition of "Police".

(b) if so, the time by which the Government is likely to announce its decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The Central Para-military Forces are Armed Forces of the Union under their respective Acts.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### **Training Camps in Bhutan Border**

1935. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ULFA has started its training camp in Assam-Bhutan border area;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that these terrorists can damage railway lines and oil pipelines; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such activities of militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) According to reports, no permanent camps of Indian Insurgent Group including United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) exist on the Assam-Bhutan border area. However, the Government keeps close watch on the activities of militant outfits along the Indo-Bhutan border.

(c) and (d) ULFA has been targeting railway lines and oil pipelines in Assam. Adequate security measures

are taken by the State Government to thwart the threats posed by ULFA. Besides, Additional Central Police Forces and Army units have been deployed for coordinated action against ULFA and other extremists groups. Government is also helping the State Government in enhancing the capabilities of the State by modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure. The security situation in Assam is also reviewed in the meetings of the Unified Hqrs. chaired by the Chief Minister of Assam from time to time. Government of India is also monitoring the situation at periodic intervals.

*[English]*

#### **Assistance to Engineering Colleges**

1936. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to some selected Engineering Colleges in the country for their modernization; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise, college-wise alongwith the criteria laid down for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

#### **Assistant by Khadi and Village Industries Commission**

1937. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the areas where the financial assistance is provided for employment generation by Khadi and Village Industries Commission for the development of agro and rural industries; and

(b) the procedure adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been established for the development of khadi and village industries and

for matters connected therewith. Accordingly, KVIC has been implementing a number of schemes for the promotion and development of khadi and village industries. Khadi programme is implemented by only khadi institutions which are Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) registered with KVIC or Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) of States/Union Territories and having valid certificate issued by the Certification Committee of KVIC. Institutional credit at the concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum is provided by banks as per the assessed requirement of the khadi institutions registered with KVIC or KVIBs under the Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate (ISEC) Scheme.

As per the procedure adopted for making available funds under ISEC Scheme, after analysing the performance and ascertaining the funds requirement through a State level budget discussion process, an in-house budget team of KVIC analyses financial eligibility of each institution after taking into consideration funds available with the respective institutions and the agreed target of production/sales. Thereupon, KVIC issues interest subsidy eligibility certificate in favour of the institutions against which they mobilise loans from banks at concessional rate of interest.

As regards the village industries programme, it is implemented only in 'rural areas', with rural area defined as the area comprised in any village, and includes the area comprised in any town, the population of which does not exceed 20,000 or such other figure as the Central Government may specify from time to time. The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme, through the KVIC, to help eligible entrepreneurs to set up village industry units and thus create employment opportunities in village and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing of margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Under REGP, banks appraise the projects as per the scheme and take credit decision. The targets are fixed by KVIC to the States/ Union Territories after considering their performance in the previous year and also the concentration of rural population in the respective State/Union Territory. The margin money assistance under this scheme is placed by KVIC at the disposal of designated nodal branches of the banks implementing the scheme. After sanctioning

and releases of first installment of loan by the financing branch of the bank, they claim the margin money from their nodal branch. Before releasing the margin money claim, the financing branch releases 90 per cent of the sanctioned project cost to the beneficiaries and after receiving margin money assistance portion from nodal branch, the financing branch places the amount in term deposit account in the name of beneficiaries for two years. No interest is paid on amounts deposited such term deposit accounts and no interest is charged for the corresponding loan portion released to the beneficiaries. After completions of two years lock-in period, the financing branches adjust the term deposit amount to the loan account of the beneficiaries.

*[English]*

#### Iron Ore

1938. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron ore is exported with long term agreement in lieu of coking coal;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the agreement in view of the comfortable reserve of coking coal in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to ban the export of iron ore gradually; and

(f) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MIINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for

domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron ore fines produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy ore has to be evacuated, failing which it would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings in addition to causing environmental hazards.

#### Ban on Import of Eggs

1939. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of UAE and Saudi Arabia have lifted a ban on import of eggs from India;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing a ban on the import of eggs from India;

(c) how long the ban had been in operation;

(d) how much foreign exchange India had to lose on account of ban on import of Eggs by Governments of UAE and Saudi Arabia;

(e) whether the Government proposes to make up this loss on account of the ban; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) In November, 2005 Saudi Arabia had imposed a ban on import of poultry products from Asian countries, including India, due to out break of bird flu in certain Asian countries. UAE had, in February, 2006, banned import of poultry and poultry products from India in the wake of out break of bird flu in the country. Both these countries have lifted ban on import of eggs from India in January, 2007—UAE in respect of eggs and Saudi Arabia in respect of live chicks and hatching eggs. The ban had a negative impact on export of eggs to Saudi Arabia and UAE and, therefore, in order to protect the export interests of the country, the Government pursued vigorously and successfully with the concerned authorities in these countries to get the ban lifted.

**Strike of Jute Mill Workers**

1940. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jute mill workers in the country including West Bengal are on a prolonged strike;

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

(c) the details of their demand and the steps taken by the Government to settle their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There was an indefinite strike, which had been going on w.e.f 3.1.2007 by the workers in 51 jute mills located in the State of West Bengal in private sector. The jute mills located outside the West Bengal were not affected by this strike. The strike has been called off on 8.3.07.

(c) The main demands of the workers are payment of statutory dues, Bonus and higher DA etc. Several rounds of bipartite and tripartite negotiations at the instance of the State Government as well as the Central Government have taken place to diffuse the crisis. The majority of Trade Unions have agreed for a negotiation and settlement has been arrived at on 8.3.07. Mills have been re-opened w.e.f. 9.3.07.

**Secretary Level Talks with Myanmar**

1941. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Home Secretary during his recent visit to Myanmar made a fresh demand to Myanmar for a crack down on North-East Insurgents operation from that country;

(b) if so, the details of the Government assessment about the presence and activities of North-East Insurgents operating from Myanmar;

(c) the reaction of Myanmar Government thereon; and

(d) the details of the action proposed by both Governments to check the activities of militants in North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The 13<sup>th</sup> National Level Meeting, at Home Secretary level, between India and Myanmar was held in Myanmar in February, 2007. At this meeting, various issues of mutual concern including those related to security, drug trafficking and effective border management were discussed. Both countries agreed to cooperate closely with each other in this regard.

**Construction of Juvenile Homes**

1942. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State Governments for the construction of juvenile homes under the 'Programme for Juvenile Justice';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount released for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the fund has been fully utilized during the above period and the task has been accomplished; and

(d) if not, the number of the juvenile homes yet to be constructed and the time by which these homes would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of grant-in-aid released on proposals received from State Governments/UT Administrations during the financial years 2003-04 to 2005-06, State-wise, are given in the statement-I to III respectively.

(c) The funds are released to the State Governments/UT Administrations during a financial year on submission of a utilization certificate for the funds released in earlier years for completion of projects taken up by them. As per the utilization certificates received from the State

Governments, all States which were released funds for construction of homes had utilized and the projects completed, except the States of Haryana and Chhattisgarh.

(d) The State Government of Haryana was released grants of Rs. 8.00 lakhs during 2004-05 and Rs. 27.14 lakhs during 2005-06 for construction of an Observation Home at Madhuban in Karnal district.

However, Government of Haryana later decided to construct 4 new homes at Faridabad, Karnal, Ambala and Hissar in place of the earlier proposal. During 2005-06, the Government of Haryana was given permission to

utilize Rs. 12.77 lakhs for construction of homes at Faridabad and Karnal. The balance amount of Rs. 22.37 Lakhs will be utilized for construction of homes at Ambala and Hissar.

Government of Chhattisgarh was released grants of Rs. 29.65 lakhs during 2005-06 for construction of 4 new observation homes at Jagdalpur, Rajnandgaon, Ambikapur and Durg but due to late receipt of grants, they could not utilize the grants during 2005-06 and on request of the Government of Chhattisgarh, permission has been given to utilize the said grants during current financial year 2006-07.

#### **Statement I**

*Details of grants released on proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administrations for construction/upgradation of homes during the financial year 2003-04 under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice"*

Name of the State/UT	Details of grants released for construction/upgradation	Amount released (in Rs.)
Chattishgarh	(i) Construction of Observation Home at Durg	9,03,000
	(ii) Observation Home (Girls) at Rajnandgaon	9,03,000
	(iii) After Care Home at raigarh	9,03,000
	(iv) Observation Home at Raipur	9,03,000
	(v) Observation Home at Jagdalpur	9,03,000
	(vi) Observation Home at Bilaspur	9,03,000
Kerala	(i) Upgradation of existing Home at Wayanad	50,000
	(ii) Repair and additional maintenance work at Poojappura	2,03,000
	(iii) Construction of Compound wall of O.H. at Pathanamthitta	1,32,500
	(iv) Additional electrification work of O.H. at Thrissur	56,750
Mizoram	(i) Upgradation of existing Home (construction of girls security fencing)	6,49,900
	(ii) Upgradation of existing Juvenile home(construction of fencing)	14,89,750
Tamil Nadu	Upgradation of existing Homes Mallipudur, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur and Chengalpet.	16,67,000
Chandigarh	Construction of Home for delinquent and neglected children at Chandigarh	6,00,000

**Statement II**

*Details of grants released on proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administrations for construction/ upgradation of homes during the financial year 2004-05 under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice"*

Name of the State/UT	Details of grants released for construction/ upgradation	Amount released (in Rs.)
1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	(i) Upgradation of existing Homes at Mallipudur, Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Salem, Tirunelveli, Thanjavur and Chengalpet.	8,47,500
	(ii) Formation of Juvenile Justice Boards at 8 places at Chennai, Madurai, Coimbatore, Trichy, Salem, Tirunavelli, Cuddalore and Thanjavur @ Rs.98,000/- for each Board.	7,68,000
Haryana	Construction of Homes at Madhuban in District-Karnal for 200 inmates	8,00,000
Chattishgarh	(i) Construction of Observation Home at Sarguja	9,03,000
	(ii) After Care Home (girls) at Sarguja	9,03,000
	(iii) Special Home for Boys at Durg	9,03,000
	(iv) Juvenile Home for Girls at Kanker	9,03,000
	(v) Juvenile Homes for Girls at Bilaspur	9,03,000
Kerala	(i) Upgradation of O.H. at Ernakulam	61,218
	(ii) Upgradation of O.H. at Calicut	1,14,750
	(iii) Upgradation of O.H. Alleppy	2,70,272
	(iv) Upgradation of O.H., Wayanad	1,00,000
	(v) Upgradation of O.H., Kakkanad	61,218
	(vi) Upgradation of O.H., Kozhikode (electrification)	85,000
	(vii) Upgradation of O.H, Mayithara (modification)	2,70,271
	(viii) Upgradation of O.H., Kaniambetta	1,00,000
Assam	(i) Upgradation works in existing six Homes at Guwahati, Jalukbari, Nagaon, North Lakhimpur, Jorhat and Dhubri	15,51,000
	(ii) Construction of Homes at Shilchar/Boko	12,10,000
Andhra Pradesh	(i) Setting up of new Vocational Training Section for 6 Juvenile & Special Homes	11,50,000

1	2	3
	(ii) Upgradation of 5 existing Homes running in Government Buildings,	1,40,00,000
	(iii) Construction of Observation Homes at Kurnool, Guntakal for Boys and at Hyderabad for Girls.	27,09,000
	(iv) Setting up of new 2 Children Homes at Warangal & Tirupathi for Boys, 2 special Homes at Visakhapatnam & Tirupathi for boys and 2 Special cum Juvenile Homes for girls at Visakhapatnam & Tirupathi	83,90,000
Punjab	Upgradation/repair of existing Homes at Hoshiarpur, Rajpura, Kapurtala and Jalandar	36,03,000
Mizoram	Construction of Certified School, Lunglei	4,22,209
Chandigarh	Construction of Home for delinquent and neglected children at Chandigarh	6,00,000
Pondicherry	Proposal for improvement/repair of existing homes and construction of compound wall	
Uttar Pradesh	Proposal for upgradation of existing 11 Homes in the state.	
Madhya Pradesh	Proposal for construction of 3 new Homes and upgradation of 3 Homes	
West Bengal	Construction of ground floor of Home (Sukanya) at Salt Lake and maintenance of Vidyasagar Home, West Midnapur.	

**Statement III**

*Details of grants released on proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administrations for construction/upgradation of homes during the financial year 2003-04 under the scheme "A Programme for Juvenile Justice"*

Name of the State/UT	Details of grants released for construction/upgradation	Amount released (in Rs.)
1	2	3
Rajasthan	(i) Construction of 3 additional rooms at Kishor Grab at Udaipur	4,16,250
	(ii) Construction of a Juvenile Home at Jodhpur	12,50,000
	(iii) Construction of a Observation Home at Kota	9,03,000
Madhya Pradesh	(i) Construction of a Juvenile Home at Betul	12,50,000
	(ii) Construction of a Juvenile Home at Khandwa	12,50,000
	(iii) Construction of a Juvenile Home at Chhatarpur	12,50,000

1	2	3
Haryana	Construction of a Juvenile Observation Home at Madhuban [Karnal] [Balance amount]	27,13,681
Chattisgarh	(i) Construction of boundary wall, land development, drains, etc. at Observation Home, Jagdaipur	6,66,000
	(ii) Construction of boundary wall at Observation Home, Rajnandgaon	9,03,000
	(iii) Land development, drains, electrification at Observation Home, Ambikapur	4,93,000
	(iv) Construction of boundary wall, tubewell, water tank, etc. at Observation Home, Durg	9,03,000
Andhra Pradesh	Upgradation of six existing homes at Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Rajahmundry, Vishakapatnam, Anantapur and Kurnool ● Rs. 9,03,000/- for each home	54,18,000
West Bengal	Upgradation of existing homes at:	
	(i) Anandamath, Purulia	3,60,535
	(ii) Shahid Bandana Abas, Coochbehar	9,61,477
	(iii) Vidyasagar Balika Bhawan, Paschim Midnapur	6,36,906
	(iv) Sukanya Home, Kolkata	2,64,511
	(v) Shilayan After Care Home, Behrampore	4,38,425
	(vi) Kishalaya, Kolkata	4,57,200
	(vii) Anandasram, Kolkata	11,23,735
	(viii) After Care Home, Barjeta	3,50,548
	(ix) Sumangalam Home, Bankura	2,89,792
	(x) Dhruvasuam, Ariadaha	4,48,271
Kerala	Upgradation of 3 existing homes at Wayanad, Trissur and Kozhikkode	12,07,800
Assam	To complete the construction of Observation Home at Shilchar/ Boko	4,99,000
Tamil Nadu	(i) Construction of dining hall and kitchen at Observation Home, Chennai	4,86,000
	(ii) Construction of an Observation Home at Trichy	8,36,000
	(iii) Construction of dormitories in at Children Home, Tattaparai and Panchapalli	5,00,000

**Harassment of Foreign Tourists at Airport**

1943. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign tourists are being cheated and harassed by agents/Taxi Operators at the Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases registered by the Government during each of the last three years;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such agents/Taxi Operators; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per available information, some instances of cheating and harassment of foreign tourists by agents/taxi operators at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi have been reported.

(b) and (c) The number of cases registered and action taken against such agents/taxi operators is as under;

Sl. No.	Year	Cases registered	Action taken (No. of persons arrested)
1.	2004	1	6
2.	2005	Nil	Nil
3.	2006	2	1

(d) A number of steps have been taken by Delhi Police to stop cheating and harassment of foreign tourists by agents/taxi operators at IGI Airport, which, *inter alia*, includes:

- (i) Tourist Police has been deployed at the airport and at important tourist places to provide safety and security to the foreign tourists;
- (ii) PCR vans have been stationed outside the arrival hall of the airport;
- (iii) Patrolling has been intensified; and

- (iv) Pre-paid taxi booths have been established which are manned by the persons appointed by the Delhi Police under close supervision of Traffic Police.

[Translation]

**Technical Institutions in Rural Areas**

1944. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some technical institutions with Indo-German co-operation in backward and rural areas of some States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations selected for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) In so far as Ministry of Human Resource Development is concerned, at present there is no proposal under consideration for setting up of technical institutions in backward and rural areas with Indo-German co-operation.

**Procurement of Cotton**

1945. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that cotton ginning work has not been started in the collection centres of the districts of Maharashtra and as a result the purchasing of cotton at the said centres has temporarily been discontinued;

(b) if so, whether the farmers are waiting at weaving centres for weighing and purchasing of their cotton by these centres and facing difficulties;

(c) if so, whether the Government has taken up the matter with the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The cotton ginning work got started in all the hired G&P factories simultaneous with purchases in the State of Maharashtra. During the season 2006-07, the pace of arrival was faster as compared to previous year. The imposition of power cut in the State had affected the processing work during the peak of the season. However, there had been no occasion of discontinuing purchases due to delayed ginning work. The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has purchased 26.61 lakh quintals of kapas in the State through a network of 53 procurement centers. Nearly 80% kapas purchased by CCI under MSP operations has been processed.

(b) Purchase of cotton and weighing thereof at most of the places had been carried out without any difficulty barring few places and concerned Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) were requested to regulate the arrivals in market yards to avoid hardships to the cotton farmers.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Textiles has taken up the matter with the Principal Secretary (Energy), Government of Maharashtra for exempting the ginning and pressing factories from power cuts and to direct the market committees to hold auctions on daily basis and if need be, the market committees should regulate the arrivals also. Government of Maharashtra, has informed that wherever possible the distribution utility has made some arrangement to restrict the load shedding hours of some ginning & pressing factories to minimum possible level. It has also been suggested that if ginning & pressing factories agree to have dedicated feeders, their problem may get reduced considerably.

*[English]*

#### **Registration of Handicrafts**

1946. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has initiated nation-wide registration of crafts under the Geographical Indication Act in collaboration with the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) to protect the traditional handicrafts of the country;

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

(c) whether the registration of traditional handicrafts has been conducted in the country including Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir;

(d) if so, the names and number of traditional handicrafts registered by NIFT in the country including Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir. NIFT has undertaken the project from Development Commissioner (Handicraft) for registration of crafts under Geographical Indication (GI) Act in 20 States including 8 Northern Eastern States.

(b) The project entails in-depth study of the "Handicrafts" in the respective States. The preliminary exercise and exhaustive field studies are complete and the project is in documentation phase. Suitable crafts with GI potential have been identified and GI applications for identified crafts are currently being drafted to be filed with the Registry in Chennai.

(c) The State of J&K has not been included in the project. The project is currently in progress in 8 Northern Eastern States. The process of registration is yet to begin.

(d) No GI Application has been filed as yet.

(e) The project will benefit the artisans and craftsman by creating intellectual property (IP) awareness among them, identification of those crafts which can be registered under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999 and to assist the artisan community in filling the GI application.

#### **Assam Productivity Council**

1947. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Productivity Council is facing funds crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Assam Productivity Council (APC) is not facing any funds crunch for running its activities. As per the information provided by the National Productivity Council, the expenditure of the APC was only Rs. 6 lakhs against an income of Rs.7.78 lakhs in 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Smuggling of Sandal Wood

1948. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Sl.No.	States	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Kerala*	200 (274)	380 (486)	252 (418)	376 (318)	42 (28)	N.A.
2.	Tamilnadu	850 (760)	408 (398)	250 (295)	111 (139)	175 (195)	102 (77)
3.	Karnataka	Not reported	885	4293 (431)	484 (385)	290 (234)	N.A.
4.	Andhra Pradesh	38 (29)	32 (22)	20 (12)	32 (14)	15 (16)	N.A.

(Figures in parenthesis are the number of accused arrested)

No incidents have been reported from other States/Union territories.

\*For Kerala the figures are for calendar years 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 respectively.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law enforcement agencies. The Ministry of Home Affairs, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing them financial assistance for modernization of their Police Forces in terms of

(a) whether, the Government has any information about smuggling of sandalwood;

(b) if so, the number of cases registered during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check such activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The details regarding the number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection with smuggling of sandalwood as well as the steps taken by Government in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

(b) As per information provided by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the number of incidents reported and cases registered in connection with smuggling of sandalwood, State-wise and year-wise together with number of accused are as under:

weaponry, communication, equipment, mobility, training and other infrastructure under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces. Further, intelligence inputs are regularly shared by the Central Security and Intelligence Agencies with the State Law Enforcement Agencies to prevent crime and law and order related incidents. The Union Ministry of Environment & Forests has issued various directions to the States/Union Territories from time to time to control illegality/smuggling of sandalwood.

A 'National Multi-Disciplinary Team' has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Director General of Revenue Intelligence to act collectively with the officers of the State Forest Department, Deputy Director (Wildlife), representatives from Ministry of Commerce and Industry and State Directorates of Revenue and Intelligence to control smuggling of Red Sanders, sandalwood etc.

[Translation]

**Mini Mission under Technology Mission  
on Cotton**

1949. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:  
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:  
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mission-III launched under Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) scheme is being implemented during the current year;

(b) if so, whether new market yards have been set up under the said mission;

(c) if so, the details thereof location-wise, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) whether selection of such yards have been done in the cotton growing States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the improvement made therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. During the current year, total 14 new market yards in cotton growing states have been approved for development. State-wise and location-wise details of the new market yards are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Market Yard	State
1	2	3
1.	Pandhuma	Madhya Pradesh
2.	Chikii	Maharashtra

1	2	3
3.	Beed	
4.	Gevarai	
5.	Warud	
6.	Jamnagar	Gujarat
7.	Talaja	
8.	Visnagar	
9.	Jamjodhpur	
10.	Echoda	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Enkoor	
12.	Kaligiri	
13.	Laxmeshwar	Karnataka
14.	Bareta	Punjab

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The selection of market yards for modernization/development is in accordance with prescribed criteria, which includes area under cotton cultivation, production and marketable surplus of cotton etc. These market yards have been provided with all the items of an ideal market yards such as essential infrastructure, essential amenities and special facilities such as Grading Laboratory, Input Supply shop, Farmers' Information Centre (FIC) for improvement in all cotton growing States.

[English]

**Indian Council of Historical Research**

1950. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:  
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) was delayed and a bureaucrat was given charge of the Chairman;

(b) if so, the date on which the post fell vacant;

(c) the reason for delay in the appointment of the new Chairman; and

(d) the steps are being taken for the selection of the new Chairman?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Prompt action was taken by the Government in the matter. The Government initiated action for filling the post well in advance. The post fell vacant on 04.02.2007 consequent upon completion of tenure of 3 years of the previous Chairman Prof. D.N. Tripathi. As no suitable person was identified by February 4, 2007, Shri K. M. Acharya, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, was appointed as Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) with effect from February 5, 2007 purely as a temporary measure, as has been the past practice, in the interest of work at the organization.

(d) The Government have nominated Prof. Sabyasachi Bhattacharya as Chairman of ICHR *vide* notification dated March 2, 2007, and he has assumed the charge of the post of Chairman with effect from March 3, 2007.

#### Import of Weapons

1951. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Government is aware of import of weapons in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Import of Air Pistols and Air Rifles except for renowned shooters is banned. However, recently some unscrupulous persons in Kerala attempted to smuggle 49 Air Pistols

and 37 Air Rifles through a consignment. They were apprehended and necessary action taken as per the relevant laws.

#### Training to Rural People

1952. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme to impart training to the rural people on the techniques of agro-rural industries is being run by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries during each of the last three years, State and Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Training in agro and rural industries is imparted through the departmentally managed training centres of KVIC as well as training centres of other agencies aided by KVIC/Khadi & Village industries Boards of States/Union Territories (UT). The details of the training activities of KVIC are available on its website, viz., <http://www.kvic.org.in/v4/contactdetails%9TRAINING.asp>

Similarly, State/UT Governments can involve reputed Non-Governmental Organisations, Industrial Training Institutes, Polytechnics Colleges, etc., in the training of PMRY beneficiaries. State/UT Governments also organise special training courses exclusively for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and women entrepreneurs.

(c) Details of number of persons benefited State/ Union Territory-wise from training activities of KVIC during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### Statement

*State/Union Territory-wise number of persons benefited from training activities of KVIC during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06*

Sl. No	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Number of persons trained		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	659	1048	1894
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1604	2189	704

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	5808	187	2459
4.	Bihar	1998	648	3968
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	125	0
6.	Jharkhand	557	543	900
7.	Karnataka	3636	2732	2832
8.	Kerala	3371	3256	3369
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1171	856	1873
10.	Maharashtra	25312	17292	13136
11.	Mizoram	45	200	455
12.	Nagaland	0	200	0
13.	Meghalaya	30	0	0
14.	Delhi	440	671	1061
15.	Orissa	1097	1813	1849
16.	Rajasthan	252	217	583
17.	Tamil Nadu	3225	4465	4434
18.	Tripura	0	640	0
19.	Uttarakhand	0	4117	3165
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3887	1105	2432
21.	West Bengal	3537	2732	2882
Total		56429	45036	47994

### Brain-Drain

1953. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend of IIT students and other talents produced by various Government managed institutes going abroad is on the decrease as reported in *The Times of India* dated January 5, 2007;

(b) if so, whether the same trend is observed in respect of students from other curricula;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the initiative taken by the Government to curb the trend among the bright students going abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) No record of the number of Engineers and Technocrats leaving the country is maintained centrally. Indian Engineers and Technocrats

do go abroad for higher studies or employment. In the present scenario of globalization and liberalization, the movement of technical personnel across the national boundaries is not only inevitable but in many cases could give positive benefits to the country. It is considered neither feasible nor desirable to put in place a regulatory framework to prevent the movement abroad of qualified engineers and technocrats.

#### **Industrial Growth**

1954. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is keen on broad-basing industrial growth so that it generates more visible employment benefits; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government has put in place various policies to promote broad based industrial growth, which generate employment. These include, *inter-alia*, delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalization of foreign trade regime to provide better access to inputs at competitive prices, rationalization and reduction in duty rates of customs and central excise, better infrastructure support, and liberal FDI regime, etc. to foster industrial growth and thereby to generate greater employment. Further, the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) strategy also aims at putting the economy on a sustainable, accelerated, growth trajectory and creating productive employment across the country in all sectors of the economy. For this purpose one of the major challenges identified is increasing manufacturing competitiveness, which will address the challenge of inclusive growth. Generation of additional employment opportunities by the use of Labour Intensive Manufacturing sectors has also been stressed upon. The flagship programmes of the Government including National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme & Bharat Nirman aim at enhancing employment generating activity.

Transport Subsidy Scheme to promote industrial development is being implemented in the North East and other hilly regions. Industrial infrastructural upgradation scheme to provide quality infrastructure is in existence in some selected clusters. In addition, Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprise Development Act, 2006 has been enacted to promote and develop these enterprises, which are more labour intensive.

#### **Development of Industry In Tribal Areas**

1955. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked for the development of industry in tribal dominated backward areas of various States particularly in Rajasthan during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(b) the amount allocated/released to each State so far;

(c) whether the States have utilized the allocated fund during the above period;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the impact of the utilization of such financial assistance on the development of these backward areas in each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Generally there is no specific scheme under operation by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry earmarking of funds specifically for tribal dominated areas. However, Government has initiated steps to identify industrially backward districts with a view to formulating policies to promote industrial and economic development in backward areas including in tribal dominated areas.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

#### **Vocational Training Institutes**

1956. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for setting up of vocational training institutes across the country;

(b) whether the Government is planning to initiate a number of vocational training institutes across the country, especially for the school dropouts in the age group of 14-18 years under reserved category as reported in *The Times of India* dated December 16, 2006;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to provide more opportunities to the disadvantaged groups including SCs/STs and OBCs in secondary education by introduction of special schemes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Vocational Training Institutes are dealt with by Directorate General of Employment & Training (DGE&T) under Ministry of Labour & Employment whereas introduction of vocational courses in higher secondary classes (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>) is dealt with by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education. Ministry of Labour & Employment has informed that the responsibilities for vocational training are shared by Central and State Governments. Central Government is responsible for framing overall policies, norms and standards, development of curricula, affiliation of institutes and trade testing for certification. State Governments are responsible for opening of new ITIs or adding trade units in the existing ITIs as per local needs, day-to-day administration of ITIs/ITCs, conduct of training courses, trade tests and award of certificates.

(d) to (f) Providing more opportunities to the disadvantaged groups in secondary education is a continuous process, whereas the Central Government provides financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education" to States/UTs, it is primarily for States/UTs to plan and manage the institutes offering vocational courses at +2 level.

### Grants for Mid-Day-Meal Scheme

1957. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) state the grant provided by the Government for Mid-Day-Meals per student, per day;

(b) whether this grant is enough in providing below diet;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to increase the grant per student, per day;

(d) if so, details and action to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Under National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) commonly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme last revised in June, 2006, cooked mid-day meal of 450 calories and 12 gram proteins is being provided to children studying in classes I-V in Government, Local Body and Government-aided Primary schools and centres run under Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education. Nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams protein has been prescribed in consultation with nutritional experts. Components of Central assistance admissible to State Governments/Union Territory Administration are as under:

- (i) Supply of free foodgrains (wheat/rice) @ 100 grams per child per school day;
- (ii) Reimbursement of actual cost of transportation of food grains from nearest Food Corporation of India godown subject to the ceiling of Rs. 100 per quintal for North Eastern Region and hilly area States and Rs. 75 per quintal for all other States and Union Territories.
- (iii) Cooking cost @ Rs.1.80 per child per school day for States in the North East Region (NER) and Rs.1.50 per child per school day in other States with minimum mandatory contribution of Re.0.20 in the case of NER and Re.0.50 in the case of other States making total cooking cost at Rs. 2 per child per school day.

- (iv) Provision of cooked mid-day meal during summer vacations to school children in areas declared by State Governments as "drought-affected."
- (v) Construction of kitchen-cum-store upto a maximum of Rs. 60,000 per unit and procurement/replacement of kitchen devices with maximum ceiling of Rs. 5000 per school.
- (vi) Management, Monitoring and Evaluation @ 1.8% of total assistance of (i) to (iii) above.

#### Tea Board and Coffee Board

1958. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Tea Board and Coffee Board are expanding their domestic market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare tea and coffee as our national drinks for enhancing their domestic market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details of annual tea and coffee domestic market for the last three years are as under:

Year	Tea (in million Kgs.)	Coffee (in metric Tonnes)
2002	693	68,000
2003	714	70,000
2004	735	75,000
2005	757	80,200

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In so far as coffee is concerned, there is no proposal for declaring coffee as a national drink. As regards Tea, a proposal to this effect was considered during the year 2004. However, the same was dropped in view of the objections raised by some State Governments.

#### Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for Handloom Sector

1959. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress in regard to setting up of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for handloom sector;
- (b) the amount earmarked for the scheme; and
- (c) the allocation made to various States and Union Territory under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for handloom sector has been launched on 31st July, 2006 as part of the existing "TUF Scheme for Textile and Jute industries" of the Ministry of Textiles. So far, no projects have been sanctioned under TUF Scheme for Handloom Sector.

(b) The TUF Scheme for handloom sector is a part of the existing "TUF Scheme for Textile and Jute industries" of the Ministry of Textiles, therefore, the expenditure would be met from the funds allocated under "TUF Scheme for Textile and Jute industries" of the Ministry of Textiles.

(c) Under the scheme, the funds will be released, based on the viable proposals received, to the beneficiary organizations/banks as the case may be. Hence, state-wise allocation has not been made.

[Translation]

#### Naxalite Activities

1960. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, the Government proposes to constitute State Industrial Security Force in various States to tackle the naxalite menace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has held any discussions with the concerned State Governments in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of such States thereto;

(e) whether various States have suggested to constitute a Federal Agency to tackle the Naxalite problem in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (g) Doesn't arise.

*[English]*

#### UNDP Assistance for NLDP

1961. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented an UNDP assisted National Leather Development Programme (NLDP) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of small scale entrepreneurs in the leather sector benefited under this programme during 2005-06 and 2006-07 in the country particularly in Orissa;

(d) the funds allocated by the Government for strengthening the technology, skill upgradation and marketing support during the said period; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make the programme more competitive in view of the international competition in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Central Government had implemented a programme under the UNDP assisted Programme, "Small Industries Development & Employment Programme in Leather Sector" (SIDE-NLDP) from the year 1992 to 2003. The objective of the programme was to increase the competitiveness of the footwear and leather product sector. The Scheme was implemented till June, 2003 and hence no funds were released under the programme during 2005-06 and 2006-07. An amount of US\$25.50 million was allocated under SIDE-NLDP as financial assistance and a number of small scale entrepreneurs benefited from the programme.

#### Textile Parks

1962. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the textiles parks are likely to help India to achieve the medium term target of 8 per cent global textile trade by 2010;

(b) whether the Government has sought Special Economic Zone like benefits for textile parks; and

(c) if so, the reaction from the Finance Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), 26 Textile Park projects have been sanctioned. Estimated annual production of these textile parks, after being fully functional, is Rs. 19,200 Crore. These textile parks will cater to both domestic and international markets.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Meeting of Chief Secretaries

1963. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently convened a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of all States; and

(b) if so, the details of the various issues discussed in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The Government convenes meetings of Chief Secretaries from time to time on different issues as per need. As there is not mention of either the date or the subject of the meeting, it is not possible to provide a definite answer to the question.

*[Translation]*

#### **Arms Factory Run by Naxalites**

1964. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS pleased to state:

(a) whether Research and Development Centres being run by the Naxalites in Bhopal have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the arms factory being run by the Naxalites in Jabalpur has been unearthed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, in an intelligence-based operation, an illegal factory producing/fabricating components for weapons used by Naxalites was unearthed at Bhopal on 11.1.2007. No arms factory of the naxalites has been unearthed in Jabalpur. However, the interrogation CPI(Maoist) activists running the Research and Development unit at Bhopal revealed that the same team was earlier running a similar unit in Jabalpur between 1996 to 1998.

Five hardcore naxalites have been arrested in connection with the illegal factory at Bhopal. A case has been registered u/s 307, 120(A&B), 121, 122, 123, 124-A IPS & 5,7,25(1-1A) Arms Act and 4,5,7 Explosive Act.

#### **Investment by NRIs**

1965. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the investment procedure adopted by the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) NRIs can make capital investment under Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) scheme, Portfolio Investment Scheme and a scheme for non-repatriable investments. The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, including investment from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), is reviewed on a continuing basis taking into consideration the views of the sectoral Ministries. Government has put in place a liberal and transparent policy for FDI, including investments from NRIs, wherein most of the sectors are open to FDI under the automatic route.

*[English]*

#### **NTC Mills in Andhra Pradesh**

1966. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills proposed for modernization, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the recently received shipment containing modern machinery is going to be used in mills of Andhra Pradesh which are under process of modernisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) NTC is in the process of modernising 22 of its mills by itself and renovation of 18 mills through Joint Venture route. Statements showing State-wise details of these mills are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively. The shipments containing modern machinery are to be utilised for modernization of 22 mills by NTC itself and these 22 mills do not include any mill in Andhra Pradesh.

**Statement I***List of 22 Mills Proposed for Revival*

Sl.No.	Name of the Mill	Location
1	2	3
<b>NTC (APKKM) Ltd. Kamataka</b>		
1.	Minerva Mills	Bangalore
<b>Kerala</b>		
2.	Algappa Textile Mills	Alagapanagar
3.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Cannanore
4.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur
5.	Vijayamohini Mills	Trivandrum
<b>Mahe</b>		
6	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Mahe
<b>NTC (MM) LTD.</b>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
7.	Podar Mills	Mumbai
8.	Tata Mills	Mumbai
9.	India United Mill No. 5	Mumbai
<b>NTC (SM) LTD.</b>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
10.	Barshi Textile Mills	Barshi
11.	Finlay Mills	Mumbai
<b>N.T.C.(TN &amp; P)LTD</b>		
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
12.	Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore
13.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore
14.	Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore
15.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	Ramudakudi
16.	Sri Rangavilas S. & W. Mills	Coimbatore
17.	Kaleswarar Mills 'b' Unit	Kalayarkoil

1	2	3
<i>NTC (DPR) LTD.</i>		
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
18.	Udaipur Cotton Mills	Udaipur
<i>NTC (Guj.) LTD.</i>		
<b>Gujarat</b>		
19.	Rajnagar Textile Mill No.1	Ahmedabad
<i>NTC (WBABO) LTD.</i>		
<b>West Bengal</b>		
20.	Arati Cotton Mills	Dass Nagar
<i>NTC (MP) LTD.</i>		
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>		
21.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur
22.	New Bhopal Textile Mills	Bhopal

**Statement II***List of 18 Mills Proposed for Joint Venture*

Sl.No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1	2	3
<i>NTC (APKKM) LTD.</i>		
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1.	Tirupati Cotton Mills	Renigunta
<b>Kerala</b>		
2.	Parvathi Mills	Quilon
<i>NTC (MN) LTD.</i>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
3.	India United Mills No.1	Mumbai
4.	RBBA Mills	Hinganghat
5.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	Akola
<i>NTC (SM) LTD.</i>		
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
6.	Apollo Textile Mills	Mumbai
7.	Chalisgaon Textile Mills	Chalisgaon

1	2	3
8.	Dhule Textile Mills	Dhule
9.	Goldmohur Mills	Mumbai
10.	Manded Textile Mills	Nanded
11.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	Mumbai
12.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	Aurangabad
<i>NTC (UP) Ltd.</i>		
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
13.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau	Maunathbanjan
<i>NTC (WBABO) Ltd.</i>		
<b>West Bengal</b>		
14.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	Rishra
15.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	Sodepur
<b>Orissa</b>		
16.	Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagatpur
<i>N.T.C. (TN &amp; P) LTD.</i>		
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
17.	Sri Sarda Mills	Coimbatore
18.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. mills	Coimbatore

**Textile Parks**

1967. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of textile parks sanctioned during the Tenth Five Year Plan period so far;

(b) the total investment made in textile parks and details of subsidy provided to these parks during the Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(c) whether the Government has achieved export target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) Under the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP), 26 Textile Park projects have been sanctioned. State-wise break-up is—Andhra Pradesh (4), Gujarat (6), Karnataka (1), Maharashtra (6), Rajasthan (2), Tamil Nadu (5), Uttar Pradesh (1) and West Bengal (1).

(b) Estimated project cost of these 26 parks (common infrastructure/facilities) is Rs. 2433.80 Crore of which Government of India support would be Rs. 869 Crore. So far, an amount of Rs. 73.56 Crore has been released

to 22 parks. Estimated investment in these 26 parks is Rs. 13445 Crore.

(c) and (d) Achievement for export of textiles vis-a-vis targets during the Tenth Final Year is as under:

(In Million US\$)					
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Target	15005	16310	15160	15565	19730
Achievement	12412.71	13496.31	14026.72	17079.57	10091.08 (April-October 2006)

(e) Targets for exports of textiles during the period 2002-03 to 2004-05 were not achieved, although the Indian textiles industry had the capability to do so. This was because the international textiles trade was subject to quota restrictions during this period. After the removal of quota restrictions with effect from 01.01.2005, actual exports during the year 2005-06 exceeded the target.

(f) A number of steps have been taken by the Government for the growth of exports in textiles. These include the rationalisation of the duty structure, permission for 100% FDI through the automatic route, de-reservation of readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector, exemption of readymade garments from levy of the Textiles Committee Cess, the implementation of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, the Technology Mission on Cotton and the Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks.

#### Foreign Industries

1968. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign industries including Iron and

Steel acquisitioned by Indian Industrialists during the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) the total amount of foreign reserves cost by such acquisitions;

(c) whether the Government admits that such large scale acquisition of foreign industries by Indians amount to out-flow of huge investment from our country;

(d) if so, whether the Government seriously proposes to formulate precise policy in this regard to prevent out-flow of capital investment and deprivation of opportunities to indigenous labour and employment;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) As per information received from the Reserve Bank of India, the actual outflow arising out of India's direct investment abroad during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is as under:

(Amount in US\$ million)

Year	Particulars of Activity	Actual outflow*			
		Equity	Loan	Guarantee	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
(April-March) 2005-2006	Manufacturing	2629.81	302.64	—	2932.45
	Financial services	158.61	0.12	—	158.73
	Non-financial services	387.59	492.98	3.00	883.57

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Trading	288.27	61.51	—	349.78
	Others	119.28	73.13	—	192.41
Total		3583.56	930.38	3.00	4516.94
(April-January)	Manufacturing	1017.26	333.93	—	1351.19
2006-2007	Financial Services	9.96	2.63	—	12.59
	Non-financial Services	4357.14	53.91	—	4411.05
	Trading	140.10	306.96	—	447.06
	Others	459.39	54.69	—	514.08
Total		5983.85	752.12	—	6735.97

\*Provisional data maintained by Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Foreign exchange from reserves are not utilised for acquisition abroad by the Indian industry.

(c) As seen from the acquisitions so far, a significant part of the investments takes place through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) set up abroad which raise funds against the assets of the target company and hence the entire cost of acquisition is not met by remittance from India.

(d) to (f) Outward investment policy guidelines are incorporated under Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) Regulations, 2000. These regulations lay down the guidelines for a corporate-led outward investment. The phased liberalisation of the policy of overseas investments has enabled Indian corporates to establish a presence in overseas markets, redefining the global outreach and competitiveness of Indian entities. Mergers and acquisitions have facilitated enhanced export of plant and machinery and goods from India, thereby increasing employment potential within the country. Such investments in turn provide opportunities to indigenous labour and employment.

#### Influx of People Into Andaman and Nicobar Islands

1969. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sustaining capacity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is being affected due to regular influx of people into the Islands and it has become necessary to bring regulation to control such influx;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any directions to the local administration to conduct a survey in this regard;

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

(d) the further steps taken/being taken to check the influx of people in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) In the absence of a scientific study with regard to availability and required infrastructure, the sustaining capacity of the Andaman & Nicobar islands cannot be defined. However, with a view to preserve and improve natural environment/ protect Islands aboriginal tribes, the Union Territory Administration proposed to promulgate a Regulation to regulate the entry of non-residents and also to prevent influx of people beyond the carrying capacity of the Islands. The matter has been examined carefully and it has been decided to make an assessment of the magnitude of the problem before a view in the matter is taken.

**Closed Textile Mills**

1970. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills closed in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of these mills during the above period, Mill-wise, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether a large number of workers have not received any relief under the Textile Workers Relief Fund Scheme (TWRFS);

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(e) whether a huge sum is lying unspent with the Government under this scheme;

(f) if so, the reasons for not paying the compensation to workers out of this fund;

(g) whether the Government proposes to amend the provisions of TWRFS to make it workers friendly;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(j) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that workers get compensation in time due to closure of textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) 28 cotton/man made fibre textile mills (Non SSI) were closed in the country during last 3 years i.e from 01.02.2004 to 31.1.2007. The state-wise details of mills closed and workers on roll of these 28 mills are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Since the inception of the Textile Workers Relief Fund Scheme (TWRFS) i.e. 15.09.1986 till 20th December 2006, 32 units in Gujarat, 3 units in Maharashtra, 4 units in Madhya Pradesh, 4 units in Tamilnadu, 2 units in Kamataka, 1 unit in Delhi and 1 unit in West Bengal, i.e. a total of 47 mills were found eligible under the scheme. A total of 80264 workers of these mills have been disbursed relief of Rs. 186.56 crore.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) to (j) The scheme is already workers friendly and it prescribes the minimum eligibility criteria for disbursement of relief. The Union Government takes minimum possible time in disbursement of relief after the receipt of list of eligible workers from the respective State Governments.

**Statement**

*Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills reported as closed during the last three years (01-02-2004 to 31-01-2007)*

Sl.No.	During the year (01-02-2004 to 31-01-2005)	No. of workers on roll
1	2	3
<b>Gujarat</b>		
1.	Arunoday Mills	970
<b>Punjab</b>		
1.	Kharar Textile Mills	732
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
1.	Sri Vigneswara Cotton Mills Limited	142

1	2	3
<b>Orissa</b>		
1.	Akhandalmani Spinners & Exporters Limited	57
Total 4 (During Year 2004-05)		1901
During the year (01-02-2005 to 31-01-2006)		
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>		
1.	Parkins Textiles (Private) Limited	312
<b>Karnataka</b>		
1.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Woollen & Silk Mills	2
<b>Maharashtra</b>		
1.	The Dawn Mills Company Limited	886
2.	The Bombay Dyeing & Manufacturing Company Limited (Spring Mills)	539
Total 2		1425
<b>Rajasthan</b>		
1.	Super Syncotex (India) Limited	1200
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
1.	Coimbatore Sri Deepa Textile Mills	38
2.	Ragas Spinners (P) Ltd.	78
Total 2		116
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		
1.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills [Unit of N.T.C. (Uttar Pradesh) Limited]	166
2.	Eastern Spinning & Textile Mills Private Limited	21
3.	Uttar Pradesh State Spinning Company Limited	2358
Total-3		3045
Total 10 (During Year 2005-06)		6100
During the year (01-02-2006 to 31-01-2007)		
<b>Gujarat</b>		
1.	Aryaman Spinners (Private) Limited	150
2.	Broach Textile Mills Limited	648
3.	Niranjan Mills (A Division of Piramal Spinning & Weaving Mills Ltd.)	570
Total-3		1368

1	2	3
<b>Haryana</b>		
1.	Mahalakshmi Cotspin Limited (Parshva Exports Limited)	29
<b>Orissa</b>		
1.	Jaganath Weavers Cooperative Spinning Mills	877
<b>Punjab</b>		
1.	M V Cotspin Limited	56
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		
1.	The Coimbatore Pioneer Mills Limited B- Unit	340
2.	Swamambigai Textiles	32
3	The Dhanalakshmi Mills Limited	1220
4	The South India Co-Operative Spinning Mills Limited	960
5	The Salem Co-Operative Spinning Mills	1194
6	Gowri Sankar Spinning Mills (Private) Limited	86
7	S.K.G. Mills (Private) Limited	54
8	Veena Textiles Limited	224
	Total-8	4110
	Total 14 (During the Year- 2006-07 Upto January-2007)	6440
<b>Grand Total—28</b>		<b>14441</b>

**Phone Tapping**

1971. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against illegal phone tapping of politicians and other individuals;

(b) if so, the total number of such complaints received by the Government during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against persons involved in such phone tapping and to stop such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the rules made thereunder, the Union Home Secretary in the Government of India and the Secretary, in-charge of Home Department in the case of State Governments can allow interception of messages in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order and for preventing incitement to the commission of an offence. There is strict legal and administrative regime to ensure that this power is exercised only as per the said provision. A very few complaints received against illegal phone

tapping were enquired into but no involvement of any Central agency was found.

*[Translation]*

**Funds to Non-governmental Organisations for Various Schemes**

1972. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN:  
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Institutions have sought funds for various schemes related to welfare of women and children in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

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

(c) the details of forthcoming programmes/schemes for the welfare of women and children in the country;

(d) whether inordinate delay is involved in sanctioning the grants for the schemes for the welfare of women and children;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The details of the funds sought by NGOs/institutions for various schemes related to welfare of Women and Children and sanctioned by this Ministry during the last three years and also details of forthcoming programmes/schemes are available in the respective Annual Reports of the Ministry and its Website <http://www.wcd.nic.in>

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) In order to ensure timely sanction of projects and release of funds, the need for submission of complete project proposals as per the prescribed guidelines and

ensuring timely submission of utilization certificates is regularly emphasized upon the State Governments and project implementing agencies.

*[English]*

**Position of Children**

1973. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen expressed his concern over the plight of children in India;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government during the last three years to uplift the overall status of children in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Professor Amartya Sen released a report titled "Focus on Children Under Six" brought out by the Citizen's Initiatives for the Rights of Children in December 2006 and expressed his concern about the wellbeing of the children. The Government has taken several measures to improve the overall situation of children in the country which include elevation of the status of the Department of Women and Child Development to a fullfledged Ministry, enhanced allocation for Integrated Child Development Services Scheme and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, setting up of a National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, preparation of a National Plan of Action for Children, formulation of an Integrated Child Protection Scheme and Offences Against Children (Prevention) Bill, launch of National Rural Health Mission, expansion of Creche Scheme and various others.

**Export Schemes**

1974. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of exporters who are entitled to get refund under various export schemes have not yet got their entitled refunds;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the total amount blocked under various schemes, scheme-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to refund the blocked money at the earliest to these exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Funds are released on quarterly basis for disbursement of Terminal Excise Duty (TED)/Duty Drawback (DBK) and Central Sales Tax (CST).

Rs. 458.00 crores and Rs. 235.30 crores have since been disbursed for payment of TED/DBK and CST respectively.

Claims amounting to Rs. 470.00 crores for disbursement of TED/DBK and Rs. 165.00 crores for disbursement of CST are pending up to the quarter ending 31.12.2006.

(c) As soon as budgetary allocation is available, funds will be released for settlement of the claims.

#### **Export to Pakistan**

1975. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has been identified as a big market for Indian Tea export;

(b) if so, the total quantity of tea exported to Pakistan during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether export of Indian Tea has registered any increase in other foreign countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(e) the extent to which it is expected to rise during the year 2007 to other foreign countries including Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The volume of tea exported from India to Pakistan during 2004, 2005 and 2006 is as under:

#### *Export of tea from India to Pakistan*

Year	Quantity (M.Kgs.)
2004	3.49
2005	11.00
2006*	14.99

\*Estimated.  
(Source: Tea Board)

(c) The export of tea from India has registered an overall increase of 4.81 M. Kgs. during 2006 over 2005.

(d) The export of tea from India has registered an increase to Kenya (6.98 M.Kgs.) Iraq (6.31 M.kgs.), Afghanistan (4.29 M.Kgs.), Pakistan (3.99 M.Kgs.), ARE (2.35 M.Kgs.), Sri Lanka (0.49 M.Kgs.), Uzbekistan (0.33 M.Kgs.), Ireland (0.20 M.kgs.) and Turkey (0.10 M.Kgs.) during 2006 over 2005.

(e) It would be too early to assess the extent of rise in tea exports from India during 2007. However, the indications are that the volume of exports are likely to increase during 2007 also.

#### **Land for Special Economic Zones**

1976. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering a ceiling on the land that can be given to promoter companies for setting up of Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Keeping in view the objectives of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy of enhanced economic activity, employment generation and self contained industrial township concept, minimum size for different classes of SEZs has been prescribed in the SEZ Rules, 2006. The maximum size of SEZs would depend on the geographical location, business potential and nature of the project.

[Translation]

#### Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission

1977. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State relations;

(b) whether the Government has implemented the recommendations thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to constitute a new Commission in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which this Commission is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) The Government of India had constituted a Commission in June, 1983 under the chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria to examine and review the working of the arrangements between the Union and States in regard to powers, functions and responsibilities in all spheres and recommend such changes or other measures as may be appropriate. In its report submitted in 1988, the Commission made 247 recommendations. The Inter-

State Council, which includes all the Chief Ministers and Administrators of States and Union Territories respectively, has already considered and taken a final view on all the recommendations through consensus. Government has accepted and implemented 179 recommendations, which were accepted by the Inter-State Council. 65 recommendations have not been accepted either by the Inter-State Council or the Union Government.

(e) to (g) The Government has on the 30th September, 2005 notified the setting up of a Commission on Centre-State relations keeping in view the sea-changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission last looked at these issues over two decades ago. The Commission shall consist of a full time Chairperson and four full-time Members, who are yet to be appointed. It is not possible to indicate a time frame in which the Commission will be constituted.

#### Status of Mining Proposals

1978. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mining lease proposals received, cleared and pending with the Union Government during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in clearance of pending proposals; and

(c) the time by which such proposals are likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) The details of number of mining lease proposals received in respect of various States, seeking prior approval of the Central Government, and the number of such proposals disposed and pending with the Ministry of Mines during last three years, are as under:

Name of the State	2003-04				2004-05				2005-06			
	BF	R	D	P	BF	R	D	P	BF	R	D	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	04	10	04	10	10	32	11	31	31	49	23	57
Chhattisgarh	01	16	03	14	14	11	09	16	16	10	14	12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gujarat	00	07	03	04	04	06	08	02	02	08	01	07
Himachal Pradesh	01	00	01	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Jharkhand	04	02	05	01	01	21	00	22	22	05	18	09
Karnataka	01	12	02	11	11	09	01	19	19	30	23	26
Kerala	00	08	00	08	08	07	06	09	09	08	09	08
Madhya Pradesh	06	14	15	05	05	28	06	27	27	34	22	39
Maharashtra	13	19	10	22	22	27	15	34	34	19	17	36
Manipur	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	01
Orissa	01	05	04	02	02	03	02	03	03	05	04	04
Rajasthan	02	01	00	03	03	05	03	05	05	12	03	14
Tamil Nadu	36	23	39	20	20	12	01	31	31	19	16	34
Uttarakhand	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	01	00	01

(BF= Brought forward from previous year; R = Received during the year; D= Disposed of during the year; P= pending)

(b) and (c) Decision with regard to the proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease is taken after consulting the concerned State Government, Geological Survey of India, Indian Bureau of Mines and other agencies as required, and also keeping in view the orders, if any, passed by the Tribunal/Courts in respect of the proposals. The proposals are considered expeditiously on receipt of complete information.

[English]

#### Allocation for Wool Development

1979. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be please to state:

(a) the allocations made out of the Wool Development Fund to the wool producing States during each of the last three years, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether any amount out of that fund has been allocated to Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the arrangements proposed to be made to promote wool in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) to (d) An amount of Rs. 133.278 lakhs has been released for wool development programme to the State of Rajasthan and NGOs of the State in the last three years. Two proposals were received from the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years. The first proposal of Rs. 3034.00 lakhs could not be approved as it did not fulfill the parameters of the schemes of the Central Wool/Development Board. The State Government has since submitted a revised proposal of Rs. 599.20 lakhs for a 4 year project period. An amount of Rs. 247.80 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Government of Rajasthan for the 1st year project period and an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been released as the 1st instalment.

**Statement***The grant released to Wool Producing States during 2003-2004 to 2006-2007 (upto February, 2007)*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Years			
		2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007 (Upto 6.3.2007)
1.	Gujarat	168.00	47.30	—	50.00
2.	Rajasthan	—	—	0.585	133.728
3.	Himachal Pradesh	183.59	7.58	94.465	58.95
4.	Uttar Pradesh	25.50	155.15	—	—
5.	Maharashtra	—	23.76	27.40	—
6.	Haryana	73.09	10.00	80.77	—
7.	Karnataka	12.94	53.88	6.69	17.75
8.	Andhra Pradesh	8.80	—	8.80	63.50
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	411.38	27.00	266.00	—
10.	Uttaranchal	46.34	20.49	65.555	0.514
11.	Punjab	—	—	—	50.00

**Promotion of Handicrafts**

1980. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to promote handicrafts industry and the craftsmen involved therein;

(b) if so, the steps tak to promote soap stone granite figures and icon in Orissa;

(c) whether incentives are proposed to be provided to crafts persons who are engaged in manufacturing of these handicrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is promoting handicrafts industry and the craftsmen involved by implementing various schemes

for development and promotion of handicrafts which include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) for integrated development of selected craft clusters; Marketing and Support Service Schemes; Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme; Export Promotion Scheme and Special Handicrafts Training Project. These schemes cover the artisans engaged in stone granite figures and icon of Orissa.

(c) and (d) Incentives are provided to artisans, including those engaged in stone granite figures and icon of Orissa. These include: skill development programmes under Special Handicrafts Training Project; conferring of Shilp Guru Award; National Award; National Merit Certificates; grant of old age pension to Awardees in indignant circumstances and providing various marketing platforms.

**Pay Slip to PMF Personnel**

1981. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide pay-slips with deductions from monthly salaries of Gazetted and Non-Gazetted officers working in Para-Military Forces including Border Security Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Pay slips are issued to their Gazetted and Non-Gazetted officers by all CPFs including Border Security Force.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Funds Allocation for Children  
and Women Welfare**

1982. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to review all child related legislations as reported in *'The Times of India'* dated February 23, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has decided to increase allocation for children and women under various children and women related programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof, children and women-wise;

(e) whether the Government had identified deficiencies in the children and women related schemes and effective monitoring system;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The Legislations pertaining to children are reviewed from time to time and appropriate action is taken for formulation of new clauses and amendments in the existing provisions, as required.

(c) and (d) The women and children programmes are being implemented by various Ministries and Departments at the Union Level. The Plan allocation for the Ministry of Women and Child Development has increased from Rs. 4839.85 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 5793 crore in 2007-08. The allocation under certain schemes and programmes like Integrated Child Development Services and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has also been increased in 2007-08. There has been increase in allocation of funds under other schemes and programmes for women and children too.

(e) to (g) The Schemes and programmes for women and children are being reviewed by the Government from time to time to identify the deficiencies and the gaps for their effective implementation and monitoring for the purpose of achieving the objectives. The Ministry of Women and Child Development has taken steps for universalization of Integrated Child Development Services, and expansion of Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the children of working mothers and proposes to introduce the Integrated Child Protection scheme.

**Reduction of Tariffs**

1983. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the developed countries have proposed reduction in tariffs on industrial goods and have urged developing countries to bring down their duties by 66 per cent against 33 per cent reduction by developed countries;

(b) if so, whether this move will open up markets of developing countries for the developed countries without any major advantage in return; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to counter this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The

December, 2005 Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of the World Trade Organisation had given a mandate for adopting a Swiss formula for the reduction of bound tariffs for non-agricultural products. The Declaration also stated that the special needs and interests of developing countries had to be taken fully into account, including through less than full reciprocity (LTFR) in reduction commitments of bound tariffs. Though no proposal has been formally tabled on behalf of any developed country relating to the coefficients for the Swiss formula, reports have been received that some developed countries are considering proposing a reduction in the bound tariffs of non-agricultural products through the use of a Swiss formula with coefficients of 10 and 15 for developed and developing countries respectively. This proposal would have the implication that while most developed countries would reduce their average bound rates on dutiable tariff lines by 33% to 50%, most developing countries would have to reduce their average bound rates on dutiable tariff lines by 57% to 73%. India and other members of the NAMA-11 group of developing countries have been arguing that less than full reciprocity as a development mandate entails that developing countries should take lower percentage reduction commitments of bound, tariffs than the developed countries.

#### **Humanity Courses in IIT**

1984. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to introduce humanity courses in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) if so, the main objective behind opening such courses; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) All seven Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are already having courses in humanities and social sciences. Engineering and Science are, by their very nature, humanistic and socially derived enterprises. Hence, a complete science and technology education must include humanities and social sciences education where the students unites application of

scientific principles along with human, moral and social understanding.

#### **Cement Price**

1985. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of successive increase in the prices of cement since January, 2004 to till date;

(b) the details of the cement price index issued by the Ministry of Industry from January, 2004 to January 31, 2007;

(c) the details of regular bulletins issued by the Cement Corporation of India during the period from January, 2004 to January 31, 2007;

(d) the estimated hike expected due to recent announced dual excise duty regime on cement; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb the prices of cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Statement-I indicating month-wise cement prices from January 2004 to January 2007 is enclosed.

(b) The statement-II indicating wholesale price index for cement is enclosed.

(c) Cement Corporation of India has informed that it has not issued any bulletin during January 2004 to January 31, 2007.

(d) The retail prices of cement have risen by Rs. 10 to 12 per bag in the last one week in some centres.

(e) Pursuant to the efforts of the Government to contain cement prices, the major cement manufacturers have agreed to hold the price line and not increase the cement prices any further in the next one year and to absorb all the additional costs themselves. They have also agreed to pass on the entire benefit of concessions in duties/levies, if given, to consumers.

**Statement I***Average price of Cement per bag of 50 kg. (in Rs.)*

Region/Centre	Jan '04	Feb '04	Mar '04	Apr.'04	May '04	June '04	July '04	Aug '04	Sep '04	Oct '04	Nov '04	Dec '04	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Northern Region</b>													
Delhi	153	156	155	157	153	147	144	143	147	140	142	143	148
Karnal	154	158	159	159	156	153	150	149	155	151	149	150	154
Chandigarh	158	157	169	169	171	166	167	167	161	161	157	157	163
Jaipur	144	152	156	155	155	148	145	145	144	135	136	141	146
Rohtak	149	152	153	153	150	144	141	140	144	140	140	141	146
Bhatinda	157	162	169	169	167	167	166	164	157	159	157	156	163
Ludhiana	163	163	171	169	171	168	168	169	161	161	164	164	166
Jammu	195	202	208	210	210	210	210	210	207	208	208	203	207
Shimla	154	156	157	157	157	157	159	159	163	163	163	160	159
<b>Eastern Region</b>													
Calcutta	163	164	173	173	173	173	173	173	163	170	170	173	170
Patna	141	151	164	159	163	156	154	153	149	140	153	158	153
Bhubaneshwar	135	146	145	151	149	153	147	144	144	149	149	143	146
Guwahati	172	172	172	172	172	172	169	168	168	158	158	158	168
Muzaffarpur	145	156	169	169	166	160	160	158	154	149	153	160	158
<b>Western Region</b>													
Bombay	175	173	175	175	173	172	172	168	168	153	159	163	169
Ahmedabad	145	154	142	143	143	148	150	150	150	121	112	112	139
Nagpur	144	144	141	147	143	142	143	139	139	134	131	137	140
Pune	149	155	137	157	151	150	151	148	148	135	132	145	147
Rajkot	145	152	142	142	142	147	150	149	149	119	111	111	138
Baroda	145	154	147	148	148	154	155	155	155	121	116	116	143
Surat	145	155	147	148	148	154	155	155	155	121	116	116	143
<b>Southern Region</b>													
Chennai	160	164	150	170	170	163	158	148	155	145	140	160	157
Thiruvananthapuram	165	164	155	180	180	178	171	173	170	150	145	175	167

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bangalore	155	151	180	155	155	158	159	158	180	155	150	150	156
Hyderabad	135	135	120	135	135	135	130	130	135	125	115	120	129
Calicut	165	165	160	180	180	178	171	173	175	155	150	175	169
Visakhapatnam	135	140	140	145	145	145	136	130	145	135	130	130	138
Goa	136	144	158	161	155	163	192	158	158	153	148	149	154
<b>Central Region</b>													
Lucknow	147	154	162	165	160	151	152	146	146	132	137	141	149
Meerut	156	159	159	163	162	153	153	151	151	146	143	145	153
Faizabad	143	155	163	165	156	144	147	144	138	126	131	135	146
Bareilly	155	161	164	164	156	153	151	145	143	138	139	143	151
Bhopal	120	131	124	128	125	124	127	130	130	121	118	129	128
Average	152	156	157	160	159	157	156	154	154	145	143	147	153

*Average price of cement per bag of 50 kg. (in Rs.)*

Region/Centre	Jan '05	Feb '05	Mar '05	Apr '05	May '05	June '05	July '05	Aug '05	Sep '05	Oct '05	Nov '05	Dec '05	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Northern Region</b>													
Delhi	149	157	152	152	155	158	160	162	159	165	167	163	158
Karnal	151	157	149	149	149	150	153	155	156	162	164	159	155
Chandigarh	157	155	155	154	164	164	159	158	159	159	159	159	159
Jaipur	143	153	152	152	144	141	144	150	149	149	150	148	148
Rohtak	144	149	144	144	144	145	148	151	151	155	156	157	149
Bhatinda	156	146	147	147	162	162	154	155	155	155	155	161	155
Ludhiana	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164	164
Jammu	203	203	202	203	203	198	199	200	211	213	214	216	205
Shimla	159	159	159	159	165	173	173	165	166	170	172	173	166
<b>Eastern Region</b>													
Calcutta	172	172	189	188	182	173	167	166	166	167	165	158	172
Patna	149	156	163	163	170	164	156	154	156	154	163	153	158

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Bhubaneshwar	141	150	145	145	162	164	157	152	153	152	154	149	152
Guwahati	163	163	180	180	181	189	176	176	177	185	181	180	178
Muzaffarpur	152	154	167	164	178	167	167	165	165	164	157	156	163
<b>Western Region</b>													
Bombay	165	185	182	181	185	180	178	178	177	178	178	174	178
Ahmedabad	143	153	153	153	153	153	153	153	156	158	158	158	154
Nagpur	144	143	143	142	145	143	141	141	142	143	144	143	143
Pune	163	152	153	152	155	152	152	157	151	156	158	151	154
Rajkot	142	152	151	151	152	152	152	152	155	157	157	157	153
Baroda	143	158	157	157	158	158	158	158	160	163	163	163	158
Surat	145	163	163	163	163	163	163	163	166	168	168	168	163
<b>Southern Region</b>													
Chennai	160	165	170	170	165	165	157	155	158	156	151	152	160
Thiruvananthapuram	170	180	180	190	186	185	180	180	180	180	180	180	181
Bangalore	160	163	165	165	166	165	162	163	165	163	165	165	164
Hyderabad	120	120	125	125	120	125	120	118	123	131	126	127	123
Calicut	170	180	180	180	185	185	180	180	180	180	180	180	180
Visakhapatnam	130	130	130	135	128	135	128	128	133	137	138	135	132
Goa	160	163	158	160	162	159	161	165	165	163	161	161	162
<b>Central Region</b>													
Lucknow	152	163	159	153	155	151	152	155	151	149	147	142	152
Meerut	152	162	160	161	155	158	161	163	161	164	164	161	160
Faizabad	145	162	159	148	153	149	148	150	149	143	141	137	149
Bareilly	152	163	156	149	151	150	149	150	149	149	149	145	151
Bhopal	125	153	146	135	138	135	136	136	134	133	131	132	136
Average	153	159	159	159	161	160	158	158	159	160	160	158	159

*Average price of cement per bag of 50 kg (in Rs.)*

Region/Centre	Jan '06	Feb '06	Mar '06	Apr.'06	May '06	June '06	July '06	Aug '06	Sep '06	Oct '06	Nov '06	Dec '06	Average
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>Northern Region</b>													
Delhi	171	187	205	208	205	207	205	204	204	212	217	217	204
Karnal	169	185	203	204	203	205	205	204	205	209	212	212	201
Chandigarh	159	178	196	201	201	207	209	209	205	211	213	215	200
Jaipur	155	166	181	181	179	182	184	183	184	184	189	189	180
Rohtak	163	177	195	199	195	197	198	197	197	202	205	205	194
Bhatinda	161	173	184	206	198	196	196	196	196	203	208	210	194
Ludhiana	164	181	206	207	203	206	208	210	211	216	217	219	204
Jammu	224	228	245	256	248	249	248	250	254	261	253	266	249
Shimla	174	183	183	183	183	192	198	199	200	201	204	207	192
<b>Eastern Region</b>													
Calcutta	159	173	192	193	192	192	192	192	193	196	206	205	190
Patna	154	164	179	191	193	192	191	190	191	199	204	205	188
Bhubaneshwar	150	156	171	185	185	182	178	177	177	185	196	199	178
Guwahati	184	187	209	221	221	219	213	213	213	213	217	250	213
Muzaffarpur	157	160	176	189	195	194	195	194	196	200	212	215	190
<b>Western Region</b>													
Bombay	183	205	231	245	245	240	240	233	233	236	243	243	231
Ahmedabad	166	171	177	189	191	193	195	197	197	200	203	203	190
Nagpur	152	163	177	185	186	187	188	190	190	197	201	201	185
Pune	165	198	220	214	216	218	218	216	213	216	216	214	210
Rajkot	162	167	171	183	185	187	189	191	191	194	197	197	185
Baroda	166	171	177	189	191	193	195	197	197	200	203	203	190
Surat	168	171	177	189	191	193	195	197	197	200	203	203	190
<b>Southern Region</b>													
Chennai	163	163	167	185	200	203	200	199	195	194	194	195	188
Thiruvananthapuram	180	180	187	208	216	220	221	220	220	217	213	210	208





**Statement II***Base Year 1993-94 =100*

Name of Commodity: C. Cement

Type: Group Item

Month/Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2004	150.3	152.6	151.2	153.1	153.8	152.9	151.4	150.6	150.8	150.0	147.4	149.3
2005	149.2	161.3	163.8	164.3	163.8	163.4	162.2	162.2	164.2	165.9	165.4	164.3
2006	168.2	174.1	181.8	191.2	193.5	193.6	194.5	195	194.6	196.8	198.8	198.6
2007	198.4											

*[Translation]***Talks with Hurriyat Leaders on Kashmir Issue**

1986. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All Party Hurriyat Conference has shown its willingness to have a discussion with the Union Government to resolve Jammu and Kashmir problem;

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

(c) the role of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir in the discussion with the Hurriyat in the shadow of terrorist atmosphere prevailing in the State;

(d) whether the Union Government has apprised the Hurriyat of the previous offer of bilateral discussion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Hurriyat Conference thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) to (f) The Prime Minister met a delegation of All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) (A) led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on September 5, 2005 and on May 3, 2006. The Government committed to having dialogue with all groups and different shades of opinion in the State on

a sustained basis in consultation with the democratically elected State Government whenever needed.

*[English]***Liberalisation of Visa**

1987. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Secretary urged the Home Secretary for liberalising and simplifying the current system for granting visas to international students citing about the liberal visa regime in China wooing away research scholars and foreign students from India;

(b) if so, the details of specific measures suggested for granting long term visas to foreign students already studying in India;

(c) the action so far taken on such suggestions;

(d) whether the Coordination Committee with representatives from Ministries of Home, Human Resource Development and External Affairs has been set up to speed up pending research proposals for clearance, including those proposals on which security agencies have not responded within time; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (e) Foreign Secretary in his letter dated 21.12.2006 addressed to Union Home Secretary raised various issues

relating to liberalization and simplification of the system for grant of long term visa to foreign students and scholars. The suggestions made in the letter *inter-alia*, included grant of long term visa to foreign students who are already in India, delegation of powers to Foreigners Regional Registration Officers (FRRO) for renewal of visas of foreign students, setting up of a Coordination Committee for clearing research proposals of foreign scholars, introduction of 'Green List' of countries and subjects, etc.

The entire matter relating to policy and processes with respect to research proposals from foreign scholars was reviewed in a meeting taken by Union Home Secretary which was also attended amongst others by Foreign Secretary. It was decided in the meeting that FRROs/State Governments would be delegated powers for extension of Research Visa of foreign scholars upto 5 years or the duration of the project, whichever is earlier. Further it was decided that Research visa can be extended for a further period of 6 months on the completion of the duration of the project, if required, by the foreign scholars to complete final formalities. As was decided in the said review meeting, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Higher Education) with representatives of Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Human Resource Development has already been constituted to streamline and expedite pending research proposals. The committee is required to meet on a monthly basis. The said Committee has so far held two meetings on 15.01.2007 and 15.02.2007 respectively in which various aspects with respect to research proposals have been reviewed, and appropriate action taken to expedite the pending research proposals.

[*Translation*]

#### Ph.D. and M.Phil Courses

1988. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: With the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in the number of scholars pursuing Ph.D. and M.Phil courses in various universities across the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether the Government is considering to bring quality changes in the higher education alongwith the steps likely to be taken in the Eleventh Five Year Plan encouraging scholars pursuing Ph.D. and M.Phil courses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University Grant Commission (UGC) the total number of Doctorate Degrees awarded in various faculties during the last three years shows an increasing trend, as given below:

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*
Number of Doctorate Degrees Awarded	15328	17853	17898

\*Provisional.

(b) and (c) University Grants Commission (UGC) is implementing a number of schemes for quality and excellence and research in higher education in universities and colleges by providing grants through the following schemes:-

- (i) Universities and colleges with potential for excellence.
- (ii) Digital repository of research and Teaching Material.
- (iii) Internet Connectivity for universities.
- (iv) Information communication and computer education.
- (v) Teaching Innovations in various disciplines (E-content dev.)
- (vi) Faculty Improvement Programme.
- (vii) Incentives for Resource Mobilization.
- (viii) Computerisation of higher education system.
- (ix) Award of Research Fellowship for meritorious students for doing Ph.D.

*[English]***Export of Onion**

1989. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of export of onion is leading to sharp rise in its prices and shortage of onion in the country;

(b) if so, the total quantity of onion produced, demanded and exported during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken any action to reduce the steep hike in the prices of onion in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The production and export of onion during 2006-07 has been more as compared to that in the last three years. However, the increase in export has had not much impact on the availability of onion in the domestic market. According to the National Horticulture Research and Development Foundation (NHRDF) the export of onion from the country is only 10-15% of the total annual production of onion.

(b) The production and export of onion during the last three years and in the current year upto 07.03.07 is given below:

(Figures in lakh metric tons)

Year	Production	Quantity exported
2003-04	57.21	8.41
2004-05	59.42	9.41
2005-06	62.23	7.78
2006-07	66.08	10.61

(Source: NHRDF)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) is monitoring arrivals, prices and export of onion on a daily basis. To curb the rising trend of onion, following measures have been taken by it:

(i) It has started distribution of onion in Delhi w.e.f. 16.02.2007 through its static outlets and mobile vans at a price of Rs. 11.00 per kg;

(ii) The Minimum Export Price of onion has been increased from US \$ 220 per metric ton to US \$ 345 per metric ton between 19.12.06 to 20.02.2007 so as to that restrict exports and increase availability in domestic market;

(iii) Instructions have been issued for issue of "No Objection Certificates" for export of onion in such a manner that unscrupulous elements do not take benefit of hoarding/unfair accumulation of NOCs; and

(iv) Chief Secretaries of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttaranchal, West Bengal, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and other North Eastern States where availability of onion is less and prices are ruling on higher side have been requested to send their requirement of onion to NAFED so that supply can be made as per their indent.

The Department of Commerce has also issued instructions for issue of 'NOC' for exports only when the shipment is actually ready. Fresh "NOCs" to be issued to an Associate Shipper only on receipt of export utilization report of the "NOCs" given to it earlier.

(e) Does not arise.

**Handing Over of Bailadila Deposit  
to Private Company**

1990. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over the Bailadila Deposit No. 3 to a private company despite the opposition from the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) On a proposal received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh, Central Government's prior approval under Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 has been conveyed on 28.12.2006/02.02.2007 to the grant of prospecting licence for iron ore over an area of 2285 hectares in Bailadila range (Deposit No.3) of Bailadila Reserve Forest area, Tehsil Dantewara, District South Bastar Dantewara in favour of M/s Essar Steel (Chhattisgarh) Ltd. for a period of two years subject to outcome of the revision application filed by M/s National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) before Tribunal (Mines).

[Translation]

#### Assessment of Fabric Production

1991. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:  
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the quantum of fabric produced by powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of shuttleless, automatic and ordinary powerlooms in the country, State and Union territory-wise;

(d) whether the Government is taking concrete measures to enhance the quality of their production by upgrading the skilled design infrastructure and technology for the industry;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the funds allocated for the year 2006-07 has been spent;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes

Sir. Assessment of fabric produced in powerloom sector is as under:

[in Million Sq. Mts]

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	April—Jan. 2006-07 (Prov.)
Cotton	7361	8821	7978
Blended	4528	4832	4274
100% Non-Cotton	16438	17173	15721
<b>Total</b>	<b>28325</b>	<b>30626</b>	<b>27973</b>

(c) A statement showing number of all types of looms, State and Union Territory-wise, is enclosed hereto.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to upgrade and modernise the textile sector including powerloom sector. The scheme provides 5% Interest reimbursement for Rupee Term Loan (RTL) and exchange rate fluctuation/forward cover premium limited to 5% for Foreign Currency Loan (FCL) availed for a project in conformity with the scheme. The SSI units have an option of 15% Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) in lieu of 5% Interest reimbursement under TUFS w.e.f. 13.1.2005. The SSI powerloom units also have additional option to avail of 20% CLCS w.e.f. 6.11.2003. Government has also set up 44 Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs) all over the country, out of which 35 PSCs have been modernised. A total of 17 Computer Aided Design Centres have also been set up for imparting training to the workers on modern machines and creation of new designs to enhance the quality of their production.

(f) and (g) Government has allotted Rs. 70.00 crore under 20% CLCS-TUFS for the year 2006-07. Out of this an amount of Rs. 59.00 crore has been utilised up to 9th March 2007. It is expected that the balance amount would be utilised during this year.

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

**Statement***Position of the State/Union Territory-wise Installation of Powerlooms as on 30.09.2006*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Plain Loom	Semi Automatic Loom	Automatic Loom	Shuttleless Loom	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>State</b>						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42277	65	923	694	43959
2.	Assam	2014	640	36	36	2726
3.	Bihar	2894	0	0	0	2894
4.	Goa	122	0	0	0	122
5.	Gujarat	73715	235070	5532	8350	322667
6.	Haryana	6224	2083	0	1609	9916
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1461	0	0	0	1461
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	65	0	0	0	65
9.	Karnataka	79919	1298	0	652	81869
10.	Kerala	2788	0	0	0	2788
11.	Madhya Pradesh	89375	60	950	150	90535
12.	Maharashtra	833722	35200	13000	4034	885956
13.	Orissa	3321	0	0	0	3321
14.	Punjab	20320	1500	700	1100	23620
15.	Rajasthan	22965	1800	3228	7801	35794
16.	Tamil Nadu	332211	33200	2540	6900	374851
17.	Uttar Pradesh	62972	1638	774	588	65972
18.	West Bengal	4912	0	16	19	4947
19.	Delhi	952	0	114	36	1102
20.	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura.	0				
		1582229	312554	27813	31969	1954565

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Union Territory</b>						
21.	Chandigarh					0
22.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli					0
23.	Pondicherry	0	0	600	230	830
24.	Andaman and Nikobar, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep					0
		0	0	600	230	830
<b>Total</b>		<b>1582229</b>	<b>312554</b>	<b>28413</b>	<b>32199</b>	<b>1955395</b>

*[English]***Technical Education**

1992. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any scheme to impart technical education in the remote Adivasi regions;

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

(c) the names of technical schools/institutions which either set up or proposed to be set up in the States of West Bengal and Sikkim during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to Ministry of

Tribal Affairs, no new scheme has been launched for imparting technical education to tribal students in remote Adivasi regions. However they are implementing a scheme namely Vocational Training Centers for Scheduled Tribes. The aim of this scheme is to develop the skill of the tribal youth in order to gain employment/self employment opportunities. This scheme is implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations, Institutions or Organizations set up by Government as autonomous body, educational and other institutions like local bodies and cooperative societies and Non-Governmental Organizations. The capacity of each vocational training center is 100 with hostel facility for 50. Each center may cater to five vocational courses in traditional or other skills depending upon the employment potential of the area.

(c) According to the AICTE, the details of technical institutions set up/proposed to be set up in the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 in the States of West Bengal and Sikkim are as follows:

State	Discipline	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	Engineering	9	8	4
	Pharmacy	7	1	1
	Hotel Management and Catering Technology	2	0	1
	Management	6	10	1
	Master of Computer Application	4	2	0

1	2	3	4	5
Sikkim	Engineering	0	0	0
	Pharmacy	0	0	0
	Hotel Management and Catering Technology	0	0	0
	Management	0	0	0
	Master of Computer Application	0	0	0

### Special Economic Zones

1993. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:  
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the Special Economic Zone Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and Special Economic Zone Rules 2006 have been operationalised only with effect from 10th February, 2006 and as at present there is no proposal to amend the SEZ Act. However, various issues relating to Special Economic Zones (SEZs) including land acquisition have been placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers.

### Investigation of Cases by CBI

1994. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent inhumanitarian behaviour and killings of children in the Nithari village of Ghaziabad (UP), the Government proposes to enact any law through which such incidents are likely to be contained and the CBI would be able to take action freely without

the approval of the State Government as suggested by NHRC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government as there are stringent punishments for such offences in the existing laws. However, the Government reviews the laws and brings about amendments as and when it is considered necessary.

### Literacy Mission

1995. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the literacy mission has failed to attain its objectives as reported in the *Hindustan* dated December 21, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified the factors responsible for failure thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) and (b) The objective of the National Literacy Mission is to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. 597 districts of the country have been covered under various literacy programmes under which 124.27 million people have been made literate so far. Though the present literacy rates are not yet available, however, according to 2001 census, there has been a significant rise of 12.63% in the literacy rate in the country, which has been the highest decadal increase so far.

(c) to (e) Do not arise. However, the strategies adopted under the National Literacy Mission have tried to focus on the critical areas like low female literacy and residual illiterates in the country from time to time. For this purpose, special literacy programmes focused on illiterate women in the low female literacy districts particularly in the states of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa and special literacy drive in 150 districts of the country, which have the lowest literacy rate, have been taken up.

#### **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority**

1996. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has assisted the exporters of Tamil Nadu in trading and exporting agro products from the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years; and

(c) the extent of its contribution in promoting agri-export from Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

#### **Evaluation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme**

1997. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out the evaluation of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme by a private agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the agency has submitted its report;

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

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (e) The Government has carried out the work of evaluation of TUFs through a private agency namely M/s. KSA Technopak (India) Private Limited and they have submitted their report. The said report reveals that there is—

(i) Increase in Productivity,

(ii) Reduction in Cost,

(iii) Reduction in Wastage,

(iv) Improvement in Unit Value realization (UVR) in domestic and export market,

(v) Increase in Domestic/Export Turnover

(vi) Increase in Net Profit.

The major recommendation of the Report is to extend the scheme beyond 31st March, 2007. As per the Budget Speech 2007-08 of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, the Scheme has been extended beyond 31st March, 2007.

#### **Package for Special Category States**

1998. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned special package and concessions for special category States during 2005-06 and 2006-07;

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

(c) the details of the criteria for selection of the States under the said category;

(d) whether Orissa is the most backward State in the country; and

(e) if so, the reasons for not covering Orissa under the said category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) The Government announced a Special Package of economic incentives for promoting industrialization in the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on 14.06.2002 and 07.01.2003 respectively which *inter-alia* include Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme, excise and income-tax exemption. The rationale for the concessions was that these States are hilly, remote and have poor accessibility to markets and also have poor infrastructure. Accordingly, on the said analogy, Orissa is not covered under this particular Scheme. The details of the amount released State-wise during 2005-06 and 2006-07 (up to February, 2007) are as under:

(Rupee in Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	2005-06	2006-07 (up to Feb. 2007)
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.50	NIL
2.	Himachal Pradesh	11.50	6.00
3.	Uttarakhand	8.00	4.93

[Translation]

### Gems Stones

1999. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the places where precious/less precious gems stones are available;

(b) whether the Government proposes to implement any special scheme to promote mining and exploitation of the reserves of these stones in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantity and the value of the stone mined and utilised in the local market during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) State-wise information on estimated deposits of precious/semi-precious gems stones & given in the Indian Minerals Year Book published by the Indian Bureau of Mines. A copy has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The production and value of precious and semi-precious stones during the year 2003-04 to 2005-06 is as under:

(Value in Rs. '000)

Mineral	Unit	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06(P)	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Agate	Tonne	55	33	25	15	5	3
Corundum	Kg.	117030	293	18560	43	58000	109
Diamond	Carat	71260	318107	78316	376241	44170	233365
Garnet (Gem)	Kg.	544	149	90	122	—	—

P - Provisional

Source—MCDR returns

*[English]***Comprehensive Policy for Rehabilitations**

2000. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:  
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes any comprehensive policy for the rehabilitation of persons affected by natural disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome such hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Disaster Management Act, 2005 lays down the institutional framework for effective management of disasters. The Act provides for taking necessary measures in respect of all phases of disaster management cycle including rehabilitation and reconstruction. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) established under the Act is mandated to lay down policies on disaster management. NDMA is finalizing the National Policy on Disaster Management including the aspects of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

**Violation of Terms and Conditions of Mines Lease**

2001. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and number of complaints received during each of the last three years regarding violation of terms and conditions of the licences by the owners/developers of mines leading to mining disasters including loss of human lives;

(b) whether the Government proposes to amend the law and provide for stringent conditions with heavy punishable provisions to check such mining operations; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to effectively implement the provisions of licences issued and court orders to check mining disasters, ensure safety and welfare of mine workers and to address safety and environmental issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Violations of terms and conditions of the licences by the owners/developers of the mines are looked after by respective State Governments. Ministry of Mines administers the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 for development and regulation of minerals and mines in the country. As regards safety conditions in mining, as per information made available by Ministry of Labour & Employment the owner, agent and manager of each mine is required to comply with provisions of Mines Act, which is overseen by the officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety, and in case of non compliance, action as per law is taken against the mine's management.

(c) Provisions of licences issued are implemented by the respective State Governments whereas the Directorate General of Mines Safety under the Ministry of Labour ensures safety and welfare of mine workers. Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines carry out regular inspection of mines which includes monitoring of environmental issues.

*[Translation]***Registration of Cases by Delhi Police**

2002. CH. MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and the number of cases registered in various Police Stations in Delhi and dismissed by the court during each of the last three years, Police Station-wise;

(b) the details of the fake cases registered in various Police Stations subjected to high level inquiry, Police Station-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government against the police personnel found guilty for registering fake cases; and

'd) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve the image of Delhi Police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) None of the cases, registered in the Police Stations of Delhi, has been dismissed by the Court during each of the last three years.

(b) and (c) One case was registered *vide* FIR No. 359/2006 at Police Station Timarpur in connection with firing by two criminals upon a police team comprising an Assistant Sub-Inspector, a Head Constable and five constables alongwith a constable (Driver). On the complaint of father of a criminal killed in the above encounter to the District Magistrate and Senior Superintendent of Police Ghaziabad, a case was registered at Police Station Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad after making preliminary enquiry and subsequently transferred to Delhi Police with one more constable being named in the case. After enquiry it was revealed that it was not an encounter but a case of murder in which one ASI and two constables of above mentioned team and another constable of Delhi Police played a key role. Other police personnel comprising a Head Constable and three constables with one constable (Driver) joined the above said team on the direction of ASI. Accordingly, a case *vide* FIR 383/2006 was registered against the police personnel involved. One ASI and three constables of Delhi Police were dismissed from the police force. One Head Constable, three constables with one constable (Driver) were placed under suspension.

(d) The steps taken to prevent police personnel from indulging in such activities by Delhi Police include surprise checking by senior officers of the activities of personnel deployed for various duties; keeping a watch on police personnel suspected to be indulging in such practices; transfer of personnel of criminal disposition to non-sensitive posts; stringent legal and departmental action against those found to be indulging in criminal activities; handling of criminal complaints against police personnel directly by officers of the rank of Joint Commissioner of Police and above; establishment of Public Grievances Cells in Districts/Units to keep a close watch on police personnel; surveillance by the Vigilance Branch on the criminal activities of personnel holding sensitive posts; maintenance of a register of complaints by the Deputy Commissioner of Police of Districts; and providing facility to the general public to make complaint against corrupt police personnel

through e-mail, sensitising the police personnel with the help of eminent citizens and other NGOs through lecture, award of severe punishment to any officer involved in malpractices to set examples for others, display prominently of telephone numbers of Anti-Corruption Branch and Vigilance Branch in Police Stations.

*[English]*

#### Indira Gandhi National Open University

2003. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) plans to reach out to village students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the courses designed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has informed that it has established 6 Sub Regional Centres and 211 Special Study Centres for disadvantaged groups in remote rural and low literacy regions. The University is offering certain programmes such as Post Graduate Diploma in Rural Development, Diploma Programme in Value Added Products from Fruits and Vegetables, Diploma in Aquaculture, Certificate in Empowering Women through Self Help Groups and Certificate in Craft and Design (Pottery), etc., which are beneficial to the village students.

#### Recruitment from Naxal Affected Areas

2004. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to recruit 40 per cent of new recruitments from backward areas of Naxalite infested districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a)

and (b) As per the scheme for recruitment of Constables in Central Police Forces, allotment of vacancies are as under:

- (i) 20% of vacancies in the Border Guarding forces (BGFs) (BSF, ITBP, SSB, Assam Rifles) are allotted to militancy and naxal affected areas.
- (ii) In other Forces, 40% vacancies are allotted to militancy affected areas.

*[Translation]*

#### **Promotion of Small Scale Industries**

2005. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received some proposals from the Government of Rajasthan for promotion of Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved; and

(d) the reasons for disapproving the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **Institutes for Disaster Management**

2006. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending demand for setting up of specialized Institutes for Disaster Management in the country;

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

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration for setting up such an institute in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said institute is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Government is already extending financial assistance to the identified administrative training institutes or other training institutes in all the States for operation of a Faculty/Centre of Disaster Management. At present 29 such institutes are receiving assistance which includes Anna Institute of Management in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. A statutory body under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, namely, the National Institute of Disaster Management has also been established by the Government for planning and promoting training and research in the area of disaster management, documentation and development of national level information base relating to disaster management policies, prevention mechanisms and mitigation measures. No proposal is under consideration of the Government to set up a specialized Institute for Disaster Management in Tamil Nadu.

#### **Implementation of Women Programme**

2007. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware the impact of various development policies, plans and programmes implemented over the last decades have not brought forth a perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women, particularly in rural areas;

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

(c) whether the government has conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of outcome of the study; and

(e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for the upliftment of status of wgmnen in rural/urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) The impact of the various developmental policies, plans and programmes implemented by the Government during the last few years has brought forth a perceptible improvement in the socio-economic status of women as manifested in the increase in expectation of life at birth (62.79 for males and 65 years for females) and sex ratio (927 in 1991 to 933 in 2001), decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (407 per one lakh live births in 1998 to 301 in 2001), increase in Work Force Participation Rate for women (14.2 in 1991 to 25.7 in 2001).

(e) With a view to uplift the status of women in the society through their socio-economic empowerment, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing various schemes and programmes tailored for women, especially those who are poor and living in less developed regions like urban slums and rural areas. The schemes under implementation are: Swayamsidha, Swa-shakti and Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women. These programmes encourage women to form Self Help Groups and also include provision for education, vocational training, credit, marketing linkages, awareness generation regarding health, nutrition, women's legal rights etc. The Central Social Welfare Board implements the scheme of Condensed Courses of Education for Women for providing skill upgradation and vocational training to girls and women above 15 years who had to discontinue school education or could not join mainstream education system due to adverse family circumstances or other constraints. The National Commission for Women has also launched a programme *viz.* 'Chalo Gaon ki Ore' with a view to empower rural women by making them aware of their rights and health issues common to women.

Rashtriya Mahila Kosh provides micro-credit in a quasi informal manner, whereby it lends to intermediate micro-credit organizations, such as NGO/voluntary organizations, Women Development Corporations, women cooperative societies, etc.

Besides, the Government has also introduced gender budgeting to ensure that adequate resources, under developmental Schemes/Programmes being implemented by various Ministries/Departments, get allocated for women beneficiaries.

For providing legal support for the efforts to improve the status of women, the Government is also enacting new legislations and reviewing and amending existing legislations where necessary. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 has been enacted, *inter-alia*, to provide rights to women in abusive domestic relationships, to live in the shared household. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides that at least one-third of the jobs created under the Act shall be reserved for women. The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 has been amended to give daughters equal rights as sons in ancestral property, including agricultural land.

*[Translation]*

#### Use of Tear Gas by BSF

2008. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Border Security Force (BSF) has adopted an effective technique for dispersing the crowd of demonstrators instead of tear gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this new technique is indigenous;

(d) if so, the details of the expenditure involved therein; and

(e) the time by which this technique is likely to be adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

#### Export of Handicraft

2009. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Textiles Secretary to explore the ways to improve the condition of exporters of handicrafts and to increase export of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details of the terms of reference and tenure of the said Committee; and

(c) the time by which the report of the Committee is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Enhancement of Freedom Fighters Pension

2010. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of pension presently admissible to various categories of freedom fighters, category-wise;

S.No.	Category	Basic Pension (Rs.)	Dearness Relief (currently 58% of the basic pension) (Rs.)
i(a)	Ex-Andaman political prisoners	7,330/-	4,251/-
(b)	Freedom fighters who suffered outside British India (other than INA)		6,830/- 3,981/-
ii.	Other freedom fighters (including INA)	6,330/-	3,671/-
iii.	Widow/widower of above categories of freedom fighters	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighter	Entitlement same as of respective deceased freedom fighter
iv.	Unmarried & unemployed daughters (upto three)	1,500/- each	870/- each
v.	Mother and father	1,000/- each	580/- each

The rate of dearness relief is revised every year, with effect from 1st August.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

#### National Commission for Women

2011. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:  
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to enhance the pension of freedom fighters;

(c) if so, the details thereof, category-wise; and

(d) the time by which such proposals would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The basic pension of freedom fighters and spouses of deceased freedom fighters was recently enhanced by an amount of Rs. 2,330/- per month. The date of giving effect to this enhancement is 2nd October 2006, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the founder of the *Satyagraha* movement and the father of the Nation. At present, the amount of basic pension and dearness relief payable per month to various categories of freedom fighters and their eligible dependents is as below:

(a) whether the Government proposes to grant more powers and autonomy to the National Commission for Women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of cases sent to the State governments including West Bengal by the National Commission for Women;

(e) the number of the cases wherein recommended action has been taken; and

(f) the details of the cases pending for action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) As per the existing provisions of the National Commission for Women Act, 1990, the Commission has financial and functional autonomy. As per Section 9(2) of the said Act, the Commission can regulate its own procedure and the procedure of its committees. As per Section 10 of the Act, the Commission also has powers of a civil court trying a suit while investigating any matter connected with constitutional and legal safeguards for women or deprivation of women's rights.

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

#### **Unemployed Engineers**

2012. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nasscom in its various reports has commented that most of the engineers produced in the country are unemployable;

(b) if so, the Government plans to make the engineers employable for IT sector;

(c) whether the same approach will be considered for manufacturing and other professional streams also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has raised the issue of employability of engineering graduates in India. A Working Group was constituted by the Ministry to examine the issues raised by NASSCOM. The Working Group has *inter-alia* recommended Finishing Schools for engineering graduates to enhance their employability, changes in the syllabi of various engineering colleges so as to make them compatible with the needs of the

industry, etc. For the present Finishing schools will be organized for IT Sector.

#### **Child Marriage**

2013. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
DR. K.S. MANOJ:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report of the National Family Health Survey-III as reported in the 'Times of India' dated February 23, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal/suggestions from the UNICEF to bring down the incidents of child marriage prominently taking place in some of the States;

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

(e) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively implement the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per National Family Health Survey-III (NFHS-III) nearly 45% of women in the country are married before the age of 18 years. Report also show that the proportion of child marriages are higher in rural areas. Percentage of cases occurring in States like Jharkhand (61%), Rajasthan (57%), Andhra Pradesh (55%), Madhya Pradesh (53%), Uttar Pradesh (53%), West Bengal (53%) and Chhattisgarh (52%) reflect a high incidence of girls married below 18 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to make the provisions of the Act more effective and punishment more stringent for offenders, a

new legislation The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (No. 6 of 2007) has been enacted and notified in the Gazette of India on 11th January, 2007. Simultaneously, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 has been repealed.

[Translation]

#### Setting up of Small Scale Industries

2014. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new Small Scale Industries set up in the country especially in backward and rural areas during each of the last three years and current year, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of the items produced in the said units;

(c) the production capacity and value of the production of each of the said units;

(d) the place where Small Scale Industries are proposed to be set up in the current and next year; and

(e) the time by which production is likely to be started in the said industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) The details of small scale industries (SSIs) registered in the country including those in backward and rural areas during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (latest available), estimated on the basis of information received from the Directorates of Industries of the States/Union Territories (UTs), are given in enclosed statement-I. These units pertain to about 6000 products/services. The information on production capacity of these units is not maintained centrally. Estimates of the State/UT-wise production (gross output) for the units during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (latest available), based on the results of the Third All India Census, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Decisions to set up new SSIs, *inter alia* including their locations, are taken up by the private entrepreneurs. The information on actual time by which production in the new SSIs is likely to be started is not maintained centrally.

#### Statement I

#### *State/UT-wise Distribution of Small Scale Industries (SSI's) Registered during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 (latest Available)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	No. of Registered SSI's		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	17482	18506	19628
2.	Himachal Pradesh	12813	12706	13210
3.	Punjab	67463	68185	69002
4.	Chandigarh	1387	1458	1506
5.	Uttaranchal	19436	20558	22157
6.	Haryana	40568	40877	41207
7.	Delhi	7507	7599	7660
8.	Rajasthan	53580	57455	61724

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Uttar Pradesh	216714	240657	265582
10.	Bihar	63499	67196	71609
11.	Sikkim	205	224	239
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	372	384	426
13.	Nagaland	1818	2497	3620
14.	Manipur	4875	4954	5047
15.	Mizoram	3408	3728	4029
16.	Tripura	1048	970	974
17.	Meghalaya	2796	3262	3715
18.	Assam	18940	20113	21848
19.	West Bengal	45727	46644	47841
20.	Jharkhand	22612	23805	25418
21.	Orissa	15202	14647	15296
22.	Chhattisgarh	37970	38819	40155
23.	Madhya Pradesh	121278	129693	137794
24.	Gujarat	165042	177534	188898
25.	Daman and Diu	1405	1694	1923
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1192	1305	1537
27.	Maharashtra	96252	109950	118008
28.	Andhra Pradesh	67312	68930	70521
29.	Karnataka	134150	142401	151740
30.	Goa	2783	2862	3080
31.	Lakshadweep	97	107	120
32.	Kerala	162377	147683	148991
33.	Tamil Nadu	264863	272546	302686
34.	Pondicherry	2217	2342	2531
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	939	1000	1105
	All India	1697329	1753491	1870806

**Statement II**

*State/UT-wise Details of Estimated Production (Gross Output) made by the Registered Small Scale Industries (SSI's) during 2003-04, 2004-05 & 2005-06 (latest Available)*

Sl. No.	Name of State/Union Territory	Estimated Production (Rs. in crore)		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	2708	3193	3698
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2757	3250	3765
3.	Punjab	25300	29628	34551
4.	Chandigarh	1139	1343	1556
5.	Uttaranchal	1899	2239	2593
6.	Haryana	19490	22978	26616
7.	Delhi	9061	10683	12374
8.	Rajasthan	14469	17058	19759
9.	Uttar Pradesh	21683	25564	29812
10.	Bihar	1291	1522	1763
11.	Sikkim	37	44	51
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	51	59
13.	Nagaland	127	150	174
14.	Manipur	120	142	164
15.	Mizoram	91	107	124
16.	Tripura	218	257	298
17.	Meghalaya	138	162	188
18.	Assam	1489	1756	2034
19.	West Bengal	11024	12998	15056
20.	Jharkhand	1012	1193	1382
21.	Orissa	4190	4940	5722
22.	Chhattisgarh	2414	2846	3297
23.	Madhya Pradesh	9576	11291	13078
24.	Gujarat	13589	16021	18557

1	2	3	4	5
25.	Daman and Diu	7403	8728	10110
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5424	6395	7407
27.	Maharashtra	44707	52710	61055
28.	Andhra Pradesh	16556	19519	22609
29.	Karnataka	11516	13577	15726
30.	Goa	2300	2711	3140
31.	Lakshadweep	3	3	4
32.	Kerala	8381	9881	11446
33.	Tamil Nadu	19452	22934	26565
34.	Pondicherry	2819	3324	3850
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	74	87	101
All India		282500	309484	358482

[English]

#### Export of Wheat and Import of Maize

2015. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has imposed a complete ban on export of wheat and allowed free imports of maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of demand and supply of maize in the country during the current financial year;

(d) whether the Government had made any attempt to import wheat during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the demand and supply of maize and wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Export of Wheat has been prohibited till 31.12.2007 *vide* Notification No.44(RE-2006)/2004-2009 dated 9th February, 2007. Import of Maize has been made free till 31.12.2007 *vide* Notification No.43(RE-2006)/2004-2009 dated 09.02.2007.

(c) to (f) Estimates vary depending upon domestic availability. The Government has asked FCI and STC to import wheat during the current financial year.

[Translation]

#### Manufacturing of Arms by Private Sector

2016. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of arms manufacturing factories functioning in the private sector, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government for sanctioning the quota for arms to be manufactured in these factories;

(c) whether the gun factory at Jodhpur, Rajasthan is yet to be sanctioned its quota;

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

(e) the time by which this quota is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There are 95 arms manufacturing factories in the country as per details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of factories
1.	Bihar	36
2.	Himachal Pradesh	04
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	31
4.	Karnataka	02
5.	Madhya Pradesh	06
6.	Rajasthan	12
7.	Uttar Pradesh	03
8.	Uttarakhand	01

(b) The Government of India does not fix/sanction the quota of arms manufacturing factories.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

#### Exploration of Iron Ore

2017. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn up any action plan for scientific exploration of iron ore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Currently, Geological Survey of India ( GSI) is carrying out regional exploration for iron-ore in the states of Jharkhand (West Singhbhum district), Orissa (Keonjhar district), Karnataka (Bellary and Gadag districts) and Tamil Nadu (Namakkal district). Whereas Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) is conducting detailed exploration for iron-ore in Jharkhand (West Singhbhum district).

During the 11th Plan, GSI proposes to extend its exploration activities for iron-ore in the states of Andhra Pradesh (Anantapur district), Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur, Katni, Sidhi, Gwalior and Shivpuri districts), Maharashtra (Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts) and Chattisgarh (Durg district).

#### EDUSAT Project of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2018. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Government and recognized primary schools functioning in the country especially in Maharashtra have been covered, under EDUSAT Project of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(b) whether the Government is considering to cover all districts under this project;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. A. A. FATMI): (a) to (d) 'Innovation Funds' provided to districts under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been used by some States to support EDUSAT related activities, chiefly to develop content for teacher training.

[English]

#### Transfer of Nithari Killings Case

2019. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether hearing relating to Nithari killings case of Uttar Pradesh is likely to be transferred from Noida (Ghaziabad) to Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Education in Lakshdweep**

2020. DR P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pre-primary schools, primary schools, secondary schools, senior secondary schools and degree colleges for imparting education to the local tribal people functioning in the Lakshdweep Group of Islands;

(b) whether there is any professional/technical institutions or job oriented training schools in Lakshdweep;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any shortage of teachers in all these institutions;

(e) if so, the action contemplated to overcome such shortages;

(f) whether any proposal of the Lakshdweep Administration for the creation of teaching posts is pending with the Union Government; and

(g) if so, the details and the status thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The following number of schools/degree colleges are functioning in Lakshdweep:

1. Pre-Primary Schools	—	10
2. Primary Schools	—	21
3. Secondary Schools	—	04
4. Senior Secondary Schools	—	09
5. Degree Colleges	—	02

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. There are one Industrial Training Institute and one B.Ed. College functioning in Lakshdweep.

(d) to (g) Yes Sir. A proposal for creation of 56 posts of Post Graduate Teachers has been received in the Ministry and is under process in consultation with Ministry of Finance.

*[Translation]***Enrolment in Primary and Higher Education**

2021. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme for promoting education in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in all States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) All the ongoing educational schemes of the Government of India including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal scheme have been formulated taking into account the needs of the children in rural areas. In fact, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) provides for a National System of Education, which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality.

The NPE recognises that the rural areas, with poor infrastructure services, will not get the benefit of trained and educated youth, unless rural-urban disparities are reduced and determined measures are taken to promote diversification and dispersal of employment opportunities. Pursuant to this, a large number of schemes are under various stages of implementation, which predominantly address the educational needs of rural areas including technical education. The NPE envisages suitable incentives to be provided to all educationally backward sections of the society, particularly in the rural areas. Hill and desert districts, remote and inaccessible areas and islands will be provided adequate institutional infrastructure.

Accordingly, pace-setting residential schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas, have been established in most parts of the country in rural areas on a given pattern, but with full scope for innovation and experimentation, Their broad aim will continue to be to serve the objective of excellence coupled with equity and social justice (with reservation for the rural areas, SCs and STs), to promote national integration by providing opportunities to talented children

from different parts of the country, to live and learn together, to develop their full potential, and, most importantly, to become catalysts of a nation-wide programme of school improvement. There are 539 functional Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country and 28 more have been approved in 2007-08.

*[English]*

#### Medium of Instruction in Kendriya Vidyalayas

2022. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for making English as medium of instruction for teaching mathematics and science subjects in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce any other medium of instruction to teach these subjects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the performance of the Kendriya Vidyalayas as against the average national performance and the performance of public schools during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The medium of instruction for Mathematics as well as Science in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) is both English and Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant for the wards of transferable Central Government employees, hence, common medium of instruction is maintained throughout the country.

(e) The performance of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Class X and Class XII examinations during the last three years, as against the national average as well as the performance of Public Schools are as under:

#### *Performance in terms of pass percentage of students*

Academic Year	Kendriya Vidyalayas		National Average of CBSE		Public Schools	
	X	XII	X	XII	X	XII
2003-04	90.35	92.62	72.22	76.00	84.83	80.46
2004-05	89.62	92.47	74.60	77.80	85.87	81.26
2005-06	90.63	92.89	77.16	79.55	85.94	82.35

#### Playgrounds in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas

2023. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) functioning without playgrounds in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to provide playgrounds in all the JNVs for improving the physical

and psychological strength of the children and further contribute in overall development of their personality ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The State-wise list of 174 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) functioning without proper playgrounds is enclosed as statement.

(b) Construction of playgrounds in 144 JNVs is in progress. It is the policy of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to provide playgrounds to all its schools.

*The State-wise Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) functioning without proper playgrounds*

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total no. of JNVs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12
3.	Assam	8
4.	Bihar	12
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Gujarat	6
7.	Haryana	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
10.	Jharkhand	10
11.	Karnataka	3
12.	Kerala	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10
14.	Maharashtra	2
15.	Manipur	3
16.	Meghalaya	3
17.	Mizoram	2
18.	Nagaland	8
19.	Orissa	17
20.	Puducherry	1
21.	Punjab	3
22.	Rajasthan	3
23.	Sikkim	3
24.	Tripura	2
25.	Uttar Pradesh	20
26.	Uttarakhand	6
27.	West Bengal	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>174</b>

**World Health Organisation**

2024. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Health Organisation's (WHO) latest standards in child growth *vis-a-vis* those in India;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to adopt WHO norms;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be adopted; and

(d) the extent to which Integrated Child Development Scheme has been helpful in contributing to child growth in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) WHO latest Child Growth Standards were launched in April 2006. These are based on important norms for child care, nutrition and health. To develop these standards a multi-centric study was carried out to collect primary growth data and related information from 8440 healthy breastfed infants and young children from diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural settings from six countries namely Brazil, Ghana, India, Norway, Oman and United states.

The growth standards currently in use in the country, since late seventies, the NCHS (National Centre for Health Statistics) standards based on height and weight of formula fed children or children on mixed feeding from United States.

The new WHO Growth Standards are scientific, gender specific and for the first time describe "how children should grow". These charts show that all children across all regions can attain similar standard of height and weight and development with correct feeding practices, good health care and a healthy environment. A key characteristic of the new standard is that it establishes breastfeeding as the 'biological norm' and the breastfed infant as the standard for measuring healthy growth. Further, a pooled sample from the six participating countries allows the development of a truly international

standard which is in contrast to the previous international reference based on study of children from a single country.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Women & Child Development jointly with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a National Workshop on "Adoption of New WHO Child Growth Standards" on February 8-9, 2007 in New Delhi to deliberate on the adoption of the New WHO Child Growth Standards. A consensus emerged in the Workshop in favour of adoption of these standards. However, a decision on adoption of these standards has not been taken as yet.

(d) Several evaluations have revealed that the Integrated Child Development Services has contributed significantly in promoting child growth in India. However, outcome varies widely across states as revealed by the findings of National Family Health Survey-3 (NFHS-3) released recently.

#### **Threat by Militant Groups**

2025. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan based LeT has sent open threatening letters to Kashmiri Youths;

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

(c) whether similar threats have been posed by ULFA militants in Assam and other States;

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

(e) the strategy of the Union Government to defuse such evil designs of anti-national activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba and other outfits, frustrated by the loss of their cadres and changing mindset of the people in the valley, have now started threatening Kashmiri youths through various means, however, they were not influenced by the general threats of the terrorists.

(c) and (d) According to available report, ULFA has threatened vulnerable section of the society and local leaders of Assam.

(e) In so far as the State of Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the Government in tandem with the State Government, have adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross-border infiltration/terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, which includes, *inter-alia*, strengthening of border management and multi-tiered and multi-modal deployment along International Border/Line of Control and near the ever changing infiltration routes, construction of border fencing, improved technology, weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination and synergising intelligence flow to check infiltration and pro-active action against the terrorists within the State. The counter infiltration efforts are reviewed periodically at various levels in the State Government (including the two Unified Headquarters headed by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir) and in the Central Government.

For ULFA threats, the Government of Assam has strengthened security to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. Additional Central Police Forces and Army units have been deployed for coordinated action against ULFA and other extremist groups. Government is also helping the State Government in enhancing the capabilities of the State by modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure. The security situation in Assam is also reviewed in the meetings of the Unified Headquarters chaired by the Chief Minister of Assam from time to time. Government of India is also monitoring the situation at periodic intervals.

[Translation]

#### **Text Books of NCERT**

2026. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) text books contain lesson on rural people and aboriginals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbooks for Environmental Studies (Class III), Hindi (Classes VII, IX, X, XI and XII), English (Classes VI, IX, X, XI & XII), Urdu (Classes II, IV, VII & X), Sanskrit, History, Geography, Political Science, Economics and Sociology reflect the life and culture of rural India and people belonging to tribal communities and aboriginals,

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme**

2027. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received two

proposals from the Government of Gujarat under Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Schemes (IIUS) viz. Lodhika Upgradation project and Sachin Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) Estate upgradation project during the year 2004 and 2005, respectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Details are mentioned in the enclosed statement.

(c) Since the entire 10th Plan allocation for the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme has been committed for the sanctioned 26 projects, it has not been possible to sanction these proposals for the present.

**Statement**

*Project: Lodhika GIDC Estate, Rajkot*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Project components	Proposed cost
1.	Roads	1745.00
2.	Water supply	1428.00
3.	Storm Water Drains	668.00
4.	Underground Electrical Cables	1194.00
5.	Underground Telephone Cables	74.00
6.	Casing Pipes for cables for Road Crossings	29.00
7.	Centre of Excellence	627.00
8.	Optical Fiber Cable Network	162.00
	<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>5927.00</b>
	Contingency (5%)	296.00
	Professional Charges of Consultants (5%)	296.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6519.00</b>

*Project: Sachin GIDC Estate, Surat*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Cost components	Proposed cost
1.	Business to Business Facilitation Centre	80.00
2.	R&D Centre with testing facilitation	100.00
3.	Health Care & Emergency	87.00
4.	Sachin Industrial Estate Disaster Management System	50.00
5.	Road Upgradation-Widening and Strengthening	2141.25
6.	Storm Water Drainage System	965.17
7.	Road Lighting & Associated Infrastructure	345.90
8.	Landscaping & Beautification	40.00
9.	Recycle & Re-use (Waste Water)	609.00
10.	Consultancy Fees	66.43
11.	Contingency (5%)	224.24
12.	Preliminary & Pre Operative Expenses	41.01
<b>Total</b>		<b>4750.00</b>

*[Translation]***Price Rise**

2028. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been held responsible for the rising in prices in the country by the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has announced that there is now better situation prevailing in the country;

(c) if so, the basis on which his Ministry has made such announcement; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to curb the trend of rising in prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY ON AND PROMTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry releases the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and rate of inflation based on WPI every week. According to this data, the rate of inflation had declined for two consecutive weeks during February 2007, as per details given below:

Press Release dated	For week ending	Wholesale Price Index	WPI based rate of Inflation (%)
16th February, 07	3rd February, 2007	209.2	6.73
23rd February, 07	10th February, 2007	209.2	6.63
2nd March, 07	17th February, 2007	208.6	6.05

(d) The recent steps taken by Government to control inflation *inter alia* include:

- Reduction in retail prices of petrol by Rs. 2 per litre and diesel by Rs. 1 per litre in November 2006 and again in February 2007.

- State Trading Corporation contracting for import of 55 lakh tonnes of wheat to supplement domestic availability, of which 49.4 lakh tonnes had arrived by February 13, 2007.
- As against the normal applicable duty of 50 per cent, allowing private trade to import wheat at 5 per cent duty from June 28, 2006, and at zero duty from September 9, 2006.
- Decision to release up to 4 lakh tonnes of wheat under Open Market Sale Scheme in February and March 2007.
- Ban on export of wheat from February 9, 2007.
- Reduction in customs duty on import of pulses to zero on June 8, 2006.
- Ban on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006.
- NAFED importing 49,300 tonnes of pulses. Under a new contract executed by NAFED in December 2006 to import 30,000 tonnes of pulses, 10,675 tonnes had been shipped by February 13, 2007.
- To contain volatility in the futures prices of wheat, sugar and pulses, Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has imposed limits on open position, reduced limits on daily fluctuations and imposed additional/special margins.
- Ban on futures trading in tur and urad from January 24, 2007, wheat and rice from February 28, 2007.
- Reduction in import duty on palm group of oils by 10 percentage points in August 2006 and by a further 10-12.5 percentage points in January 2007. Maintaining tariff value for assessing import duty unchanged at July 2006 level.
- In the Budget 2007-08, crude as well as refined edible oils have been exempted from additional countervailing duty of 4 per cent. Duty on sunflower oil, both crude and refined, has been reduced by 15 per cent.
- Ban on export of skimmed milk powder.
- Reserve Bank of India took measures to reduce liquidity in the system by increasing the cash reserve ratio and repo rates.

*[English]***Foreign Direct Investment**

2029. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee on Foreign Direct Investment appointed by the Government has asked the National Security Council Secretariat to provide guidelines for sectors and nations from where FDI need to be closely monitored;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Council had supplied the required informations to the said committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to review the sectors / nations for which approval has already granted under the guidelines provided by National Security Council Secretariat;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the report is likely to be presented to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (g) There is no Committee on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) which has asked the National Security Council Secretariat to provide guidelines for sectors and nations from where FDI need to be closely monitored. However, all aspects of national security are of paramount concern to the Government and concerns of national security sensitivity are being constantly addressed suitably. FDI policy, including issues relating to national security, is reviewed on an ongoing basis through inter-Ministerial consultations.

**Opening of Higher and Technical Education Sector**

2030. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to opening up of the higher and technical education sector for foreign participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is provision for reservation to OBCs and SCs/STs in the said institutes having foreign stake of 100 per cent;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the Government is likely to provide the reservations for OBCs and SCs/STs in such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) By virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February, 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government have allowed Foreign Direct Investment upto 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector, subject to sectoral rules/regulations as may be applicable. A legislative proposal to regulate entry and operation of foreign education institutes is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Survey on Languages**

2031. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey to ascertain the languages of various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether according to earlier findings 220 languages are spoken in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to conduct a Linguistic Survey of the country, the report of which will be available after 10 years of its commissioning. The proposed survey aims at providing a

systematic and comprehensive account of the status of Indian language diversity, multilingualism, interlingual relationships, and dynamics of language. To do so, it will exploit advances in technology to document, prepare databases of different kinds, corpora of spoken and written varieties and produce a wide range of linguistic materials in both print and electronic form.

(c) and (d) As per Census 1991, there are 114 languages in the country. 216 mother tongues, each of which is spoken by 10,000 or more people, are listed under these languages. The 216 mother tongues together are spoken by nearly 99% of the population and belong to four language families namely Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austro Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman.

#### **Augmenting of District Institute of Education and Training**

2032. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the Government from various State Governments particularly Kerala for the strengthening/Augmenting of District Institute of Education and Training (DIETs) during the last three years;

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

(c) the time by which these pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) are eligible for the grant for the following components:

#### **RECURRING:**

- (i) Salary
- (ii) Programmes
- (iii) Contingencies.

## NON-RECURRING:

- (i) Civil Work  
(ii) Equipment.

In addition, DIETs are eligible for additional non-recurring assistance for strengthening of infrastructure, equipment and pre-service teacher training course for pre-primary teachers. A statement showing details about proposals received during the last three years is enclosed.

In respect of Kerala, the proposal for augmentation of DIETs was received on 4th September, 2006. As per practice, Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Kerala was requested to attend the meetings of Teacher Education Approval Board (TEAB) held on 2.11.2006 and 17.1.2007. However, the representative of the State did not attend the meetings. The Central assistance for salaries, faculty development, in-service training and action research (approved in principle subject to receipt of details from the State) and contingencies has been approved by TEAB on 8th March, 2007.

**Statement**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the State	Content of the Proposal and Date of Receipt	Amount Sanctioned by TEAB	Amount Released	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam	Strengthening of infrastructure for 18 DIETs 10.3.2006.	357.79	357.79	Released vide letter dt. 10.11.2006.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Strengthening of infrastructure for 6 DIETs 3.3.2005	156.00	156.00	Released vide letter dt. 19.10.2005
3.	Manipur	Strengthening of infrastructure for 7 DIETs and additional equipments grants for 7 DIETs. 23.11.2006	182.00	182.00	Under consideration
4.	Mizoram	Strengthening of infrastructure for 2 DIETs 12.7.2004	8.03	8.03	Released vide letter dt. 11.3.2005
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Strengthening of infrastructure in 23 DIETs. 27.9.2005	409.70	409.70	Released vide sanction letter dated 16.3.2006
6.	Punjab	Strengthening of infrastructure in 12 DIETs. Additional Equipment grant.	205.63 72.00	205.63 72.00	Sanction for release issued on 10.11.2005
7.	Uttaranchal	Strengthening of infrastructure in 9 DIETs. Additional Equipment grant. 25.8.2005	173.65 54.00	173.65 54.00	Sanction for release issued on 18.10.2005
8.	Tamil Nadu	Strengthening of infrastructure in 29 DIETs. Additional Equipment grant. 26.2.2007	580.00 75.00	— —	Proposal is under consideration.

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Strengthening of infrastructure in 70 DIETs. 24.8.2005 4.7.2006	952.00  448.00	952.00  448.00	Sanction issued on 30.9.2005  Sanction issued on 28.9.2006
10.	Karnataka	Strengthening of infrastructure in 12 DIETs. Additional Equipment grant @ Rs. 6 lakhs for 20 DIETs. 21.11.2005	240.00  120.00	240.00  120.00	Sanction issued on 6.3.2006.  The Central assistance for 8 DIETs. was conditional. The proposal for 8 DIETs was received on 1.3.2007 which is under process.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Strengthening of infrastructure in 38 DIETs @ Rs. 20 lakhs 30.11.2005.	760.00	—	Grant could not be released as the information regarding position of unspent balance in respect of nonrecurring Central assistance released so far for 38 DIETs was not received.
12.	Rajasthan	Strengthening of infrastructure in Additional equipment grant 22.8.2005	300.00 90.00	300.00 90.00	Sanction issued on 22.12.2005.

### Education to Muslims

2033. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sub-Committee of the Planning Commission has recommended for allocation of Funds to the tune of Rs. 5,460 crores in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the education to Muslims;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the recommendations of the above Sub-Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Import of Scrap

2034. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of live or used arms and ammunition is banned;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing import as scrap;

(c) the number of cases of seizure of live shells from the imported scrap reported to the Union Government;

(d) the ports from where these scraps are being shipped to India;

(e) the number of firms black listed so far;

(f) the action taken against such firms;

(g) the number of persons killed/injured in explosion of shells from the imported scrap in the country during each of the last three years particularly in West Bengal and Maharashtra, State-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to check the import of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Import of live or used arms or ammunition is restricted and a license is required from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(b) Steel scrap is a raw-material for steel making and is consumed by various types of furnaces such as Electric arc; induction furnaces located all over India.

(c) to (f) The field formations of Customs have reported cases where live shells were found in imported scrap even though they were accompanied by a Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate from an Agency listed in Appendix-V of the Handbook of Procedures, 2004-09. These consignments were shipped to India from the Middle East countries. Based on a risk assessment analysis it has been decided to allow import of metallic scrap from two ports, namely, Bandar Abbas, Iran and Hodaideh, Yemen in shredded form only.

The following Pre-Shipment Inspection Agencies have been temporarily suspended for issue of Pre-Shipment Inspection Certificate until a thorough investigation of the matter has been undertaken and conclusions are arrived.

1. M/s Gulf Inspection International Co. (KSC), Kuwait.
2. M/s Shin Nihon Kentei Kyokai, Japan
3. M/s Intertek Group Pic, London
4. M/s Bureau Veritas, Madagascar
5. M/s WLSI Group and Affiliates, USA

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

(h) As a part of the tightening of the regime governing import of heavy metallic scrap, Government has laid down certain new guidelines and procedures in consultation with other Ministries including Home Affairs, Steel, Revenue and Shipping. The regime for import of metallic scrap is under constant review by the Government in order to achieve a balance between the security aspect and the need to ensure adequate availability of scrap for the steel industry in the country.

*[Translation]*

#### **Project EDUSAT**

2035. SHRI P.C THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided to State Governments under EDUSAT Project during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have utilised the amount for implementing this project in schools during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested for providing additional central assistance under the said project;

(e) if so, the details and status thereof, State-wise particularly Kerala; and

(f) the time by which additional assistance is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Online Speculation**

2036. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons are engaged in online speculation activities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Government against the website offering online speculations in the country; and

(c) the measures taken to check recurrence of such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) The Government has not received any report of criminal activity involving online speculation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Crimes involving online speculation can be dealt with under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Indian Penal Code.

*[English]***Beedi Industry**

2037. SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Beedi Industry is a big revenue earner of the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of foreign exchange earned by this Industry during the last three years;

(c) the steps contemplated to transform this industry into organized sector; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Excise Revenue realized from the Beedi industry and quantum of foreign exchange earned during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Central Excise Revenue realized (Rs. in thousands)	Foreign Exchange earned (Million US\$)
2003-04	3363912	7.35
2004-05	3481499	8.48
2005-06	3706888	7.51

(c) and (d) There is no reservation for the manufacture of Beedi in small scale sector. Entrepreneurs are free to set up their enterprises in any sector i.e. micro, small, medium or large. Facilities available for development of industries in general are also available to Beedi industry.

**Upgradation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

2038. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS  
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:  
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:  
SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:  
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to upgrade the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan upto the Secondary/Higher Secondary level;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been accorded by the Planning Commission;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of infrastructure facilities are likely to be provided to such Secondary/Higher Secondary level alongwith the total funds provided;

(e) whether the Government has considered promoting public-private partnership in this sector;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) Planning Commission has accorded 'in-principle' approval to the proposal for a scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of secondary education. Rs. 1305 crore has been provided in the budget 2007-08 for the scheme. The objective of the scheme is to provide access to secondary schools within a reasonable distance of habitation, to improve the quality of education at the secondary stage and to reduce disparity.

(e) to (g) Education being a subject in the concurrent list, secondary education is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. More than half of the private secondary schools are aided schools and receive the major part of salary of the teaching staff from their respective State Governments. Central Government also recognises the importance of public-private partnership and is implementing centrally sponsored schemes like "Integrated Education for Disabled Children" and "Scheme for Strengthening of Boarding and Hostel facilities for Girl Students of Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools" in secondary education, under which assistance is given to voluntary organizations, either directly or through State Governments.

**Minerals Found in China**

2039. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has found minerals like Iron-ore, Zinc, etc. in large quantities along the Qinghai-Tibet railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will affect our export of Iron-ore to China and also affecting balance of trade;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to boost the export of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There were reports in the Chinese media recently about the discovery of minerals like iron ore, copper ore, lead ore and zinc ore along the Qinghai-Tibet rail route.

(c) and (d) It is premature to comment on the impact of new finds in China on Indian mineral exports.

(e) Efforts are being made to modernise mining for cost effective production, improve quality, reduce transaction cost and augment infrastructural facilities.

#### **Fatmi Committee**

2040. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether based on the recommendations of the Sachar Committee report, the Government has constituted Fatmi Committee to examine the educational status of Muslims in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Fatmi Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee;

(d) whether the Government has examined the recommendations of the Fatmi Committee; and

(e) if so, the steps taken or present status for implementation of the recommendations of the Fatmi Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) A High Level Committee was constituted on 4.12.2006 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to prepare an action plan to implement the recommendations on education contained in the Report of the Justice Rajinder Sachar Committee. The High Level Committee of this Ministry in its report submitted on 31st January, 2007 has given various recommendations like opening Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and Upper Primary Schools for girls only, in Muslim Concentration Blocks/Urban Areas, coverage of willing Madarsas and Maktabas by Sarva Siksha Abhiyan, appointment of more women teachers in co-educational schools, encouragement of teaching in Urdu medium, establishment of multicultural schools, girls hostels, Block Institutes of Teacher Education, linking of open and distance learning and vocational education with Madarsas, expansion of Aligarh Muslim University, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, etc. Resources permitting, these recommendations would be considered as and when the XI Five Year Plan is finalized.

#### **Submission of Annual Return by NGO**

2041. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Division set up under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 has introduced online submission of application for registration of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and filing their annual returns;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the number of NGOs have submitted their returns and applied for registration after the introduction of the online process;

(c) whether any prohibitory order has been issued recently for registration of NGOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these prohibitory orders has been lifted for those NGOs who have filed their annual returns;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the online process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) A new facility—'FCRA—on line' was launched on 29th September 2006 in Chennai to facilitate associations to file applications for registration under FCRA and submit the statutory annual returns regarding receipt and utilization of foreign contribution online on the MHA's website: [www.mha.nic.in](http://www.mha.nic.in)

(b) So far 576 applications have been received online and the same are being processed for further consideration for grant of registration or otherwise. As far as filing of annual returns through online process is concerned, it is submitted that the associations seeking foreign contributions for a particular financial year are required to submit annual accounting returns before 31st July every year. As the online facility was launched on 29th September 2006, the online returns for the year 2006-07 will be submitted by the associations after 31st March 2007.

(c) to (f) As regards prohibitory orders, it is submitted that 8673 organizations have been placed in the Prior Permission category for non submission of FC-3 returns *vide* Gazette Notification No. S.O. 1621 (e) dated 18/11/2005. List of NGOs which have been placed in the Prior Permission category and the list of NGOs which have since been exempted from the provisions of the said Gazette Notification are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website: [www.mha.nic.in](http://www.mha.nic.in)

(g) MHA had organized a seminar in Chennai to popularize the online facilities. The seminar was attended by more than 300 delegates from across the country and it was widely reported in the Press. So far more than 11800 people have accessed the FCRA online facility in last 5 months which itself indicates the popularity of the online service facility.

#### **Allotment of Land for SEZs**

2042. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land allotted for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being largely utilised for real estate business; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. The land area notified as Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is required to be developed within 3 years of the date of notification. The authorized activities eligible for tax concessions are granted by the Board of Approval on the basis of list of activities notified by the Central Government. The development of infrastructure like housing, commercial spaces, recreational amenities is allowed in phased manner depending on the progress in allotment/occupancy in the processing area. The quantum of these infrastructural facilities is based on employment generation potential of the SEZ. As per the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006, land in the SEZ cannot be sold.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Science Education**

2043. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made under centrally sponsored scheme "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the proposals received from various States and cleared by the Union Government during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any mechanism to check the improvement in science education in States getting assistance from the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the States still found lagging behind the desired level of improvement in science education; and

(f) the steps taken for improvement of Science Education in such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The erstwhile scheme of "Improvement of

Science Education in Schools", which was one of the component of a composite scheme "Quality Improvement in Schools", has been transferred to the State Sector w.e.f. 1.4.2006. Details of progress under this component of the scheme during the period from 2002-03 to 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Proposals were received from State Governments of Karnataka, Kerala and Meghalaya during 2004-05. Proposal from Government of Sikkim was received during 2005-06. No proposal was received in 2006-07.

(c) and (d) In 1995, NCERT conducted an evaluation study to assess the impact of this scheme on the development of a scientific climate in schools and improvement of quality of teaching and learning in science and mathematics. The report showed that the Scheme was extremely useful and had enormous potential to generate a scientific climate in the schools.

(e) and (f) No State-wise target was fixed under the scheme, and hence data about lagging States are not maintained in the Ministry. During the Xth Plan the scheme was made part of the composite scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools", with enhanced outlay.

#### **Statement**

*Total number of schools Assisted/Science and Mathematics Teachers Trained under the CSS, "Improvement of Science Education in Schools" during 2002-03 to 2004-05*

Year	Name of States/UTs	Science Kits	New Laboratory	Deficient Laboratory	Library Books	Training of Teachers		
						Upp. Primary	Sec.	Sr. Sec.
<b>2002-03</b>								
1.	Chhattisgarh	—	70	150	—	—	—	—
2.	Karnataka	—	310	510	820	—	—	—
3.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	1500	—	—	—
4.	Assam	—	900	—	—	—	—	—
5.	D & N Haveli	58	3	11	14	90	30	18
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>2334</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2003-04</b>								
1.	Kerala	—	—	570	570	—	10,000	—
2.	Goa	—	—	—	—	160	320	160
3.	Meghalaya	—	190	5	195	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>10320</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>2004-05</b>								
1.	Mizoram	—	—	60	60	—	60	—

*[Translation]***Technology Education**

2044. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:  
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments including Haryana have submitted any proposals for setting up of computer labs under the scheme of Information and Communication Technology;

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

(c) whether these proposals have been sanctioned;

(d) if so, the time by when the fund to be released;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to start computer education in primary and secondary schools in backward rural areas of the country;

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

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) Under the Scheme of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Schools, proposals have been received from 31 State/UT Governments including the Government of Haryana. State-wise details of sanction and release of funds are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(f) to (h) The Central Government provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments for imparting computer literacy in Government and Government aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools. The Computer Education Plan to be submitted by the State/UT Governments is required to include at least 2 schools from each educationally backward Block. In addition, Computer Aided Learning (CAL), is implemented as a component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) with a view to improve quality of education in elementary schools. State-wise details of coverage of schools under Computer Aided Learning (CAL) programme are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement I**

Sl.No	Name of the State/UT	No. of schools for which sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakh)	Adjustment of unspent balance of previous years and against other schemes (Rs. in lakh)	Amount released (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Karnataka	480	2400.00	0.00	1200.00
2.	Nagaland	200	1206.00	0.00	762.80
3.	Goa	230	1150.00	0.00	292.50
4.	Sikkim	103	621.09	0.00	270.00
5.	Daman and Diu	15	75.00	8.70	25.00
6.	Rajasthan	100	500.00	446.74	53.26
7.	Bihar	180	900.00	225.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	140	844.20	90.00	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	230	1150.00	575.00	0.00
10.	Punjab	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
11.	Orissa	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	154	928.62	19.50	444.81
13.	Mizoram	60	306.18	0.00	150.00
14.	Haryana	100	500.00	19.50	480.50
15.	Uttarakhand	25	150.75	0.00	75.00
16.	Kerala	125	625.00	0.00	312.50
17.	Tamil Nadu	125	625.00	310.40	2.10
18.	West Bengal	200	1000.00	0.00	393.17
19.	Andhra Pradesh	200	1000.00	299.72	200.28
20.	Chhattisgarh	100	500.00	2.30	247.70
21.	Gujarat	150	750.00	375.00	0.00
22.	Maharashtra	200	1000.00	337.50	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	200	1000.00	500.00	0.00
24.	Pondicherry	25	125.00	12.80	34.47
25.	Delhi	75	375.00	134.60	40.53
26.	Chandigarh	20	100.00	14.80	35.20
27.	Lakshadweep	12	60.00	21.60	8.40
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	30.00	6.56	0.00
29.	Tripura	125	753.75	0.00	376.88
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	12	60.00	30.00	0.00
31.	Jharkhand	500	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>4492</b>	<b>20735.59</b>	<b>4429.72</b>	<b>5405.10</b>

**Statement II**

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Schools covered	No. of children Beneficiaries (in lakh)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3416	4.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	105	0.16
3.	Assam	500	1.25
4.	Bihar	346	0.36
5.	Chandigarh	30	0.60
6.	Chhattisgarh	454	0.44
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	11	0.00
8.	Delhi	200	5.71
9.	Goa	351	0.68
10.	Gujarat	1310	4.96
11.	Haryana	902	1.35
12.	Himachal Pradesh	282	0.00
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	98	0.17
14.	Jharkhand	206	0.76
15.	Karnataka	775	1.55
16.	Kerala	872	0.00
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3212	10.00
18.	Maharashtra	895	1.07
19.	Meghalaya	132	0.15
20.	Mizoram	140	0.00
21.	Nagaland	86	0.07
22.	Orissa	900	0.99
23.	Pondicherry	67	0.45
24.	Punjab	8637	17.00
25.	Rajasthan	776	0.70

1	2	3	4
26.	Sikkim	40	0.07
27.	Tamil Nadu	834	1.24
28.	Tripura	28	0.06
29.	Uttar Pradesh	1310	1.95
30.	Uttarakhand	749	0.25
31.	West Bengal	363	2.68
Total		28027	58.78

*[English]***Literacy Rate of Muslims**

2045. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national literacy rate of Muslims at present in the country is 59 per cent as compared to national average of 65 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for low literacy rate among Muslims in the country; and

(c) the strategy chalked out by the Government to bring the literacy rate among Muslims at par with national average?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes sir.

(b) and (c) According to the High Level Committee on the Social, Economic and Educational status of the Muslim Community of India (Justice (Retd.) Sachar Committee), there are many socio-economic reasons for the low level of literacy among Muslims. The Action Plan suggested by a High Level Committee set up by this Ministry for implementing the recommendations regarding education contained in the Justice (Retd.) Shri Rajinder Sachar Committee report will be included in the XI Plan to the extent resources permit, as and when the Plan is finalised.

### Setting up of Language University

2046. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish some Language University in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places identified for the purpose;

(c) whether these Universities are proposed to be treated at par with the Central Universities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

### Export to China

2047. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the items which are presently exported to China;

(b) whether the Sikkim trade body has urged the Union Government to revise the list of exportable items; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The major items of export to China are Iron Ore, Other Ores & Minerals, Plastic & Linoleum Products, Non-Ferrous Metals, Processed Minerals, Cotton Raw including Waste, Primary & Semi-Finished Iron & Steel, Dyes/Intimidates & Coal Tar Chemical, Machinery & Instruments, Inorganic/Organic/Agro Chemicals, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals, Marine Products, Cotton Yarn, Fabrics, Made-ups, etc.

(b) and (c) The Indo-China Traders' Association of Sikkim has urged for revising the list of items exportable through Nathula Pass. The Government has not taken any decision on this request.

### Setting up of Educational Institutions

2048. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and Planning Commission are considering to set up new institutions to provide easier access to students in educationally backward districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States which lack the higher education parameters, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the imbalance in higher education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Addressing the higher educational requirements of all regions, in order to prevent regional imbalances is a joint ongoing responsibility of States as well as the Central Government. As part of this effort, Central Universities have been established/ Central Legislation enacted for Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Sikkim. Apart from creating new institutions, existing State Universities are also being funded through higher allocation of development assistance by the University Grants Commission.

### Education and Employment Programmes for Women

2049. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had formulated any programmes for providing education as well as scope for employment for the welfare of poor, widow and destitute women in the country;

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

(c) the details of the centres in which these programmes are operating, State-wise;

(d) the number of women have been benefited during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(e) the reasons for slow progress of these programmes during the said period; and

(f) the details of the funds allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan and the funds out of them utilized so far by each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes Sir. The objective of the scheme of condensed Courses of Education for Women is to provide educational opportunities to women and adolescent girls who are school dropouts or who

had no opportunity to join formal education system. Under the Scheme, education is provided for Primary, Middle and Matric level courses. The target group of programme is women from economically weaker sections including widows and destitute women. The programme does not specifically aims to provide employment to women.

(b) to (d) A Statement showing the details of the centers, number of women benefited during last three years, State-wise, is enclosed.

(e) The progress of the programme during the last three years is not slow as the total funds allocated during the last three years for this programme were fully utilized.

(f) An amount of Rs. 24.00 crore was allocated for the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The information about the funds utilized so far by each State is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### *Statement*

*The details of the centres and number of women benefited during last three years, State-wise*

Sl. No.	State	Number of centres sanctioned			Number of women benefited		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	28	38	375	700	950
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	08	10	16	200	250	400
3.	Assam	10	23	18	450	575	450
4.	Bihar	67	55	64	1675	1375	1600
5.	Jharkhand	—	20	21	—	500	525
6.	Goa	02	01	02	50	25	50
7.	Gujarat	08	14	14	200	350	350
8.	Haryana	06	10	15	150	250	375
9.	Himachal Pradesh	06	09	06	150	225	150
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	06	08	—	150	200

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Karnakata	15	25	36	375	625	900
12.	Kerala	13	20	23	325	500	575
13.	Madhya Pradesh	35	60	17	875	1500	1750
14.	Chhattisgarh	17	17	21	425	425	525
15.	Maharashtra	24	28	55	600	700	1375
16.	Manipur	07	10	15	175	250	375
17.	Meghalaya	07	10	20	175	250	500
18.	Mizoram	12	20	14	600	500	350
19.	Nagaland	05	10	10	125	250	250
20.	Orissa	16	20	22	400	500	550
21.	Punjab	07	13	16	175	325	400
22.	Rajasthan	18	27	29	450	675	725
23.	Sikkim	03	05	05	75	125	125
24.	Tamil Nadu	15	21	23	375	525	575
25.	Tripura	07	09	04	175	225	100
26.	Uttar Pradesh	35	58	72	875	1450	1800
27.	Uttaranchal	—	15	18	—	375	450
28.	West Bengal	13	19	26	325	475	650
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01	02	—	25	50	—
30.	Chandigarh	03	05	01	75	125	25
31.	Delhi	07	11	10	175	275	250
32.	Lakshadweep	02	—	03	50	—	75
33.	Pondicherry	—	04	05	—	100	125

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12.01 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5924/07)

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006, together with Audit Report thereon.
  - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5925/07)

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:
  - (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development

Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5926/07)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, for the year 2007-2008.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5927/07)

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Special Order No. 5/3/06-M&G (Hindi and English versions) issued by the President increasing ex-post-facto the amount under sub-head 'Hospitality Expenses' of Schedule-II of the Governors (Allowances and Privileges) Rules, 1987 relating to the Governor of Gujarat from Rs. 2,18,656/- to Rs. 3,30,590/- for the financial year 2005-2006 only, issued under sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Governors (Emoluments, Allowances and Privileges) Act, 1982.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5928/07)

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Part-I and II) (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5929/07)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2004-2005.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2004-2005.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5930/07)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2005-2006.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5931/07)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5932/07)

(9) A copy of the Notification No. MANUU/Admn./F./2006-07/716 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th November, 2006,

making certain amendments in the Statutes of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, issued under sub-section (2) of section 43 of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University Act, 1996.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5933/07)

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, for the year 2005-2006.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5934/07)

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006 together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2005-2006.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5935/07)

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2005-2006.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5936/07)
- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2005-2006 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2005-2006.
- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5937/07)
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2005-2006.
- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5938/07)
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2005-2006.
- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5939/07)
- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2005-2006.
- (23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5940/07)
- (24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.
- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5941/07)

- (26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, for the year 2005-2006 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working the National Institute of Technology, Rourkela, for the year 2005-2006.
- (27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5942/07)

- (28) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru University for the year 2005-2006 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the Accounting year.

(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5943/07)

12.02 hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

### One-hundred and Ninth Report

*[English]*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the One-hundred and Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the 'Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2006'.

12.03 hrs.

## STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 987 DATED 28.11.2006 REGARDING PROMOTION OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES IN RAJASTHAN

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.8, Mr. Minister, you can lay it on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

\*MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay the revised statement of the reply given on November 28, 2006 to Unstarred Question No. 987 by Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi regarding 'Promotion of Agro and Rural Industries in Rajasthan:—

(a) Industries in the rural areas of the country including Rajasthan are promoted by the Government (in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries) through two credit-linked subsidy schemes, namely, the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), implemented by the Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), implemented through the State and Union Territories. PMRY is, however, implemented in both rural and urban areas. Approximately, fifty per cent of the units established under PMRY are estimated to be in rural areas. These units are part of agro and rural industries sector. The progress made in terms of units set up by eligible beneficiaries of these two schemes and employment generated in Rajasthan during the last three years are given in the table given below.

Year	REGP		PMRY	
	Number of Units	Employment (number of persons)	Number of Units	Employment (number of persons)
2003-04	2496	51337	12769	19154
2004-05	1537	38287	12919	19378
2005-06	2133	59596	13760	20640

Further, the Government has approved the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI). This Scheme envisages the development, inter alia, of 25 clusters of khadi and 50 clusters of village industries, over five years beginning 2005-06. The guidelines of SFURTI are available on the website of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries at <http://ari.nic.in>.

(b) Applications for setting up industry units mentioned at (a) above are not received directly by the Government in the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT—5944/04.

Under the REGP, an eligible entrepreneur can establish a village industry by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank. For this purpose the prospective entrepreneur has to submit a project proposal to the State offices of the KVIC or the district offices of the respective State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) or the implementing banks directly. Approval of the project depends on technical and financial appraisal by the respective banks. Similarly, under the PMRY, educated unemployed youth can establish a self-employment unit of village industry in the rural areas by availing of permissible subsidy and loan from the banks. This Yojana is implemented through the District Industries Centres of States and Union Territories. For this purpose, the prospective entrepreneur has to submit a project proposal to the District Industries Centre concerned, which in turn, sponsors short listed applications to the implementing banks.

All proposals received for cluster development under the SFURTI have been examined and 29 clusters of khadi (including 2 in Rajasthan), 50 clusters of village industries (including 2 in Rajasthan) and 25 clusters of Coir have been identified for development under SFURTI.

(c) Does not arise.

12.04 hrs.

### ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

#### Joint Committee on Offices of Profit

*[English]*

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one Member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the demise of Shri Chittabrata Majumdar, Member Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the Member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Let me put the motion. You are all senior Members. Do not be over anxious.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect one Member of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancy caused by the demise of Shri Chittabrata Majumdar, member Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the name of the Member so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

*The motion was adopted.*

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: On this, do you want to say something? What can you say on this I do not understand.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): I want to say on Item No.11. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House and go away. I will not tolerate this. Please sit down

*...(Interruptions)*

12.05 hrs.

### INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007\*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.11—Shri T.R. Baalu.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, we have given the notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University at the national level to facilitate and promote maritime studies and research and to achieve excellence in areas of marine science and technology, marine environment and other related fields, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 13.3.2007

12.05 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 12.15 p.m.

12.06 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till fifteen minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

12.15 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifteen minutes past Twelve of the Clock.*

*(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members may take their seats, first of all.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (PANSKURA): Sir, may I seek a clarification? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. At the moment, there is no business before the House, to seek a clarification.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, may I know whether the Bill has been introduced? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Bill will be introduced, unless the Government wishes to withdraw it or not to introduce it.

Now, Shri T.R. Baalu.

*...(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. *...(Interruptions)*

12.16 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Anil Basu and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table.)*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1 o'clock.

12.16 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirteen of the Clock.*

*(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair)*

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

13.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.*

*[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]*

*...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

14.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.30 hrs.

*[English]*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14.45 hours.

14.31 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.45 hrs.

*[English]*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007—*Contd.*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Hon. Speaker Sir, the incident which happened when item No. 11 of the List of Business was taken up today is unfortunate and regrettable. I, on behalf of my Party, express regret as some of the hon. Members rushed to the well of the House being emotionally exercised over the subject of the concerned Bill.

Sir, we have no intention of hurting the sentiments of the House or of the Chair and I would ask the Government to look into the whole matter.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express regrets for what has happened in the morning when some hon. Members from different sections of the House rushed to the well. Sir, we are sincerely sorry and we regret for it. What has happened in the morning is unfortunate.

As the hon. Members know, as regards the passage of a Bill nowadays, there is a lot of scope for discussion,

making amendments and changes through the Standing Committee and through a debate and many a time, it has happened that a Bill had not taken up in its original form when it finally came up for the consideration of the House. Therefore, I do understand the sentiments of the Members and I sincerely regret and express my unhappiness over what had happened in the morning. On behalf of the Members of the House, I sincerely regret for it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker Sir, I was not here at that time. I was in my office and was just watching the television when this unfortunate incident happened. Shri Acharia has expressed regrets and the Leader of the House has said that it was an unhappy event. I would like to point out that in the past when situations of this kind had arisen like almost a kind of altercation, it had been invariably between the Government and the Opposition when there was a difference. The basic difference between the earlier incidents and today's incident which really makes it totally unprecedented is that it is within the ruling party that this has happened. ... *(Interruptions)* We are all sorry for what had happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

Since 1998, when the Government was formed under the leadership of Shri Vajpayee in which I was also a member, a phrase that came into circulation in political parlance was 'coalition dharma' and it is that 'coalition dharma' which has been so violated in such an ugly manner today that it is really for the Government to think about it. Of course, in any happening of this kind in Parliament, every hon. Member feels concerned but today, there is a failure of management by the Government. I do not know who did it. I do not know the full facts. But I am sure that this Bill, before being introduced, must have been considered by the Cabinet. If there were differences in that regard with a major partner, they should have been tackled before being brought in this manner and leading to this kind of ugly situation. Never before has the Marshal come to the well of the House. Today if it has come, it is to protect the Minister from being manhandled by other Members belonging to the same Government.

This is what makes it a totally unprecedented event. When my colleagues sometimes function in a manner which calls for a totally strong denunciation from the Chair, we have heard it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not blame you for that. You are justified in feeling that way. But here is

something that has happened and there is only expression of regrets by the Leader of that Group and the hon. Leader of the House saying that I am very unhappy today. I think something more is needed and that is needed within the UPA. I hope that this civil war within the UPA has come to an end finally. ...*(Interruptions)*

In any way, if today's episode has been wound up, I feel happy about it. Therefore, I have nothing more to add. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us forget the very ugly chapter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded. After Shri L.K. Advani's remarks, only my statement will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, nothing is being recorded.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Do not record.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, kindly listen to me. You should learn from the leaders also. They are listening too.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is a very sad day. I strongly denounce what has happened in the morning. I can assure Shri Advani, the Leader of the Opposition, that there is no question of taking different attitude. I strongly denounced it then and I strongly denounce it now. This is not the way the Members of Parliament should behave. The whole country is not happy at the way we are functioning. We should be role models for the entire country. If you can find out a better method of substituting parliamentary democracy, please do it. But so long as this House remains, and so long as the people send us to this place, they expect from us an exemplary

behaviour, our conduct as Members of Parliament in dealing with matters which will solve people's problems. This is the onerous responsibility that we have undertaken. When we file our nomination papers, we promise to the people that we would try our best to look after their interests. That is the only job we have come here with.

Therefore, I hope this will never be repeated in future in this House which is the most glorious institution of our Republic. Shri Basu Deb Acharia has already tendered regrets on behalf of his Party and we have heard the observations of both the hon. Leader of the House and the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Let us forget the ugly chapter in the history of this House.

Let us proceed with the work. If I may say once more, I have tried in my humble way, to the best of my limited capacity, to try to run this House. I never aspired for this job. You have put me here, but so long as I am here I shall try my humble best. If you do not like, please let me know. You can get rid of me. I do not mind at all.

I earnestly appeal to all sections of the House; please try to remember one subject which I have not allowed to be discussed on the floor of this House. I have been repeatedly requesting all of you. However, there are constraints of rules and there is also constraint of time also. We have to regulate the proceedings and that is what the Chair is meant for. All of us are trying to do our humble best. I am not saying that I am the only person to do it. There is the hon. Deputy Speaker and hon. Members of the Panel of Chairman are there. All of us are trying our best without any other considerations except that this greatest institution of our Republic should run in a manner which will reinforce the faith of the people in us. Please cooperate and everybody will benefit out of it.

Shri T.R. Baalu, you have already moved the motion.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University at the national level to facilitate and promote maritime studies and research and to achieve excellence in areas of marine science and technology, marine environment and other related fields, and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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\*Not recorded.

14.57 hrs.

## SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Reported firing by Sri Lankan Navy  
on Indian fishermen**

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, I am raising a very important urgent matter regarding Sri Lankan Navy's continuous attack on Tamil Nadu fishermen resulting in loss of lives and injuries to our fishermen and threatening their livelihood. On Saturday early morning when our Tamil Nadu fishermen from Pamban were on board on the Indian territory off Katchatheevu, fast craft of Sri Lankan Navy approached them and indiscriminately fired at them, resulting in death of one fisherman on the spot and injuring critically three other fishermen. This has created a tense situation in Ramanathapuram area and the people there are observing bandh for two days on 12th and 13th of March. Agitated by the attack, Mandapam fishermen have put up road blocks, halting the traffic for hours together. This is the second such incident in the past two weeks.

Pointing out these indiscriminate firings by Sri Lankan Navy on unarmed, innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen, on various occasions, Dr. Kalaingar, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has sent a letter on February 27 urging for the hon. Prime Minister's intervention to put an end to the attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy. Unfortunately, nothing has happened and our Tamil Nadu fishermen continue to become victims of Sri Lankan Navy. Condemning this firing, our Party, DMK decided to organize a massive demonstration against the Sri Lankan Government in front of the Sri Lankan Deputy High Commissioner, at Chennai and the demonstration was held on 12.3.07 in which Ministers also participated. Under the direction of Dr. Kalaingar, Chief Secretary of our State has called up the Cabinet Secretary, the Defence Secretary and the Foreign Secretary to take up that issue strongly with the Sri Lankan Government and to put an end to these attacks on helpless, innocent Tamil Nadu fishermen.

I would therefore demand on behalf of my Party DMK that the hon. Prime Minister should intervene in the matter and this issue should be taken up strongly with

the Sri Lankan Government and the Sri Lankan Navy should be reined and restrained to behave and not to resort to uncalled for firing on the Tamil Nadu fishermen. To protect our fishermen on sea, our Government should also deploy high speed crafts of Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy off Katchatheevu to do patrolling.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri M. Appadurai, Prof. M. Ramadass, Dr. C. Krishnan, Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran, Shri A.K.S. Vijayan, Shri K. Subbarayan, Shri L. Ganesan, Shri N.S.V. Chittan, Shri S.K. Kharventhan, Shri K.V. Thangakabalu, Shri A.V. Bellarmin, Shri E. Ponnuswamy also can associate with him.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Thenkasi): It has become a recurrent feature for the Sri Lankan Navy to brutally attack and loot the catches of Indian fishermen and damage their vessels even if they are on the Indian waters. They take the plea that they had strayed into their territory or they suspected some militant movements. So, there are Human Rights violations resulting in the interference on the livelihood and traditional occupation rights of the poor fishermen along the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu, especially near Nagapattinam and Rameswaram. Sri Lanka does not honour the gesture of India to have handed over Katcha Tiru island. To put an end to this menace of Sri Lankan highhandedness in attacking and shooting down of Indian fishermen, India must take efforts to take back Katcha Tiru island. Centre may also consider the plea of Tamil Nadu to take on perpetual lease Katcha Tiru to avoid providing a base to Sri Lankan Navy which is against the existing record. On behalf of Communist Party of India (CPI), I urge upon the Government of India to take effective steps to protect the interests of poor Indian fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

[English]

\*SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (RAMANATHAPURAM): I wish to record in this August House, the deep concern and mounting anxiety of the people of Tamil Nadu over the killing of innocent fishermen of Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy in the past few days.

So far more than 250 fishermen of Tamil Nadu have been killed by the brutal and mindless operation of Sri

\*English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

Lanka Navy. On 10.3.2007 with immeasurable sadness, I like to bring to this August House that one tragedy has occurred again for the fishing community belonging to Pamban and Rameswaram areas of my Parliamentary constituency.

One young fisherman Mr. Christopher from Pamban village who was out on the sea for fishing along with a few other youngsters was unfortunately killed by the murderous and mindless attack by Sri Lanka Navy. Two other men were injured heavily.

Sir, it is a heart-rending story for the family on 11.3.2007. I visited the area and called on the bereaved family. The entire family is deeply shaken by the tragedy. It has lost its only breadwinner. The family feels helpless and stands orphaned.

Sir, similar feelings of helplessness is prevailing not only in my R. Constl. but also in the entire Tamil Nadu regarding the unlawful attack by Sri Lanka Navy.

In fact, my revered leader and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has forcefully brought to the kind knowledge of the Hon'ble Prime Minister through his letters about the continuing agony and havoc caused to the lives and livelihood of lakhs of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lanka Navy.

On 12.3.2007 on the instruction of our respected leader, massive protest rally was organized in front of the office of Sri Lanka High Commission, Chennai to express our concern and anger against the atrocities of Sri Lanka Navy.

A two-day fasting and strike by fishermen of Rameswaram Island have been announced from yesterday.

1. We want the Government of India to act immediately on this matter with speed and determination.
2. It should contact the Government of Sri Lanka and advise them to ask Sri Lanka Navy to mend their ways and to behave properly, ethically and legally.
3. Sir, we fervently hope the Government of India will act fast and bring the lasting solution to this vicious problem haunting the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

4. It should convene a meeting with high level people at Delhi and Colombo if need be.
5. On a mutually agreeable basis, there are agreement between two countries, to ensure safe and peaceful fishing operation by Tamil Nadu Fishermen.
6. Operating mechanism which will provide constant monitoring and patrolling by Indian Navy and Coastal Guard to build confidence and feeling of security for our fishermen, by guarding against unwarranted intrusion and unlawful activities by Sri Lanka Navy or any other external forces.

In this connection Sir, our Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Karunanidhi has given expression that if joint patrolling and monitoring by both the Indian Navy & Sri Lanka Navy could be organized along the international maritime boundary line, it will effectively provide security to Tamil Nadu fishermen and ensure safe and peaceful fishing operation.

Sir, we are quite confident that the Government of India will act upon this suggestion and bring about a lasting solution to this problem. We will be grateful if Hon'ble Minister of Defence or Foreign Affairs could kindly table their response in the Parliament to day.

Sir there is a pathetic song popular with fishermen of Tamil Nadu which runs as follows:

"We are born on the land but  
We are floating in but sweat and  
Tears in the seas".

Sir, I ask in this House with a heavy heart, should the fishing community fritter away their valuable lives in tears.

\*SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Poor fishermen of Tamil Nadu often face the brutal attack of Sri Lankan Navy. Tamil Fishermen are killed in an inhuman way. At least 17 fishermen have been shot down by the Naval personnel of Sri Lanka in the last 3 Akkaraipettai in Nagapattinam District have been shot at. Often small fishing vessels are destroyed. Catches of fishing folk are looted. Inhuman acts and Human Rights violations of Sri Lankan Navy must be stopped. Traditional

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\*Not recorded.

fishing rights of the Tamil fishermen must be protected. Steps must be taken to get back Katchativu atleast on a Perpetual Lease. Recently the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has written to the Prime Minister to take effect steps protect Indian fishermen in the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu. We the MP's from Tamil Nadu also met Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in this matter.

I urge upon the Union Government to intervene immediately to save the lives and properties and the traditional rights of Tamil fishermen.

\*SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): I am thankful for having given me a chance to participate, in the discussion of a shocking problem, faced by the Indian fishermen at the hands of Sri Lankan Navy. The humiliation and harassment against the Indian fishermen who are venturing in the seas for fishing are becoming unbearable for, any person of human heart. The innocent fishermen while fishing are being attacked brutally, their catches are burglarred, their nets and other fishing implements are robbed even their vessels are snatched away leaving them groping for life, in the deep seas. All these atrocities are regularly and calculatedly perpetrated by no other force than the Sri Lankan Navy. This pyratrical crime touched its peek when one fisherman was reported killed. The S.Lankan Govt. have not taken into cognizance of the crying of the press and peace loving people of India, particularly the repeated appeal and urge of the T.N. Govt. to find out a solution for this problem.

I request the Govt. to understand our feelings and to come out with a workable solution to this problem, without allowing it to drift away from negotiable diplomatic solution.

\*DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): I am Speaking on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Thiru. 'VA1KO' beloved leader of the Tamils.

Near Rameswaram Seashore in Tamil Nadu Fishermen are being shot down by Sri Lankan Navy Force very often, on 10th March 2007 Morning 3 Fishermen were shot by the Sri Lankan Naval force when the Indian fishermen were fishing within the Indian Sea Limit one fisherman namely Christofer died on the spot while two others have received serious injuries due to the shooting.

Sir, like this fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu are often killed by the Sri Lankan, taken into Sri Lankan Jail

Custody even while fishing in the Indian sea areas. This has become order of the day and is causing great concern and worry for the fishermen in the sea shore of Tamil Nadu. It Should be the duty of the coast guards to protect the lives of Indan fishermen. Central Government should give proper patrolling orders in this region of the coast guards and help to save the life of our fishermen.

15.00 hrs.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, please permit me to lay my speech today on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you can lay the speeches on the Table of the House.

\*PROF. M. RAMADASS: The fishermen community is one of the productive sections of the society contributing to national income, employments, livelihood and export earnings. However the community is today shattered by both man made and natural disasters. It was only two years ago that the community was battered by the killer wave Tsunami which swept away large number of lives. Today the unprovoked attacks of Sri Lankan Navy on the fisherman of Tamil nadu is an example of man made disaster.

In the last 20 days, from 13.2.2007 to 5.3.2007 there were seven incidents killing three fisherman, injuring 32 fisherman, confiscating the boats, nets and other properties of fishermen. It appears that the Sri Lankan Government is directing its anger against LTTE towards Tamil Nadu fisherman thereby creating an international conflict with India. By committing this heinous crime, the Government of Sri Lanka is hatching a conspiracy to shift the blame on LTTE and escape from the dastardly acts. This is a fabricated story of Sri Lanka and there are no tolers in India to this story.

I feel that the Government of India should adequately respond to the unwarranted act of Sri Lanka. The Government should take the following measures: The long term solution is to retrieve Kabcha Islands which are our wealth and property and were bartered to Sri Lanka in good will and cooperation. But the Sri Lanka has betrayed our hope and confidence in addition that the fishermen have lost their perennial right of fishing. It is right time that we retrieve the islands so that there could be no violation of fishing rights and the consequent firing and attacks.

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

2. Secondly, the Government of India should try to find out an amicable solution to the Ethnic issue of Tamils which can bring peace in Sri Lanka as well as protect the fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Pondichery.

3. There should 24 hour vigilance, surveillance, supervision, monitoring and patrolling by the Indian Navy so that the fisherman could be protected and they are prevented from entering into the hands of Sri Lankan Army.

4. The international Maritime Boundary line should be clearly earmarked and should be visible in the night. The lime should be clearly lighted with some mechanism like neon light or movers.

5. The Government of India should pay a minimum compensation of Rs. 10 lakhs to the next of kin who were killed and Rs. 2 lakhs to 10 lakhs to those who were injured and those who have lost their boats and nets and properties. As an immediate measure, the Government should depute a senior officer or the minister of state, for External Affairs to impress upon the Government of Sri Lanka the need to stop the atrocities on innocent fishermen.

I wish to reiterate that no life of a fisherman should be lost or sacrificed in the future and Central and state Governments should own the responsibility of safety and security of the life of fishermen of Tamil Nadu and Pondichery.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Sir, we share the concern and anguish expressed by the hon. Members from Tamil Nadu and also the concern expressed by the Government of Tamil Nadu as also the people of Tamil Nadu.

We have got a communication from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also about the incident. I would like to assure the House, and through the House, the people of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Tamil Nadu, that the Government of India will do everything humanely possible to protect the legitimate rights of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

The moment we received the news about the developments there, that time onwards, we are in constant touch with the Sri Lankan authorities. Our Navy Chief had several rounds of discussion with his counterpart. Yesterday, because of our initiative, the Sri Lankan Defence Minister came to our High Commission and there was a detailed discussion between the Sri Lankan Defence Minister and our High Commissioner. According to them, as far as Sri Lanka is concerned, their relations with India is very friendly, they want to maintain the friendly relation with India and they want to maintain the cordial relation with the people of Tamil Nadu also. So, from their side, they will do whatever is possible to protect the legitimate rights. But, according to them, about this particular incident – what has happened – they say it is the LTTE in this case which is responsible for this incident.  
... (Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly listen to the hon. Minister. He has volunteered himself to respond.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: I am telling that it is so according to them only" They have made several proposals including the joint patrolling by the Sri Lankan Navy and our Navy. We are considering everything. We are constantly in touch with the Sri Lankan Government. I assure you that whatever humanely possible, the Government of India will do to protect the legitimate rights of the Tamil Nadu fishermen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I think we should appreciate the hon. Minister's intervention.

15.03 hrs.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 12—Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(1) **Need to revive Dhubri Port with modern infrastructure of international standard and declaring National Water Ways-2 as International Water Way**

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): Dhubri Port was closed after 1965 indo-pak war. Assam and North Bengal

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

had direct link with Kolkata by waterways through the then East Pakistan.

After UPA Government came into power, this water way was named as National Waterway No. 2 and made operative. Ship loaded with coal, boulders, and other navigation and works of dredging of riverbed is already completed.

Dhubri, the abandoned Port should be reconstructed with International Port status accorded. People of Assam and North Bengal raised the demand that National Water way No.2 should be declared as international Waterway and Dhubri be declared as International Port.

I urge upon the Government Kindly to declare Dhubri as International Port and National Water way no. 2 as International Water way.

**(ii) Need to start an F.M. Radio Station in Amreli, Gujarat**

*[Translation]*

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Sir, F.M. radio has made a lot of progress as a means of entertainment and has become fairly popular. There are not many means of entertainment in my parliamentary constituency Amreli particularly for farmers in the rural areas. I have written several letters for starting F.M. service in Amreli and every time I am told that it would be considered next year. It's been three years and my parliamentary constituency Amreli has been deprived of it as on date. It is an urgent demand of the people of my parliamentary constituency Amreli that FM radio facility should be immediately provided so that people can get latest entertainment facility.

Through the House, the Government is requested to set up an F.M. Radio Station in my parliamentary constituency Amreli immediately.

**(iii) Need to provide funds for Community Health Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh**

*[English]*

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (Machilipatnam): Government of Andhra Pradesh has been contemplating to introduce Community Health Insurance Scheme to provide health risk coverage and improve health status

of poor households in the State. Government hospitals, though catering to primary health needs of people, are unable to provide professional care for treatment of major ailments like cancer, kidney failure, heart and neurological diseases, etc. So, Government of A.P. initiated a pilot project in May, 2004, to meet expenses for hospitals. So far, 40,500 such cases have been assisted with an amount of Rs. 114 crores. It is felt that this assistance could be institutionalized through the instrumentality of Community Health Insurance Scheme and for this purpose Arogya Sri Health Care Trust has been set up.

Government of India has launched NRHM to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. Service guarantee to the poor households is the prime objective of NRHM and efforts are on at the national level to use the instrument of community health insurance to mitigate distress of households on account of high out of pocket expenditure.

Government of Andhra Pradesh formulated a health insurance scheme for below poverty line population and having gained experience, Government of Andhra Pradesh now propose to implement Health Insurance Scheme on pilot basis in 3 most backward districts of the State with the help of public-private partnership. The Scheme is going to be implemented from April, 2007. Hence, I request Government of India to approve Health Insurance Scheme for funding on a pilot basis under NRHM.

**(iv) Need to take steps for protection of rights of tribals and traditional forest dwellers in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): The Government of India has recently enacted Forest Rights Act for the tribals and traditional forest dwellers living in the forest areas of the country. Under the Act those tribals and traditional forest dwellers who are cultivating the forest land before 13-12-05 will be regularized on their names. They are also given the rights to collect, keep and sell the minor forest produce.

However, despite this Forest Rights Act in prevalence the Forest Department of state of Gujarat and other states are unabatedly evacuating the tribals and forest dwellers from the land that they cultivating prior to 13-12-05, digging trenches, pits and fencing the area in a gross violation of the provisions of this Act. The Forest

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

Department is registering the offences on those who collect minor forest produce and try to sell also.

I request the Minister of Forest, the Minister of Tribal Affairs of Government of India to take an immediate step and direct the forest Department of state of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to stop this and reverse the land to the tribals and other traditional forest dwellers and stop digging trenches, pits and fencing the land.

**(v) Need to take steps to provide relief to people affected by drought conditions in Karnataka**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): In Karnataka out of 176 Talukas in the State, 128 Taluks have been declared drought affected. Due to severity of drought, Khariff crop in 25.08 lakh hectares and Rabi crop in 6.06 lakh hectares have been affected. Further, 18,51,243 agricultural labourers are required to be provided employment under various employment generation schemes. Also, the agricultural crops of 9,05,453 small and marginal Farmers are affected. Due to acute shortage of drinking water 40 villages and 11 towns are being provided with drinking water through transportation.

In view of the prevailing drought situation, the Karnataka Government has submitted a Memorandum for Central Assistance of Rs. 1282.95 crores under drought and 5.47 lakh MT of food grains.

Though the central team for drought had visited the State and submitted its report, till date, there is no response to the memorandum from the Union Government.

The Union Government has released Rs. 226.30 crores under NCCF and Rs. 3.70 crores under CRF advance for 2007-08. The State Government has utilized the entire amount released by Centre and State Government has released Rs. 144 crores from its budget for drought relief.

In view of the above, the State Government has requested for adhoc release of Rs. 300 crores from NCCF and for release of balance food grains as per State Government's request.

I request the Centre to do the needful at the earliest.

**(vi) Need to take steps to preserve Sandalwood and Teak grown in Karnataka**

SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR (Mysore): The State of Karnataka is famous for its rich heritage, culture and its values. The state has many specialties apart from being called the land of Kannadigas, Land of Gold (referred to Goldfield-Kolar) as well as the land of SANDAL WOOD. This precious species of wood is grown only in Karnataka and specifically in malenadu and adjoining regions of malenadu like Mysore, Chikmagalur, Dharwar etc., and this cannot be grown anywhere else in India as it requires a specific climatic and geological conditions. The Government's decision to ban by restricting growing/cultivating of Sandalwood to Government only, thereby barring farmers from growing has made the Government to fail sustainably to grow/cultivate sandalwood. So as to protect and preserve this valuable species, it is high time that government should think to amend its earlier decision and allow the farmers to grow and cultivate Sandalwood as a crop. As cultivation of Sandalwood is restricted to a small region, it is an easier task to Government to have a suitable supervisory mechanism for controlling illegal sale and thereby ensure proper marketing system in place. Such a decision would not only improve the availability of Sandalwood in the market but also help the farmers ensuring remunerative price and also arrest the Government in earning huge foreign exchange.

This region of Mysore produces another original species of Teak. Though teak is grown in other parts like Dandeli, teak grown here has the highest oil content which attracts huge demand. Considering the nature and unique qualities of these species, it is our duty to preserve these valuable species for posterity. Hence, I urge the Government to evolve a new scheme providing for cultivation/protection of these two species with public participation with the Government.

**(vii) Need to give Rajasthan its due share of water and to appoint a member from Rajasthan in Bhakra Beas Management Board**

*[Translation]*

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Sir, Punjab is not supplying Rajasthan its due share of water. Punjab is not releasing 08 F.A.M. water to Rajasthan owing to which its farmers are suffering losses. Members from Haryana and Punjab only have been appointed in the BBM board as on date. No member from Rajasthan has ever been appointed in the Board.

The Central Government is requested to issue directions to Punjab to release to Rajasthan its full share of water and to appoint a Member of Rajasthan in the BBM board.

**(viii) Need to open Indian Institute of Technology in Ajmer, Rajasthan.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, Though belatedly, the Union Government have decided to open IIT, Indian Institute of Technology in Rajasthan and some other states also. It is a welcome step. Geographically Ajmer is situated in the middle of Rajasthan where one can reach easily by road or rail from any corner of Rajasthan. With the construction of 6 lane Golden Express Highway between Jaipur and Ajmer one can reach Ajmer in little time from Jaipur Airport. Ajmer has been an important centre of education. During the British era, famous educational institute — Mayo college was established in Ajmer to educate the princes of the princely states of Rajasthan. The oldest and the biggest college of the state — Rajkiya Mahavidyalaya is also situated in Ajmer. To fulfil the requirement of teachers in the northern states of the country and to train them, the Government of India established there a regional college under the aegis of NCERT many years ago. Ajmer is among the topmost places where people from every nook and corner of the country come for education. In the first stage of opening the IIT in Ajmer, 600 Acres of land is available free of cost, which is not an agricultural land. After laying of one more pipe line of water from Beesalpur, water will be easily available in Ajmer. Ajmer easily fulfils all the norms laid down by AICTE.

Ajmer being famous for communal harmony and unity of all religions has maintained its fame from historical, archaeological, religious and tourism points of view. Ajmer Merwade was at the centre of freedom struggle in Rajasthan as there were provincial states in the remaining Rajasthan.

Therefore, the Government of India is requested to establish IIT in Ajmer in Rajasthan so as to maintain the pride, dignity and educational importance of Ajmer.

**(ix) Need to check migration of 'Madheshis' from Nepal to India Affecting public life in border areas particularly in Araria, Bihar.**

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Sir, the life of the people in the terrain areas adjoining Nepal is getting

disturbed and badly affected by the continued agitation of Madheshis. The situation in Araria and other border areas is continuously deteriorating due to the migration of thousands of Madheshis from Nepal especially from the Jogbani border. As there were already problems due to the maoist movement, the common man's life is also getting affected by the problem of Madheshis.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs through this House and would like to submit that these problems should be solved at the earliest by holding talks with the Government of Nepal, otherwise this problem could become explosive in the terrain areas, consequently affecting the life of common people.

**(x) Need to accord the status of Central University to Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur and to open an IIT in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, Jai Narayan Vyas University situated in my Lok Sabha constituency is the oldest university of Rajasthan. I have several times raised this demand to give the status of Central University to this university. Again, through the Chair, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to confer the status of Central University to Jai Narayan Vyas University. A decision has been taken to open an IIT in the state of Rajasthan. Through the chair, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development to open the said IIT in Jodhpur and the State Government of Rajasthan should be given direction for the same.

**(xi) Need to include 'Thulu' language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

*[English]*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Thulu Language is one of the most important languages in Dravidian culture and having more than 2000 years heritage. More than 50 lakh people using this language are residing at Kasargod District in Kerala and Mangalore, Udupi and some parts of Kodagu district in Karnataka state.

The main source of income for these people is agriculture, handicrafts and collecting yield from the forest. They are protecting their culture by conducting folk dance,

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

Paddhana, Sandi, Bootharadhana etc. Even though Government has taken several steps to improve the social and economic life of these people but due to the language problem these people are unable to come into mainstream. Therefore, it is necessary to constitute a Thulu Academy to protect the Thulu language and its culture.

Thulu language is included in 123 languages recognized by America. But unfortunately, this language is not incorporated in the 8th Schedule to the Indian Constitution. Hence, Thulu language should be included in 8th Schedule to the Constitution.

**(xii) Need to reduce interest rate charged by banks for educational loans**

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): The Government deserves appreciation for having issued guidelines liberalizing the sanction of education loans to the deserving students. The people particularly the parents in rural India take it as a pride in sending their wards pride in professional colleges and the students of such colleges availing education loan. But it is a matter of grave concern that the interest chargeable under education loan is 11.5% per annum. In this context it is stated that banks are advancing loans for Housing @ 7.5% for gold @ 7% for vehicle @ 5%. But the rate of education loan for the poor students is very much higher than those loans available to affordable classes of society. The poor students are compelled to pay the interest @ 11.5% from the date of sanction of the loans every month. Such an exorbitant rate will be an unbearable burden for the students as well as the poor parents.

The students who complete their studies have to wait for a job for a long. So this rate of interest will be an additional burden on them.

As such, I request the Government to consider reducing the rate of interest and issue suitable instructions to the banks.

**(xiii) Need to provide manned railway crossings in Moradabad and other parts of Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government

towards the unmanned railway crossings in the country. There are still thousands of such railway crossings resulting in accidents every day. There is a good number of such railway crossings in Uttar Pradesh including my constituency, Moradabad.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to appoint chowkidars for the unmanned railway crossings and 10 thousand police personnel in R.P.F. so as to ensure proper security of the railways and its passengers.

**(xiv) Need to construct an over-bridge at the Southern ends of the Salempur Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh.**

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this House towards construction of an over bridge on south slope of the railway station in my parliamentary constituency Salempur. A survey was conducted in December, 2004 where in the traffic load was about 88 thousand and the requisite traffic load for construction of an over bridge is more than one lakh vehicles. Three years have passed and there has been much increase in the number of vehicles passing through it. Since the construction of Bhagalpur bridge at river Ghaghra, all the traffic has been diverted through this road which is causing heavy traffic jam for hours as more than one and half lakh vehicles are passing through this road. With in one month of the Sugar Mill at Pratappur becoming operational, thousands of trucks have started transporting sugarcane by this road.

Through this House, I would like to request the Government that an overbridge may be constructed immediately in public interest at south slope of salempur railway station which falls under my parliamentary constituency.

**(xv) Need to take immediate steps to undertake the maintenance work of NH-57 between Darbhanga and Jhanjharpur, in Bihar.**

SHRI DEVENDER PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, an additional fund of Rs. 7 crore has been allotted by the NHAI, in order to carry out maintenance work of National Highway No. 57 between Darbhanga and Jhanjharpur in Bihar so as to Sustain movement of traffic on it. However the maintenance work has not been started till date and as a result, it takes about 4 hours to cover a distance of 40 kilometers.

Therefore, keeping in view the coming rainy season, there is a dire need to start maintenance work in public interest at the earliest so that the traffic between Darbhanga and Jhanjharpur may run smoothly.

**(xvi) Need to include Lambadi & Kurumbas tribes of Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes list by amending the Constitution**

*[English]*

SHRI D. VENUGOPAL (Tiruppattur): After we won independence, in order to ensure social justice our Constitution provided for reservation to deprived and depressed sections of the society who were socially backward for many centuries. In 1950 they were identified as Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Almost 50 races have been further identified as STs in all these years. But Lambadi and Banjara tribes have not got this benefit as yet. They are backward class in Karnataka and tribes in Andhra Pradesh. There are about 2 crores of Lambadis and Banjaras living in several States of the country as Lambadi, Lambani, Sukali, Banjara, Kuwar, Badi, Nete, Chigligar, Chirgibandh, Baazigar, Kuwaria, Maru, Banjara and Labana speaking a common language Khor Boli. In Tamil Nadu in their total population of about 2 lakhs of Lambadis, nearly 15 thousand Lambadis live in Thiruppathur and Thandarampattu that come under my constituency. They all live in about 60 villages spread over the districts of Tiruvannamalai, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem and Periyar. Their upward mobility in the society is yet to gain a pace in Tamil Nadu where they are recognized as Backward Class. In 1994 a high level committee constituted by the National Scheduled Castes and Tribes Commission had recommended that Lambadis may be declared as Scheduled Tribes through a suitable amendment in the Constitution. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to include as recommended by the Government of Tamil Nadu both Lambadis and Kurumbas in the Scheduled Tribes list by way of a suitable Constitutional amendment.

**(xvii) Need to Commission a research on prevalence of malaria in Orissa and supply second-line drugs to malaria affected regions**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Fight against malaria is getting out of hand in the tribal pockets of Orissa, where lack of awareness coupled with superstition rule the roost. Though Orissa's share in the total malaria mortality has shown a decline from 47.7 percent in 2002 to 27 percent

in 2005, *Plasmodium falciparum* (pt) remains a cause of worry. It still hovers around 85 percent, while the State contributes over 40 percent of such cases reported in India. In fact, neighbouring Chhattisgarh has shown better results in anti-malaria programme. The annual parasite index in Chhattisgarh currently stands at 8.2 percent whereas in Orissa, it is higher i.e. 10.74 percent. Moreover, mortality rate among children is higher in Orissa. Though the difference in pf incidence between these two States is marginal-Chhattisgarh has shown a lower death rate i.e. 0.17 per million. In Orissa, it is 7.3. The reason need to be explored.

The blanket programme has not changed the situation in tribal pockets. There is a need to supplement with inputs on behaviour of tribals, their socio-economic status and environmental condition. As only 11 percent of those running high fever report to a doctor on the first day itself while 70 percent seek treatment from the third day, the behaviour of malaria patients in Orissa says it all. Therefore there is a need to make an appropriate study on the community behaviour of the tribal society in Orissa. I would urge upon the Government to send a research team to Orissa to make an indepth study and at the same time supply of second-time drugs to the malaria-affected region be provided at the earliest.

**(xviii) Need to Import Vanaspati from Sri Lanka through NAFED**

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): It was decided by the Union Government to import duty free Vanaspati from Sri Lanka through NAFED. This was in accordance with the terms under Free Trade Agreement with the Sri Lankan Government. NAFED was authorized to import the Vanaspati from Sri Lanka with the following purpose:

- (a) To have quality control as stipulated under PFA norms.
- (b) To have equitable distribution of quality Vanaspati across India through its network in order that it does not affect the domestic industry.

After the issuance of the circular by DGFT to canalize the import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka through NAFED, the 10 units of Sri Lanka are not offering any Vanaspati for import to NAFED.

[Shri Chengara Surendran]

Now it is learnt that the Ministry of Commerce is viewing the policy on the following lines.

- (i) NAFED to be removed as a canalization Agency,
- (ii) Quantity of Vanaspati imported from Sri Lanka to be restricted to 2.5 lac ton per annum (when the total requirement of the Country is 10 lac ton per annum and out of which 1 lac ton quota is fixed for Nepal) leaving only 6.5 lac ton for the survival of 260 units of the country i.e. only 2500 Tones per annum for each unit. It is very clear that the domestic industry cannot survive with this meagre quantity of imported Vanaspati.

In view of above, import of Vanaspati from Sri Lanka under Free Trade Agreement should be allowed only through NAFED which is not only capable for equitable distribution but can keep quality control under check being a Government Agency. Also, quantity of import of Vanaspati upto 50,000 Tonnes per annum duty free from Sri Lanka be fixed as recommended by Directorate of Vanaspati, Government of India.

- (xix) **Need to take steps to open an LPG bottling plant of H.P.C.L. in Mashrakh, district Saran, Bihar.**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, Mashrakh block headquarters in district Saran in the State of Bihar is the main commercial center of Saran Mashrakh. It is also a proposed subdivisional headquarters by the State Government of Bihar. Mashrakh is a well populated area as Railway Station, Block Headquarters, Police Headquarters, Broadcasting Centre, Doordarshan Kendra, Central School, Colleges, High Schools etc. are already available there. All nearby areas of Mashrakh are well connected through roads and railways.

There is a large number of LPG consumers in Mashrakh and its nearby areas, but there is not a single bottling plant in northern Bihar. In view of the needs of Consumers of north Bihar, a survey for setting-up of an LPG bottling plant at Mashrakh was earlier conducted by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, but no bottling plant has been set-up so far.

Through you, I would like to make a demand from the Government that an LPG bottling plant of HPCL may

be set-up in Mashrakh block headquarters under Saran district in Bihar.

- (xx) **Need to amend the Mental Health Act, with a view to give legal protection to the voluntary organizations engaged in the rehabilitation of mentally sick patients**

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): There are lakhs of street boys and poor people who have no land, properties or homes, who are wanderers or Beggars or poor people who have no one to look after. Many of them are mentally and physically ill. A lot of service minded persons and organizations come forward to help them by giving them shelter, food, living and other opportunities for rehabilitation. Such care, love and affection has to be recognized. There are cases where the mental patients and others affected by serious diseases have also to be given medicines and help to get medical care. They may not be patients requiring to be admitted in hospitals, but be given medicines on time under advice from Doctors. But as there is no statutory recognition for such service, those involved in such voluntary work may face the wrath of certain statutes such as keeping medicines, storing them, and administering them to the inmates of such service homes. Mental Health Act is one such statute where there are restrictions in this regard which may invite punitive steps against those who help persons of such nature with mental disorder. It is necessary to amend the Mental Health Act and to bring proper laws to protect such services which are selfless and with good intentions.

15.03<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET, 2007-08—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION**

**\*Demands for Grants on Account (General),  
2007-08  
and  
\*Demands for Supplementary  
Grants (General), 2006-07**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

\*That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in

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\*Moved with the recommendation of the President

the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of

March, 2008, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 61, 63 to 72, 74, 75 and 77 to 104."

*Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2007-2008  
submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant 'On Account' submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Agriculture</b>		
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	1287,40,00,000	13,60,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	403,32,00,000	....
3. Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying and Fisheries	190,70,00,000	2,97,00,000
<b>Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries</b>		
4. Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries	184,39,00,000	89,00,000
<b>Department of Atomic Energy</b>		
5. Atomic Energy	356,44,00,000	265,15,00,000
6. Nuclear Power Schemes	237,86,00,000	390,87,00,000
<b>Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers</b>		
7. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	33,08,00,000	9,75,00,000
8. Department of Fertilisers	4090,60,00,000	9,45,00,000
<b>Ministry of Civil Aviation</b>		
9. Ministry of Civil Aviation	79,26,00,000	10,33,00,000
<b>Ministry of Coal</b>		
10. Ministry of Coal	48,00,00,000	5,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Commerce and Industry</b>		
11. Department of Commerce	314,62,00,000	117,83,00,000
12. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	80,58,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Communications and Information Technology</b>		
13. Department of Posts	1206,22,00,000	38,70,00,000

	1	2	3
14. Department of Telecommunications		907,50,00,000	29,00,00,000
15. Department of Information Technology		242,66,00,000	13,17,00,000
<b>Ministry of Company Affairs</b>			
16. Ministry of Company Affairs		23,17,00,000	2,50,00,000
<b>Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</b>			
17. Department of Consumer Affairs		39,29,00,000	5,75,00,000
18. Department of Food and Public Distribution		4352,50,00,000	62,70,00,000
<b>Ministry of Culture</b>			
19. Ministry of Culture		146,61,00,000	8,33,00,000
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>			
20. Ministry of Defence		1144,18,00,000	130,25,00,000
21. Defence Pensions		2441,46,00,000	....
22. Defence Services—Army		5862,98,00,000	
23. Defence Services—Navy		1174,79,00,000	
24. Defence Services—Air Force		1738,14,00,000	
25. Defence Ordnance Factories		1191,52,00,000	
26. Defence Services—Research and Development		533,70,00,000	
27. Capital Outlay on Defence Services			6976,27,00,000
<b>Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region</b>			
28. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region		206,45,00,000	25,73,00,000
<b>Ministry of Earth Sciences</b>			
29. Ministry of Earth Sciences		97,70,00,000	6,64,00,000
<b>Ministry of Environment and Forests</b>			
30. Ministry of Environment and Forests		252,99,00,000	3,51,00,000
<b>Ministry of External Affairs</b>			
31. Ministry of External Affairs		671,28,00,000	126,54,00,000
<b>Ministry of Finance</b>			
32. Department of Economic Affairs		581,04,00,000	75,87,00,000
33. Payments to Financial Institutions		953,80,00,000	6725,63,00,000

	1	2	3
35. Transfers to State and Union Territory Govts.		6262,37,00,000	
36. Loans to Government Servants, etc.		....	60,00,00,000
38. Department of Expenditure		24,00,00,000	
39. Pensions		1217,92,00,000	
40. Indian Audit and Accounts Department		203,08,00,000	35,00,000
41. Department of Revenue		750,49,00,000	25,00,000
42. Direct Taxes		312,00,00,000	1,75,00,000
43. Indirect Taxes		281,63,00,000	23,37,00,000
44. Department of Disinvestment		67,00,000	550,33,00,000
<b>Ministry of Food Processing Industries</b>			
45. Ministry of Food Processing Industries		38,05,00,000	5,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</b>			
46. Department of Health and Family Welfare		2640,26,00,000	85,27,00,000
47. Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)		85,48,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</b>			
48. Department of Heavy Industry		47,58,00,000	104,76,00,000
49. Department of Public Enterprises		2,41,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Home Affairs</b>			
50. Ministry of Home Affairs		128,05,00,000	11,78,00,000
51. Cabinet		34,21,00,000	5,56,00,000
52. Police		2411,59,00,000	754,97,00,000
53. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs		169,26,00,000	3,24,00,000
54. Transfers to Union Territory Governments		259,12,00,000	12,00,00,000
<b>Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation</b>			
55. Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation		78,86,00,000	94,00,000
<b>Ministry of Human Resource Development</b>			
56. Department of School Education and Literacy		5305,70,00,000	
57. Department of Higher Education		1534,75,00,000	17,00,000

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Information and Broadcasting</b>		
58. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	230,99,00,000	40,31,00,000
<b>Ministry of Labour and Employment</b>		
59. Ministry of Labour and Employment	314,96,00,000	1,16,00,000
<b>Ministry of Law and Justice</b>		
60. Election Commission	2,42,00,000	
61. Law and Justice	136,00,00,000	1,00,000
<b>Ministry of Mines</b>		
63. Ministry of Mines	55,70,00,000	9,24,00,000
<b>Ministry of Minority Affairs</b>		
64. Ministry of Minority Affairs	22,80,00,000	11,67,00,000
<b>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy</b>		
65. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	94,78,00,000	10,71,00,000
<b>Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs</b>		
66. Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	6,67,00,000	1,67,00,000
<b>Ministry of Panchayati Raj</b>		
67. Ministry of Panchayati Raj	795,08,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs</b>		
68. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,02,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions</b>		
69. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	55,96,00,000	4,75,00,000
<b>Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas</b>		
70. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	478,56,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Planning</b>		
71. Ministry of Planning	20,30,00,000	1,25,00,000
<b>Ministry of Power</b>		
72. Ministry of Power	813,99,00,000	168,37,00,000

	1	2	3
<b>The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission &amp; the Secretariat of the Vice-President</b>			
74. Lok Sabha		45,20,00,000	....
75. Rajya Sabha		18,16,00,000	
77. Secretariat of the Vice-President		26,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Rural Development</b>			
78. Department of Rural Development		7224,64,00,000	
79. Department of Land Resources		250,63,00,000	....
80. Department of Drinking Water Supply		1260,29,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Science and Technology</b>			
81. Department of Science and Technology		285,56,00,000	12,32,00,000
82. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research		316,98,00,000	2,00,000
83. Department of Biotechnology		115,78,00,000	....
<b>Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways</b>			
84. Department of Shipping		185,25,00,000	98,25,00,000
85. Department of Road Transport and Highways		2000,15,00,000	2112,40,00,000
<b>Ministry of Small Scale Industries</b>			
86. Ministry of Small Scale Industries		98,07,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</b>			
87. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment		322,36,00,000	20,83,00,000
<b>Department of Space</b>			
88. Department of Space		379,52,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</b>			
89. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		305,82,00,000	3,10,00,000
<b>Ministry of Steel</b>			
90. Ministry of Steel		14,08,00,000	....
<b>Ministry of Textiles</b>			
91. Ministry of Textiles		468,53,00,000	54,25,00,000

1	2	3
<b>Ministry of Tourism</b>		
92. Ministry of Tourism	65,10,00,000	85,50,00,000
<b>Ministry of Tribal Affairs</b>		
93. Ministry of Tribal Affairs	32,62,00,000	5,84,00,000
<b>Union Territories (Without Legislature)</b>		
94. Andaman and Nicobar Islands	187,84,00,000	136,14,00,000
95. Chandigarh	198,39,00,000	31,96,00,000
96. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	153,02,00,000	6,52,00,000
97. Daman and Diu	59,81,00,000	7,60,00,000
98. Lakshadweep	53,86,00,000	27,58,00,000
<b>Ministry of Urban Development</b>		
99. Department of Urban Development	167,36,00,000	757,74,00,000
100. Public Works	132,29,00,000	59,67,00,000
101. Stationery and Printing	29,42,00,000	11,00,000
<b>Ministry of Water Resources</b>		
102. Ministry of Water Resources	123,34,00,000	6,86,00,000
<b>Ministry of Women and Child Development</b>		
103. Ministry of Women and Child Development	975,50,00,000	
<b>Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports</b>		
104. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	125,54,00,000	4,46,00,000
<b>Total Revenue/Capital</b>	<b>71486,11,00,000</b>	<b>20619,94,00,000</b>

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the

charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2007, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 11, 13 to 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 to 33, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42, 45 to 48, 50 to 60, 63, 66, 70, 72, 75, 78, 80 to 87, 89 to 101 and 104."

*Demands for Supplementary Grants-Third Batch (General) for 2006-2007  
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. & Title of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	265,02,00,000	....
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	65,99,00,000	
3. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	3,00,000	
5. Atomic Energy	2,00,000	
7. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	732,57,00,000	72,50,00,000
8. Department of Fertilisers	3533,79,00,000	12,18,00,000
9. Ministry of Civil Aviation	84,91,00,000	
10. Ministry of Coal	8,00,000	....
11. Department of Commerce	381,32,00,000	1,00,000
13. Department of Posts	365,24,00,000	1,00,000
14. Department of Telecommunications	60,59,00,000	
15. Department of Information Technology	1,00,000	4,40,00,000
16. Ministry of Company Affairs	....	26,80,00,000
18. Department of Food and Public Distribution	1,00,000	1,00,000
19. Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	
21. Defence Pensions	582,00,00,000	....
23. Defence Services—Navy	98,86,00,000	
24. Defence Services—Air Force	34,46,00,000	....
26. Defence Services—Research and Development	10,68,00,000	....
28. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	50,00,000	
29. Ministry of Environment and Forests	3,04,00,000	....
30. Ministry of External Affairs	185,81,00,000	....
31. Department of Economic Affairs	445,99,00,000	6000,00,00,000
32. Currency, Coinage and Stamps	....	96,37,00,000

	1	2	3
33. Payments to Financial Institutions		1,00,000	
35. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments		8947,39,00,000	....
38. Department of Expenditure		3,46,00,000	5,00,00,000
39. Pensions		235,58,00,000	....
41. Department of Revenue		1,00,000	....
42. Direct Taxes		65,05,00,000	
45. Ministry of Food Processing Industries		1,00,000	16,80,00,000
46. Department of Health and Family Welfare		4,00,000	25,35,00,000
47. Department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)		1,00,000	
48. Department of Heavy Industry		188,31,00,000	613,38,00,000
50. Ministry of Home Affairs		9,22,00,000	
51. Cabinet		72,41,00,000	....
52. Police		1,00,000	1,00,000
53. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs		283,16,00,000	....
54. Transfers to Union Territory Governments		120,49,00,000	
55. Department of School Education and Literacy (Previously—Department of Elementary Education and Literacy)		189,28,00,000	
56. Department of Higher Education (Previously—Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education)		133,73,00,000	
57. Ministry of Women and Child Development (Previously—Department of Women and Child Development)		3,00,000	....
58. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		1,00,000	1,00,000
59. Ministry of Labour and Employment		500,01,00,000	
60. Election Commission		1,36,00,000	....
63. Ministry of Mines		66,14,00,000	....
66. Ministry of Earth Sciences (Previously—Department of Ocean Development)		56,05,00,000	59,10,00,000

	1	2	3
70. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas		5000,01,00,000	528,58,00,000
72. Ministry of Power		2,00,000	
75. Rajya Sabha		93,00,000	
78. Department of Rural Development		20,00,000	....
80. Department of Drinking Water Supply		1,00,000	....
81. Department of Science and Technology		2,00,000	
82. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research		2,00,000	
83. Department of Biotechnology		1,00,000	
84. Department of Shipping		105,70,00,000	1,00,000
85. Department of Road Transport and Highways		1,00,000	
86. Ministry of Small Scale Industries		1,00,000	....
87. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment		60,52,00,000	....
89. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		12,62,00,000	
90. Ministry of Steel		165,80,00,000	1,73,00,000
91. Ministry of Textiles		297,52,00,000	2,00,000
92. Ministry of Tourism		1,00,000	
93. Ministry of Tribal Affairs		2,00,000	
94. Andaman and Nicobar Islands		40,17,00,000	
95. Chandigarh		55,59,00,000	25,34,00,000
96. Dadra and Nagar Haveli		1,00,00,000	
97. Daman and Diu		50,70,00,000	
98. Lakshadweep		43,01,00,000	7,30,00,000
99. Department of Urban Development		24,26,00,000	12,43,00,000
100. Public Works			25,71,00,000
101. Stationery and Printing		7,98,00,000	
104. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		2,00,000	....
<b>Total</b>		<b>23588,85,00,000</b>	<b>7533,05,00,000</b>

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, we asked for the 'Zero Hour' yesterday and today also.

MR. SPEAKER: After Six of the Clock, we will allow this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on General Budget.

15.04 hrs.

*[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]*

Sir, General Budget is a reflection of economic condition of a country and all the problems related to economy can be sorted out through the General Budget. I think that the 10th Five Year Plan is over and 11th Five Year Plan is going to start. Our Minister of Finance, who is also an economist has a lot of experience of presenting budgets. Since independence, 40-45 budgets have been presented by the Congress. Our country is based on the concept of democracy, secularism and socialism, however, this Government which has presented Budgets for long have not been able to fulfil the constitutional objectives even through this Budget. Our problems are only increasing day by day. The people of the country are losing faith in democracy and the voters in this democratic system have reached such a plightful condition that they are unable to use their vote wisely and are forced to sell their votes in order to overcome their problems. Some people sell their votes for liquor, while others for money and some under pressure. All these facts are responsible for degrading our democracy.

So far as the issue of communal harmony is concerned, it shows that privatization has entered in our lives in such a way that our social institutions are getting disintegrated day by day. I mean to say that the Government which has presented 40 budgets since independence is not able to fulfil the basic concept of this country through its budget. It is necessary that it should think about the ways to fulfil the purpose behind the concepts of democracy, socialism and secularism in the country.

In regard to the allocations made in the budget, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been very liberal in

allocations made towards agriculture but what would be the result of such liberalism. Even though the issue regarding the condition of farmers has been regularly raised in the Parliament that they are committing suicide because of poverty and losses, no provision has been made to give relief to the farmers. Neither Crop Insurance Scheme is being implemented nor the facilities given to the industries are being extended to the farmers. Farmers are not provided with the same facilities which are given to industrialists for setting up industries. Even in natural calamities, they are not provided any relief. Rs. 10 lakh are given to the families of the affluent persons die in plane crash but a farmer if dies in natural calamity is not given even Rs. 10 thousand as compensation to his family. When farmers who produce food-grains for the entire country are not provided with any relief even in natural calamity, to what extent the schemes proposed for agriculture sector would benefit them. The budget is being appreciated for providing relief to the farmers and the Finance Minister is being called as son of soil and also they are saying that the budget is meant for the sons of soil. It is good if it is so. But so far now farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. The price of their produce is fixed by NABARD. Many agricultural universities and Government farms are under it. Farmers should be provided remunerative prices for their produce on the basis of cost incurred on production in these farms and universities. However, our Hon'ble Minister of Finance is unwilling to consult the Minister of Agriculture. So far as irrigation and power facilities are concerned, Mr. Minister, I would like to state that since independence, a number of major irrigation and power projects have been sanctioned alone for Uttar Pradesh but hardly any of them has been executed fully.

Budget is not just presenting the account of income and expenditure rather it means to review the appropriate use of funds allocated for a particular purpose. The relief funds given to States under various budgetary schemes are being grossly misused and there can be nothing worse than this. Similar is the situation in all the states. Neither the crop insurance scheme is being implemented nor the input cost is being provided to them. There is no fixed method for the sale of their produce. Farmers are being looted by middlemen in the open market. Many shortcomings are there in this budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister should review it. What has been the outcome of various agricultural schemes formulated for the States under various five year plan till date? There is no escape

for the farmers from taking loan under compelling circumstances. We can give them a better life by providing them remunerative prices for their produce and agricultural inputs. The interest of the farmers cannot be protected till the budgetary provisions made for them are implemented properly. I demand that agriculture should be conferred with the status of industry, farmers should be given remunerative price for their produce, a proper distribution system alongwith power and irrigation projects should be implemented successfully. Only then farmer can be prosperous. 45% youth and almost the similar number of labourers are reeling under poverty. Young boys and girls are unemployed and their future is dark. They neither have any job to earn their livelihood nor have any other alternative. The present budget has not provided any scheme to ensure employment for unemployed. Therefore, unemployed persons are dissatisfied with this budget. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has to consider as to how the unemployment among the educated youth of the country can be tackled. The Government has implemented employment Guarantee Scheme under rural development schemes. After implementing it, the number of districts to be covered have been increased to 300. On reviewing the scheme in the districts where it was implemented, we find that neither any proper register has been maintained for the unemployed in the Gram Sabha nor any work-plan has been formulated for them. Public money is being misused on a large scale. Therefore, for the success of rural employment scheme, such schemes should be formulated which could ensure jobs to unemployed and work on land. Such a corruption should not be allowed to creep which is devouring the national property. A number of facilities have been proposed for education and health sector but large scale corruption is prevailing therein. Unless it is checked these schemes will fail to provide benefit to the targeted people. The funds provided by the Central Government for various schemes are being misused to a large extent be it is Indira Awas Yojana, Drinking Water Scheme, Electrification Schemes, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme or any other schemes. My submission is that Hon'ble Minister has presented a very generous budget. No budget can be stated as a complete budget in our present social structure. Labourers want less work and maximum wages but the employer thinks otherwise.

A seller in the market wants to sell his product at a higher price but the buyer wants to purchase it at a

cheaper price. It is a clash of interests. In such a situation, it is difficult to present a populist budget. Some may be benefited but others may not be because of the economic disparity in the social structure. The interests of deprived and affluent will always clash while formulating the budget and people may raise their eye-brows questioningly. ....(Interruptions). Therefore, in the present circumstances, the budget formulated by Hon'ble Minister is a praiseworthy one. However, the scheme proposed therein for education, health, agriculture and employment sector would provide benefit to the targeted people only when these are implemented effectively. States ruled by parties other than that at Centre are not implementing the schemes properly. Therefore, I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister that Government of India has to keep an eye on the facilities being given to rural sector, to the farmers and the scholarships being given to students. It has to ensure the proper implementation of these schemes in various States. Till now Congress Party has presented maximum number of budgets. The basic concept of our Constitution is to make India a secular, democratic and socialist country. If the budget becomes aimless, neither the secularity, nor the democratic institution of the country will survive and we shall not be able to pave the path of socialism. Therefore, Government should pay special attention that the budget should be formulated and implemented as per the basic concept of our Constitution. With these words, I thank you.

\*SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA' (Nainital): Thank you Sir, First of all I would like to extend my heartest congratulations to United Progressive Alliance's Chairperson, hon'ble Sonia Gandhi and hon'ble Prime Minister for their able guidance and continuous efforts of hon'ble Minister of Finance due to which economic growth is taking place and per capita income is increasing at very fast pace. India is being seen as rising power of the world and fast economic progress is a sign of rise in unprecedented growth in industrialisation and urbanisation, we should not hesitate to praise hon'ble Minister of Finance for the development taking place in the country.

Sir, 'Bharat Nirman' has been shown as basis of Government's policy in the budget and the effort has been made to give impetus to the-process of all-around development of the country. Many schemes for the progress of common man has also been included in this budget. This budget will put our country in the category

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri K.C. Singh 'Baba']

of developed countries at the earliest. Each and every class of this country has appreciated this budget. Whether they are Government Employees, Industrialists, Farmers, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Minorities, everybody has praised this budget. While welcoming the budget 2007-08, I support it. This budget is a progressive budget. The growth rate of our Gross Domestic Product was 7.5 per cent in the year 2004-05 and it has increased to 9.2% in the year 2006-07. With the increase in the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) our per capita income has also been increased sufficiently. By commendable efforts of hon'ble Minister. Our country would very soon be seen in the category of developed countries on the world map.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House on some important points of the budget 2007-08.

It is a matter of great pleasure that agriculture sector has been given utmost importance in the budget 2007-08. Being a farmer, I understand that hon'ble Finance Minister has given a special gift to us farmers, many schemes for farmers in the agriculture sector have been formulated. It is a matter of joy that many proposals like constitution of committee for agricultural indebtedness, pulse mission, the proposal to invite schemes for increasing the production of seeds, fertilizer subsidy programmes, crop insurance, setting up of financial procedure for horticulture, accelerated irrigation development programme, water resources management and participation of all States of the country for restoration of water bodies for improving economic capability of agriculture and ensuring minimum net income have been included in this budget. There is a proposal to give 100 per cent subsidy to small and medium farmers and 50 per cent subsidy to other farmers for ground water recharging.

Sir, under other areas of rural development schemes, drinking water has been made available to 55,512 households, the construction of roads of 12198 kilometres in rural areas has been completed upto December 2006, and there is a possibility to cross the annual target of construction of 1,500,000 housing units. Till now 19,758 villages have been included in the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme. There is a proposal to constitute expert committee for studying climatic changes, the funds allocations for commonwealth games 2010 has been increased and 'Bharat Nirman' programme is being

effectively implemented which is a commendable task. The provision of Rs.108 crore for multi-area development programmes for districts having minority population has been proposed and the scheme of providing three scholarships i.e. metric scholarships, post-matric scholarships and scholarships for graduate and post graduate level for the students belonging to minority communities to be implemented for which a provision of approximately Rs.210.60 crore has been proposed.

In the initial phase of Eleventh Five year Plan, availability of basic infrastructure facilities including quick generation of employment opportunities, removal of regional imbalances, health and educational facilities for all is to be ensured. The more budgetary provisions have been made for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day Meal Scheme, Means-Cum-Merit Scholarships, Drinking Water and Sanitation, Health Sector, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Schemes, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Urban Unemployment, Jawaharlal Nehru, National Urban Renewal Mission, Targeted Public Distribution System and Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, the hon'ble Finance Minister has incorporated some good proposals in the budget which would help in bringing the agriculture as well as the industrial sector to the international standard and will provide more employment opportunities to the rural youth. Today, there is a need to give more serious consideration for making social infrastructure, education, health and other services related to the human development as of international standard.

Sir, steps are required to be taken to increase the efficiency of the Government machinery to ensure that the allocated funds are fully utilised for the human welfare. All Ministries and the Government departments have to ensure as to what has been their contribution to the development of country by the expenditure made by them in an year or what achievement they have made. Sir, there is a need to bring transparency in the work system so that there may not be any difficulty in ensuring the accountability with regard to proper implementation of schemes related to rural development, urban development and education etc. It can be ensured that the results not only be generated but the benefits thereof actually be reached to the deserving people also. Necessary administrative changes are required to be brought to achieve the objective.

Sir, there is a need to give more serious consideration to achieve our objective of administrative reforms, rooting out corruption, effective utilisation of available resources and making administration more accountable.

Sir, basic amenities and infrastructure in Uttarakhand need to be strengthened for all round development of the State and to meet the human development facilities. You might be aware of geographical condition of Uttarakhand. Its 65 per cent area is covered with hills and forests. As a state of tourist importance Uttarakhand is not only a centre of attraction for our country, but for the entire world also.

Sir, Uttarakhand is a State with tourism potential having vast forest cover and ayurvedic medicines, but due to lack of economic infrastructure, these sectors could not make progress in their all round development. I would like to request you that more funds should be allocated to Uttarakhand to bring these sectors to the international level.

More foreign exchange would be earned by making Uttarakhand a tourism centre of international level and thereby Uttarakhand may also be able to play an important role in putting the country on the path of progress.

Sir, I would like to request that some issues related to all round development of Uttarakhand should be incorporated in the Union Budget 2007-08. Information Technology sector should be provided special concessions in Uttarakhand and incentives should be provided for setting up of new industries in Uttarakhand. Special economic package should be provided in the budget for the rural roads and rural market facilities in Uttarakhand. The provision should be made for special economic package for rural small and medium scale industries and taxation should be made more flexible. There is a need to include all villages of hilly areas of Uttarakhand in Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. An effective action plan need to be formulated for the development of hilly areas to check the migration of youth. Rural youth should be provided with interest free loan under self employment scheme, the provision of special economic package should be made for developing the tourists spots to make them of international level. Budget allocations are required to be made to open new technical institutes and universities in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand. There is a need to upgrade national highways in Uttarakhand and Ram Nagar

by-pass and Kashipur by pass No. 121 should be constructed under National Highway project. More funds are required to be provided in the budget for women and child development, and welfare and education. There is a need to formulate an effective policy with the allocation of more funds to give rebate to the farmers in respect of the seeds and fertilizers and also to check soil erosion due to floods and rains. The Central Government need to issue directions to the State Governments for acquiring barren, infertile and water-logged land instead of fertile land for Special Economic Zone. A number of sportspersons of Uttarakhand have made country proud in various games and sports at national and international level, so there is a need to provide special financial package to promote games in the State. Also, central assistance is required for the overall development of the country and Uttarakhand State and to upgrade all the basic amenities to the optimum.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you that my suggestions and proposals may please be considered seriously and the schemes may be included in the Budget for 2007-2008 so that people of the State as well as national and international tourists visiting the State may get the benefit of it.

Sir, at the end, I once again thank you and congratulate hon. Finance Minister for the Budget 2007-08, which is a budget for public welfare.

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, I feel happy to participate in this discussion on Budget for the year 2007-08 which was presented in this august House by our Union Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. This Budget in my opinion is a historic one for it seeks to add to the skills of our farmers thereby increasing the agricultural productivity giving a new direction to agricultural sector as a whole. This would greatly benefit the poor farmers and the agricultural labours too. I welcome and support this Bill. For the prosperity of the country and for the economic progress, the farmer who toil and moil in the soil contributes to the economy of this country through his sweat and tears. This Budget seeks to address to agriculture sector. There is a considerable allocation of funds to refurbish water bodies. There is a saying in Tamil that only when the height of the bund in the field is raised, the water level will also increase thereby increasing the yield of the crops. It says

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\*Translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

without saying that the lot of the poor can be increased by way of concentrating on to the ways and means to increase agricultural production. That is one reason why the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi on his assuming office last year announced that the poor living below poverty line would be provided with rice two rupees a kilogram. This must be extended to the people of all the States. Tamil Nadu has shown the way. I mention this because the Budget prepared by our Finance Minister has spelt out several schemes and fund allocations that would greatly benefit the farming community. At a cost of Rs. 1800 crores with the help of NABARD), water bodies would be renovated, desilted and strengthened thereby enabling conservation and storage of more water. Developing water resources is a right action to give a boost to agricultural production. We are also going in for better and efficient water management so that water is utilized in a simple thrifty way with a proper training in this regard, so that it benefits our countrymen in a big way.

Farm credit quantum has been enhanced upto Rs.2,25,000 crores. And it is the target for the financial year 2007-08. This year's Budget lays stress on education. This will enable us to take our country to great heights in the comity of nation.

Our UPA Chairperson, Annai Sonia Gandhi, who has earned the goodwill of crores of poor and the poorest of the poor of this country, is showing us right path and guides this Government to fulfil the aspirations of the people. The Government and the stewardship of our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is trying to meet the expectations of the people. Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi who assumed office as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the company of UPA has waived agricultural loan to the tune of Rs.7,500 crores. He has introduced a direct marketing method to take the agricultural produce directly from the fields to the market directly by the farmers themselves directly. This cash and carry method has helped the farmers to get remunerative price saving from the clutches of the middlemen. There is no incidence of farmers' suicidal death in Tamil Nadu because the farming community is getting a better deal under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi. Tamil Nadu is a pioneering State in alleviating the problems of the peasants.

In this year's Union Budget, Rs.381 crores of rupees has been set apart for the welfare of the minorities. Under

the guidance of Annai Sonia Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government has introduced a Fifteen Point Programme to improve the conditions of the minorities. Implementing fully the Sacchar Committee's recommendation would result in improving the living standard of the minorities by way of providing education, job opportunities and help for entrepreneurial ventures.

Equipment for drip irrigation is now exempted from customs duty. This is a welcome move. Similarly, under 'Aam Aadmi Beema Yojna' rural agricultural labour will be provided with social security by way of extending insurance cover. This would greatly benefit the farmers, who are left fend for themselves when they are swayed by the vagaries of weather round the year. These are measures in the right direction aimed at the farming community thereby providing social security.

Mid-day Meal Scheme was introduced for the first time in the country by our late Chief Minister Kamaraj in Tamil Nadu. He wanted to extend the benefit of education to the poorest sections of the society and he introduced Noon Meal Scheme in the schools to overcome the problem of increasing dropout rate. He strongly believed that a revolution in providing education would lead us to the path of self-sufficiency. Emulating the spirit our Union Finance Minister has increased by 35 per cent the allocation of funds for this scheme, which has touched a sum of Rs.23,142 crores.

In 2007-08, the allocation for higher education has been increased from Rs. 1,837 crores to Rs.3,794 crores. This has become a shot in the arm of the Government led by the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). People are welcoming the spirit behind the move. Our Finance Minister has also announced one lakh scholarships to the tune of Rs. 6000/- per student in the rural areas to lure the meritorious students to continue their education. We find lakhs of students in Uttar Pradesh alone dropping out of the school every year. Extending of this Central Scholarship will be a boon to our future generation.

Import of medical equipment will now attract reduced customs duty as it has been brought down from 12.5 per cent 7.5 per cent. With social concern and to help overcome the deadly menace of HIV AIDS, the Union Government has set apart Rs.969 crores. This is a welcome move. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) carried out in 200 districts in the country by UPA Government under the guidance of Annai

Sonia Gandhi has now been extended to 320 districts. This is a happy announcement.

The move of the Union Government to increase from Rs. 6200 to Rs. 15,000 the limit on micro credit extended to the poor people through nationalized banks shows the human touch with Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh under the able guidance of Annai Sonia Gandhi.

The Finance Minister has also spelt out his action plan to enhance the quality and standard of about 300 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) in the country by way of extending an interest free loan to the tune of Rs. 2.5 crores. Income tax rebate on the interest paid against educational loan is a welcome move. Similarly, the tax limit ceiling of rupees one crore pertaining to small industrial units has been enhanced to rupees 1.5 crores. This shows the concern of the Government to improve the lot of the entrepreneurs in the small scale industries sector. In the case of salaried employees, the standard deduction has been enhanced to rupees 1.10 lakhs. Under S.G.S.Y. schemes carried out through NGOs shall henceforth have an allocation of Rs. 1,800 crores after its being increased from Rs. 1,200 crores. Under S.J.S.R.Y., the urban poor will get an additional allocation which now touches Rs. 344 crores.

This Government has also come forward to express its concern for the welfare of the depressed sections of the society by way of increasing the scholarship for M.Phil and PhD courses. The students hailing from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities will now get this lucrative scholarship.

This Government has also unfailingly shown its concern for the disabled people of the society. In order to guarantee one lakh jobs the disabled people, the Government has come forward to extend E.S.I. and E.P.F. facilities for the first three years to the organizations that provide jobs to them. This relieves some pain in the hearts of our disabled brethren. Extending my support to this year's Union Budget, let me add a few points.

"This segment of clearing agent has all along been exempted from the imposition of excise duty. To be more precise it was considered by the succeeding Union Governments to be a industry under the threat of extinction, whose growth had gone negative during the last four decades. More so after the advent of synthetic detergents industry is fighting a losing battle and is almost on the verge of closure.

In view of following enumerations the decision of imposition of 16% excise duty in the last Union Budget should be reviewed:

1. Natural Oil based hand made Laundry soap is eco-friendly, friendly to both clothes and skin.
  2. The oil based soaps are made of indigenous oils which leads to savings of huge amount of foreign exchange because import of foreign exchange because import of petro based product by synthetic detergent industry entails wasteful expenditure of precious foreign exchange.
  3. The industry is labour oriented as it does not involve power and the manufacturing process is completely manual. The industry provides employment to lacs of labourers directly. It also generates employment at the grass root level because the villagers are engaged in great numbers to collect the seeds grown on trees from which is extracted, an important ingredient of indigenous soap.
  4. It solves the problem of disposal of residual waste of hydrogenated vegetables oils as the waste is used as inputs by oil based laundry soaps, which otherwise, would be diverted to manufacturing of edible oil units which may prove disastrous because it is not edible.
- Imposition of 16% excise duty on Hand Made Laundry Soap has brought this segment of industry at par with the multinationals and large scale giants. The irony being that these very multinationals have found ways to avoid this tax by shifting or setting up their units in tax haven states like. Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Assam etc. So from a position of advantage the SSI laundry soap have been pushed to an unenviable position wherein their wherein their certain death or close down has been guaranteed by the government.
5. The tax that will accrue to the government will be so miniscule that it may not even cover the cost of collection.

The end users of this soap are always the poorest of the poor people of the society and any imposition of the tax will ultimately be borne by these very people. The tax will put an end to the centuries old traditional hand made

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\*-----\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

washing soap units and will provide an open market to the big players who will crush the tiny labour oriented units to death.

We request your good self to kindly withdraw the tax and give this form of industry a fresh breath of life.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai):  
 Sir, I express my gratitude towards you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2007-08. Every year, on the last day of February every citizen of this country whether he is an industrialist or an office goer, whether he works in city or he is a farm worker, a farmer or does something else, looks forward to this day. The Government presents General Budget in the Parliament. They expect the budget presented by the Government would give a clear outline as to how the Government intends to solve the present day situation and problems, as to how the Government plans to make future easier and what policies it is going to pursue? But the budget for 2007-08 presented by the Government is not a General Budget. It is considered a general budget because everybody gains something. The budget presented by the Government is a corporate budget instead of general budget. It intends to benefit a limited section of the people only. If you compare the budget of the last year with the budget of this year, you will find hardly any difference except for alteration of two-four lines. The people of the country are suffering because of the budget of the last year. They too have suffered in two of the States, but they are not aware of it. Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Finance Minister started and ended his budget speech with reference to the growth-rate. Rest of the speech was dealt with the data in respect of the Sensex, GDP, LDP and all that which the people of the country had nothing to do with. Hon. Minister started and ended his speech with the reference of growth rate. Hon. Minister believes that with the accelerated pace of economic development, the problems would be solved.

Sir, I would like to submit that even the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission holds that poverty can be alleviated from this country only if agriculture production increases. It has been mentioned in para 3 of Budget speech of hon. Finance Minister that if production in manufacturing sector increases, economic development will be speeded up. This is paradoxical. However, to some extent, as Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission believes, since the country is dependent on agriculture,

the base of economy is agriculture, hence unless agriculture is not given due promotion pace of economic development can not be increased.

Sir, according to him, the per capita foodgrains production in the year 2001 was 494 grams which has come down to 424 grams per capita in the year 2007. It means that the foodgrain production is decreasing in the country. You are not paying attention to the agriculture. The Government is indifferent towards agriculture. According to a survey, the average weight of 12 per cent of 6 months' old children is below normal. When these children grow into youths of 18 to 24 years, their weight still remains low and the other things required for a healthy body accounts for upto 58%. It happens because your focus is not where it is required. The facilities and the nutritious diet which the people of the country should get is not being provided to them. As such the philosophy of growth rate is all worthless. It has been stated in a survey conducted by UNDP that the increasing growth rate in India is creating no job. It is not creating job opportunities. You are not able to create job opportunities and you say that growth rate in economic sector will increase.

Sir, in the Budget for 2007-08, a total expenditure of Rs.6,80,500 crore has been projected. Out of which, revenue expenditure is to the tune of Rs. 5,57,900 crore. Where will the remaining amount come from? You will go for debt and repay it by debt. The Deputy Director of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Rakesh Mohan himself said, it is published in the newspapers that the amount of debt would be higher this year. Where are you leading this country to? The situation is such that every citizen of the country has a burden of internal or external debt of Rs.22 thousand on his head. Where are you leading this country to?

Sir, hon. Minister was talking of plan outlay. There is 32% expenditure under plan outlay and 68% expenditure under non-plan outlay. You say that we are taking the country on the path of advancement, on the path of progress, but in the country where expenditure under plan outlay is 32% and 68% non-plan outlay is being earmarked on that 32%, what growth rate you are talking of? Thus, the growth rate referred to in the Budget becomes clear from these figures.

Sir, rising prices have also been touched in the budget. Today, whole of the country is grappling with the

problem of rising prices. The price of day-to-day commodities are touching the sky. Nobody must have ever thought that the prices of items of daily use such as onion, green vegetables rice, wheat, mustard oil etc. would rise so quickly. This situation has arisen because of your wrong policies. The Prime Minister says that soaring prices are part and parcel of development. And the theory of the Prime Minister in support of his statement is thus if there is investment, there would be manufacturing, production will increase, the produce will come in the market, and create income which in turn would again be invested, which direction you are heading to? The prices of durable goods such as refrigerator, air-conditioner etc are not increasing. Where are the prices of the production you are talking of increasing?

The prices of daily used items by the poor man are rising. Your theory can be summed up in these words. The economic survey shows that the general wholesale price index stood around 5 per cent from April to December 2006 but in the rural areas the consumer price index which affects the labourers and agriculture workers, who constitute 60 percent of the total workers of the country stood around 10 per cent. At the same time you are claiming that we are eradicating poverty. The poor people has to shell out more money. The annual increase in the per capita income is 7 per cent while the inflation is rising at the rate of 10 per cent. Under these circumstances how can you talk of equality and taking the country on the path of development? It is because of your policies that the gap between the poor and the rich is widening. The poverty is increasing in the country. You are projecting misleading figures before the country and claim that you are alleviating the poverty. In this respect I would like to mention the condition of the people living below poverty line in Bihar. A door to door survey was conducted to determine the number of people living below poverty line. On the basis of that household survey the number and indices were fixed. After fixing the number as such the Government of India stated that on the basis of survey conducted by the National Sample Survey merely 65 Lakh people are living below the poverty line. How can you determine the number in such a manner? You are just looking at the figures. You are trying to abolish poverty in papers only but the factual position is something else. I am talking about Bihar. If the household survey is taken as a basis, the number of people living below the poverty line there shall be more than one crore. You want to get these figures fixed at 65 lakh. If

the number of people living below poverty line is fixed at 65 lakhs then certainly a sizable population living below the poverty line will be left out of it. Thus Armed with these figures you are just trying to establish that lesser people are living below the poverty line and thus poverty is getting eradicated. You are projecting misleading figures before the country.

Sir, agriculture sector has been mentioned here. The Finance Minister has said that the Government is focussing its attention on the agriculture sector. I would like to give an example as to the seriousness of this Government towards agriculture sector. The farmers are committing suicide in Vidharbha region. Mr. Prime Minister visited there and delivered an elaborate speech there that a special package will be provided to the farmers of the region. But the truth was revealed when the Government of Maharashtra filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that Government of Maharashtra has received merely an amount of Rs. 50 lakh in the form of package. The farmers are committing suicide there while you are saying that you are paying due attention towards agriculture and farmers. Mr. Rai, the Secretary to Central Agricultural Research and Education has stated that in the country 140 million hectares of land is being used for agriculture purpose and if we have to augment the production and the employment opportunities in this sector this area need to be expanded. There is 107 million hectare cultivable land which can be utilized for agriculture purpose. You can also use that land for the purposes of food processing but your budget has not mentioned all that. The agriculture produce to the tune of Rs. 58,000 crore gets wasted for want of storage facilities. You can also avert this loss. If the food processing units are promoted these agriculture produce worth Rs. 58,000 crore can be saved, but there is no mention in your budget in this regard.

There is a scheme involving one lakhs thousand crore rupees and you have stated that we will be able to complete it by 2015. why don't you complete that scheme on priority basis? You are not serious towards inflation, towards agriculture. The people of this country have nothing to do with your sensex and your statements which are published in leading newspapers. The people of this country are not concerned what your figures say. The people of this country are concerned about skyrocketing prices of essential commodities.

They assume that vegetable which they have purchased at the rate of Rs.8 a Kilo, this evening will be

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

sold at Rs.12 a kilo next morning. The people are suffering because of your policies. Your policies are defective. You should formulate such policies as could benefit the common man. Only then, the misleading situation created by you will be resolved and the people of this country will get benefits, which they rightly deserve. With these words I conclude.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards some points. Firstly, I will support the Bill introduced by hon. Minister. I would like to state that serious efforts should be made to contain the prices of household items which are of daily use. With this, I would like to mention about Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalay. You are well aware that there comes a stage after which some children either for want of interest or for poor financial position, do not show keenness to study further. The Kasturba Gandhi Schools opened by you have been very much appreciated by the people. The girls belonging to highly backward castes, minorities and poor families who otherwise would have never dreamt of going to school are studying there. But I would like to know what will happen to them after their completing eighth standard? Will the poor families which are not even able to meet the expenses of studies of first standard be able to bear the expenses of their studies beyond eighth standard? Hence, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister in this direction and request him to include this matter in budget. We should ensure that those girls may atleast complete their education upto 12th standard so that their future may be shaped up and they could become self dependent by getting a teaching job either in Aanganwari or in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

Secondly, I would like to mention about sports. Due attention has not been paid towards sports. You have increased the budget for sports in school. In addition, I would like to suggest that there should be a compulsory provision for development of sports infrastructure. Each district should be provided a certain fund on the line of schools so that atleast a sports complex or a stadium could be constructed in every district which should have facilities for playing games like kabaddi, hockey or football so that the children having sports talents could practice in the small districts also.

Further, you have taken up a project for constructing a rail bridge across the Ganga river in Monghyr, Bihar. I would like to draw your attention towards the bridge

over Koshi river and state that even after the passing of fifty years you neither have rehabilitated the people over there, nor the ghats have been released from 'Bandobasti' system, nor the tax has been discontinued for the people whose land had been swallowed up by the river. People over there still have to pay ten rupees each for making to and fro journey. A bridge at Baluha is direly needed. The people have raised that matter several times but the Government of Bihar is not able to do this work. I have also raised this matter three-four times but the Bihar Government replied that we are not competent to do so as this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. I would like to say that the Government of India should make provision for the rehabilitation of the people and for the Construction of a bridge at Baluha. Alongwith it, I would like to say that the issue of constructing high dam in 17 flood affected districts was initiated when I was elected to the House three years back Hon. Prime Minister had also visited there but even after the passage of three years the survey work has stile been going on. Why the work of high dams was not included in the budget? Further, what action is being taken in this regard and whether or not it will be constructed? The needs to be classified. Besides, I would like to raise one more serious issue that the monitoring of water of river those rests with the Union Government. They need to make special budgetary allocation for it as the water of river ls contains excess quantity of arsenic. The water is consumed by 2-3 crore people living in 17 districts and the level of arsenic remains unchanged even after the water is filtered due to which the people had to suffer from various disorders like cancer and goitre. Steps needs to be taken to address the problem taking the issue seriously.

The Government have provided a separate package to Promote coconut industry. I would like to draw your attention towards Bengal and Bihar. The cultivation of Jute is undertaken in large area in Bengal, Bihar and in the region in the vicinity of river Kosi. However, the farmers are reluctant to produce jute now-a-days because they lack all the infrastructural facilities including procurement centres. The issue has been raised several times before the Minister of Textiles and he stated about the paucity of funds. Alongwith Jute, Banana is also widely cultivated in Bihar. I would like the Government to pay serious thought as what steps are reserved to be taken for the coconut industry to be modernized.

The diseases like T.B. and Filaria have been included in the budget. Kala-e-jar is a common disorder in Bihar and Bengal. It seems to be a less threatening disease that can be controlled merely by spraying DDT. Today one lakh people in Bengal and Bihar alone are suffering from this disease. Poor people often fall prey to the disease as they get neither the nutritious food nor do they get treatment facilities in the government hospitals. I would request the Government to pay attention towards creating awareness among the public about the disease like the advertisement campaign undertaken by the Government for polio and even the street plays could be presented or the help of the organization engaged in the polio campaign can be taken to create the awareness. Besides, the Government should launch a scheme for providing nutritious food facilities alongwith the treatment for the persons suffering from Kala-e-jar.

The provision for providing bathroom and toilet facilities for dalits has been made in the Budget. However there is no provision for providing money for constructing the walls and roofs of the said structures. I would like to know as how the dalits to whom this facility has been provided, could be able to raise those structures? If at all any facility is being provided then it should be for constructing the complete structure.

Lastly, I would like to raise the very serious issue of SEZ's. Talks are going on to privatize the land of the farmer as some of the land has been acquired by Reliance in Punjab. However, I would only like to say that the norms adopted for the acquisition of land are very wrong. Is it right to give crores of rupees in lump sum to a person having income of Rs.10,000 without inculcating in him any sanity or laying any guidelines for him as how to spend that money? The farmers have purchased vehicles and some of them have constructed houses with three or four floor and they entertain themselves with playing cards game and consumer liquor and their children are doing nothing. Aren't we under the danger of turning hard working farmers toiling 24 hours a day into totally idle creatures? I would request the government to change this model of SEZ. Why is not the government acquiring the barren land not fit for cultivation for the purpose of setting up SEZ for private companies? The acquisition of fertile land for SEZ is totally wrong. This issue needs to be addressed seriously so that our farmer who toils his sweat and blood might not turn into an idle person? The farmers should be given the share in the acquiring companies and there should be a proper

roadmap as how their capital is to be invested and to be kept in working phase so that the farmers may not remain idle.

With this, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

\*SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Jagatsinghpur): It is my proud privilege to present my views on the Union Budget for 2007-08.

Hon'ble FM has announced before this August House that the country is now poised to achieve the 10th Plan target GDP growth rate of 8 percent during his regime. No doubt, this is a commendable achievement but it is a matter of concern that this growth has been proved to be an urban phenomenon, impacting largely the urban economy where the so-called upper class people get the benefits. Further, it is a matter of investigation whether the provisions made in this Budget 2007-08 will lead to the prosperity of the real *Bharat* i.e., the rural India.

All of us know that more than two-thirds of our billion population are dependent on primary sector. This provides employment to 64 percent of the country's total workforce. All the Hon'ble Members would agree wish me that rural prosperity is a 'must' for a nation like ours. However, ever since the beginning of the UPA rule, while sectors like manufacturing and services are given a special thrust in one way or the other, the primary sector has been severely neglected. The agriculture sector has been witnessing downward trends in the growth of production and productivity in a number of food-grains across the country. Considering a rampant rural-urban migration, one can easily say that it is the lack of development of rural and agro-based infrastructure which is the main culprit in the ongoing socio-economic divide between the rural and urban areas.

Many a time, disguisedly unemployed rural agrarian folk are compelled to shift their occupation to other economic activities and sometimes even migrate since present-day agriculture in India has low capacity to generate additional income. There has been no dramatic technological breakthrough in agriculture in the country since the 'Green Revolution' of 1960s. The potential of

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Brahmananda Panda]

the existing agro-based technologies has not been fully exploited and the growth rate in the productivity for most of the foodgrains as remained virtually stagnant during the last two decades. This clearly indicates lack of basic and prioritized research and development initiatives in the field of agriculture and agro-technology.

The Budget 2007-08 has no new or innovative provision for the Indian Agriculture. This is why the agriculture sector, in spite of minimal relief ensured in the 2007-08 Union Budget, is not going to witness a dramatic change in the coming future. Hon'ble FM's measures like allocation of funds to multiplicity of farm-based schemes, facilitating access to credit, extending training and provisioning insurance and rural infrastructure are well-intended. However, these provisions are very unlikely to have a positive impact on agriculture since the most critical aspect regarding the intended outcomes and the delivery mechanisms of these policy directions have not been addressed skillfully. Hon'ble FM has himself conceded the fact that an average growth during the 10th Plan period was only 2.3 percent which was quite below the desired level of 4 percent a year. Considering the gestation lag in the investments in the farm sector, accumulated and acute supply-side constraints may not give the requisite thrust to the Indian Agriculture to score the planned growth rate.

Here, I must refer to my State, Orissa, the land of lord Jagannath. The State is endowed with rich natural resources in the form of vast mineral deposits, forest, productive land, bountiful surface and ground water resources, long coast line, and picturesque places and pilgrim shrines with tremendous tourist potential. However, it is a matter of great concern that due to the Centre's continuous apathy and step-motherly approach towards effective, adequate and successful exploitation of these resources, the State has never had a chance to generate satisfactory income opportunities for the millions of its inhabitants. All of us know that this State directly witnesses the problems of poverty and destitution due to its socio-economic backwardness. Half of its population is estimated to be under the poverty trap. Large proportion of people in the state has very poor living conditions.

That is why I couldn't resist myself to question the Government's policy reflected in this Union Budget—

- \* Do the economic policies in the UPA era have suited only the rich and urbanites?

- \* Does it mean that the whole policy framework bypassed the "Aam Admi" who are small, marginal farmers and agricultural labourers and are reeling under poverty line even after more than 59 years of our Independence?

Proposal to reduce the customs duty on polyester fibre and yam from 10 percent to 7.5 percent is encouraging as our textile industry is suffering from intense competition in this economic boom period. I could have been happier, if the budget would have considered innovative mechanisms to protect the interest of our poorest of the poor country-side weavers. They lack technology and marketing. The traditional skill and knowledge are on the verge of extinction. The lack of proper implementation of Central Schemes on development of handlooms and handicrafts has made the weaver's life miserable not only in the State of Orissa but also across the States.

Sir, Orissa feels proud not only of her rich socio-cultural heritage, but also of the skills and knowledge base of her million weavers who are capable of weaving a silk saree of an average length which can be stored inside a small bamboo stick. I must bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members here that the art of the rural artisans and weavers in the State is dying day by day; suicidal incidences are on the rise; distress sales are rampant and access to credit which is essential for the smooth operation of artisan activities is severely constrained. In earlier occasions, I have raised my concern about the problems faced by our rural artisans in this August House. Since the budget failed to outline any comprehensive package for the up-liftment of these poor weavers and artisans, I may not consider it as a Budget for the 'AAM ADMI'.

The Hon'ble FM mentioned that revenues were buoyant for the third year in a row. A review of the balance sheet of the country would paint the picture otherwise. With the help of a little arithmetic we can easily conclude that India has a very grim financial situation. While the revenue receipt was stated as buoyant, both revenue and capital expenditure are stupendously large and considerably higher than the degree of buoyancy in the revenue receipt. Further the interest payments towards our internal debt are more than 60 percent of our total revenue receipt. This indicates that we are not far away from an internal debt trap.

Further in the Budget Estimate for 2007-08, it was stated that the total projected revenue receipt would be Rs. 486,422 crore against the revenue expenditure of Rs. 557,900 crore. Again, the fiscal deficit was pegged at 3.3 percent of GDP amounting to Rs. 150,948 crore. Seeing these mindboggling figures in the deficit account, the current situation seems grim and is going to pose immense difficulty in our way to achieve the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act targets, which we have passed in this August House a few years ago.

"Bharat Nirman" which has six vital infrastructure components viz., irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity is yet to give the rural economy a new shape as very minimal expansion and strengthening of existing rural infrastructure and creation of additional infrastructural facilities have been achieved in a transparent manner in various infrastructurally backward States like Orissa. This programme apart from a media hype could not succeed in generating a synchronized approach to converge the benefits of this infrastructure building initiative with various other development oriented programmes already in operation in rural areas like, programmes for alleviating poverty, generating gainful employment, ensuring social security, enhancing standards of health, hygiene, sanitation and education. This has resulted in under-utilization of resources and corruption. This Budget, instead of hiking allocation under this composite programme could have addressed the problem areas in the implementation and outlined stringent measures towards effective and intended execution.

I am pained to state before the House that the plans and policies meant for the million poor have not yielded desired results even after attaining 59 years of Independence. In the socio-economically backward states like Orissa, assessments of various anti-poverty programmes (by the Planning Commission, Government of India) indicate that several problems like complex administration, high administrative costs, mis-utilisation of resources, ill-defined multiple objectives, lack in quality and accountability and inadequate monitoring had been the prime reason for the high incidence of poverty in the rural Orissa. In the State of Orissa, the percentage of rural families living below the poverty line is found to be very high. The State is also witnessing acute shortage of rural infrastructure. Industrialisation in the State is inadequate which has a direct impact on the service and primary sector. In spite of immense interest shown by

the MNCs, Lack of connectivity, power shortage have discouraged many prospective global entrepreneurs to come to Orissa and invest here. Hon'ble CM of Orissa have also urged to your goodseif and the Hon'ble PM regarding the provision of a special package to Orissa keeping in view the backwardness of the State. These are the reasons for which I have been sincerely requesting for Orissa to be considered as a special category State and entitle it to attain special attention and special package from the Centre.

I extend my heartiest thanks to the FM for his initiatives towards opening RRB branches in 80 uncovered districts in the coming financial year. In this context, I am compelled to note here that the Budget with its very few directionless paltry sops may not give the requisite boost to the agribusiness in backward States like ours. With the shortage of staff in the bank branches and existing fierce competition in the Indian finance market, the FM's dream in easing credit extension mechanism in the rural areas may not come true.

In a democratic country like ours, we would prefer to accept the growth of agriculture sector vis-a-vis other sectors like manufacturing or services since 75 percent of our population lives in rural areas. We must realize that we want a vibrant agricultural scenario in the country by reforming and developing this sector in a way where we would like to increase food-processing activities, retailing business on farm products and cold-chain capacities in the rural areas. We have to realize the potential of this sector not only in distributing the growth benefits to the common masses but also to contain successfully the evils of inflation.

I would congratulate the Hon'ble FM for enumerating various schemes dedicated towards upliftment of rural areas, insurance covers, better health and educational initiatives. However, a simple calculation will expose one thing - all of these high sounding plans, programmes and budgetary figures boils down to Rs 1,64,900 crore which is barely 24 percent of the total expenditure proposed.

The Budget announced incentives for small scale industries where exemption limit for excise duties on small scale industries, service taxes were raised to Rs. 1.5 crore and Rs. 8 lakh respectively. These announcements have to be read with the announcements of Ministry of Commerce and Industries, where the latter has decided

[Shri Brahmaanand Panda]

to de-reserve 125 items from the lists of items reserved for small scale industries. This means now the big companies will be able to manufacture the de-reserved items thereby throwing the country's 24 lakh registered small scale units to the vagaries of open market competition. Lacking in modern technology, financial resources and research and development, the Small Scale Units of the country will have to pass through a difficult phase in the near future. This will have a detrimental effect on the 30 million people recruited in these small scale units across the country.

The present budget, to me, is completely inflationary budget. We have seen that the dual excise taxation policy of the government could not cure the inflationary situation. The FM's anticipation regarding the reduction of price of cement products died down when within a few hours of the announcement of the Budget, the cement industries of the country, instead of reducing their price per unit, actually raised per unit price for which the incidence fell on the common man who paid an average of Rs. 20 more than what he was paying earlier (i.e. in the pre-budget period) for a similar pack of cement. Before prescribing such a dubious and impractical double taxation framework for cement sector, the FM could have gauged the demand and supply situation in this sector and could have taken appropriate steps to increase the cement manufacturing capacity in the country. Increase in the money movement in the country, high interest rate structure, acute shortage in the food-grains supply, faulty policies regarding procurement and buffer stock operation and distribution of food-grains have continued to plague the rural economy and affect the price situation adversely.

The Budget has completely failed to lay any significant measure for the booming corporate sector in the country. With the tax proposals for the corporates like increase in the dividend distribution tax, removal of the taxfree status for the soft-ware industries and additional impost on cement manufactures have led to immediate and sharp fall in the stocks of most of these companies.

As regards introduction of a novel product for senior citizens "reverse mortgage", I would like to condemn the policy of the government in this regard. As per the policy a senior citizen who is the owner of a house can avail of a monthly stream of income against the mortgage of his/her house, while remaining the owner and occupying the house throughout his/her lifetime, without repayment

or servicing of the loan. This policy may not be suitable simply because the banks will be entitled to sell-off the property through auction after the death of the loanee senior citizen. Further, if the sell proceed exceeds the amount of -the loan taken by the deceased, the remaining amount will be given to the legal heir of the person deceased. The following example would highlight the gravity of the situation:

If "A", a senior citizen staying in South Delhi gets Rs. 50 lakh under this scheme dies after leaving a property worth Rs. 1 crore then his legal heirs (who do not hesitate to desert him at the time of his crisis) would be advised to pay back the loan. If this does not materialise, the property will be sold and the remaining amount of Rs. 50 lakh would be given as a bounty to the legal heirs. This, to me, is unethical and impractical. Further, the value of property across the country is not the same. Will our Hon'ble FM think about the senior citizens living in remote and rural areas where one house property costs as less as Rs. 30,000/-?

In the Union Budget, there is hardly any evidence that the government is going to follow its long cherished commitment of smooth economic reform. Sluggish agriculture growth, lack of irrigation and infrastructure, low level of socio-economic indices and high inflationary situation have not been addressed skilfully and appropriately in this Budget. Increase in allocation is fine, but we should think about the increase in the quality of expenditure on the sectors like education, health and infrastructure. The Union Budget is, silent on the implementation part of the high sounding programmes.

The Union Budget 2007-08 has lost the confidence of the people at large, failed in fulfilling the high sounding objectives of poverty alleviation, defeated in reigning inflationary situation in the economy and prescribed no new recipe for agricultural resurrection.

[*Translation*]

MD. SALIM (Kolkata North-east): Mr. Chairman, Sir, budget is such a document that affects each one of us. Through Budget the Government puts before the nation its priorities and through part (a) where the underlying speech is made and through part (b) in which allocation of fund is made, Government gives an impression to its political will power. I am taking part in the discussion on Union Budget for the first time. However every time I

see that there is a much variation between part (a) when the Finance Minister speaks out his objectives and part (b) when actual allocation is made. The same variation is visible this time also. It is especially so given the fact that UPA Government came to power under a Common Minimum Programme. There is an opportunity for presenting one more budget and after which the performance of the five years of the Government would be judged. This Budget is an important step in direction for converting the dreams enshrined under the Common Minimum Programme into reality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the 11th Five Year Plan is beginning from the current year. This will also reflect the economic policies of the Government. In the beginning of the speech of the hon. Finance Minister a very rosy picture has been Painted of the economic condition of the Government. However, it lacks in any direction and clear cut objectives. We, the elected, representatives of the Government have a right to scrutinize as how the Government are mobilizing its resources and how and for what purpose they are being spent. We in capacity of elected representatives, have also to see as how budget is doing justice with the vulnerable section of society including women, children, people belonging to SC and ST, OBCs, minorities, landless labourers and workers in the unorganized sector who have pinned a lot of hopes on the Government. The Government cannot bring in radical reforms with a single year's budget. However, the budget can certainly be an instrument for accommodating the aspirations of the people through the policy framework devised in it that will give a fair idea as to whether a budget is doing justice with the people or not.

Sir, the very first point of my criticism is the so called growth rate quoted by the hon. Minister in his speech. The GDP growth rate is 9.2%. we can show double digit growth. The average growth rate during the last three-four years is also good. But this was the time to mobilize our resources. Yesterday Yadav ji quoting Gandhiji in his speech had mentioned that while taking decision about anything we should keep it in mind as to how our act is going to affect the last man in the social ladder.

*[English]*

The Government must function for those who are waiting for this Government.

*[Translation]*

They are part of the society, the number of billionaires is increasing day by day. People from India have also started to figure in list of rich people from all over the world. We should be proud of the fact that people are becoming billionaires. But in the matter of tax-collection, the political will power of the Government seems to be weak. There are talks and pre-budget discussion held between Finance Minister, Ministry of Finance and various institutions and organizations from December to January-February, the millionaires turned billionaires put the proposal to increase tax to the extent of half per cent. Since they are organized, means of publicity and discussions is held between them but I would like to submit that there is inflation before the common man could understand it. The Government do not touch others else they had a good chance to mobilize the additional resources. From the very beginning the leftist are advising the Government but they did not pay any heed to it. It was not implemented in this budget also. We are criticizing the Government for it. It would have been better if our plan size was increased. At least we could know the will power of the Government. We can take the example of health sector.

*[English]*

congratulate that there is an increase. But what is the target?

*[Translation]*

Incentive has been increased for five year only not for centuries. Our expenditure on Health would be 2 to 3 per cent. The Government has the time to present one more budget. WHO says that the allocation for health should be 2 to 3 per cent but our budgetary allocation is still 0.99 per cent i.e. below 1 per cent. However budgetary allocation for health sector is less than one per cent of the total GDP of the country, if we take it into account the allocation of the State Government as well. We are talking of Rural Health Mission which is a good thing. However, I would like to know whether we cannot boast of impressive figures in terms of allocation for the health sector despite painting such a rosy picture of our country before the world? Can't we increase our expenditure on health services? I would like to extend my thank that ever since policy of liberalization came into force, we have been able to control several dreaded diseases prevailing in the villages, I agree that we can't eliminate HIV/AIDS and amount allocated for it has been increased. However, I would like to know about the condition of those dying of encephalitis and those suffering

[Md. Salim]

from the dreaded diseases like malaria and TB? Therefore, I am not demanding much, I only want to state that there is a need to increase budgetary allocation for health. As per the report of UNDP regarding expenditure on health. Norway spends 8.6 per cent, France-7.7%, Netherlands-6.1%, U.K. 6.9%, Brazil, a third world country spend 3.4%, South Africa-3.2% of their GDP on health while our expenditure was merely 1.2% even though it is a left supported Government. It has been mentioned in the NCT reports as to when the percentage of this UPA Government's allocation for health will go to the level of two to three percent.

Budgetary allocation for Education has been increased. I would like to tell about the inconsistencies in making allocation for health and how the estimates are made. Often it is said in the House that AIIMS should be allocated this much amount as demand comes from every quarter you see.

[English]

In 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 250 crore had been provided for this purpose.

[Translation]

You got the praise but what happened later on?

[English]

The revised allocation for 2005-06 has been revised drastically to a meager Rs.6 crore.

[Translation]

You got the praise for increasing it to Rs. 250 crore but at last the amount was reduced to meager Rs. 6 crore. Minister of Health says that they have done a great job.

[English]

In 2006-07, the allocation for this purpose has been pegged at Rs. 75 crore, which has been revised and reduced to Rs. 10 crore only.

[Translation]

The amount was reduced to Rs. 10 crore at the stage of Revised Estimates. It shows the lackadaisical and inconsistent approach of the Government in this sector.

Members from the opposition say that leftist put pressure on the Prime Minister. We would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problem of

health, education and unemployed youth but approach of the Government is evasive because they reduced the amount from Rs. 250 crore to Rs. 6 crore and from Rs. 75 crore to Rs. 10 crore. It is the matter of lacklustre approach of the Government and leftists have no role in the matter. Policy of the Government is not very clear.

I would like to congratulate the Government for increasing the education cess by 1 per cent. I would appreciate the Government if they provide scholarship at school level to SC, ST, OBC or general category students or those belonging to Minorities as children are coming forward from every new quarter in the field of education. If you would like to reduce the trend of drop-outs of the students belonging to poorest and most backward strata or society then

[English]

scholarship is the best way.

[Translation]

I appreciate the fact that they directly get the assistance given to them but if you see the figures pertaining to education one gets to know that all children are not getting benefits of it. Budgetary allocation for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan has been reduced. It will hardly help the cause of further education.

Government conduct economic survey before presenting the budget but what is the condition of the same? Economic survey is the indicator of the intention of the Government and direction to which it lead the economy of the country.

[English]

There is a total disconnect between the observations made in the economic Survey of the current year presented by the same Minister and the Budgetary allocations. I may take the example of unemployment situation.

[Translation]

Think about the rural employment. National common Minimum Programme of UPA Government is a flexible programme. In the National Rural Employment Scheme we would like that Government should adopt universal policy instead of including only 200 districts. The Government do not want to include all the districts. Hence, this time the number of districts has been increased to 330 by adding 130 more districts. The budgetary allocation has been increased to Rs. 12,000 crore from the earlier allocation of Rs. 11,300 crore but the increase is merely

to the extent of Rs. 700 crore. there is an increase of 3.5 per cent in the Rural Unemployment Programme whereas inflation rate is hovering about 6–7 percent. It means there is a reduction in the budget by 3.5%

*[English]*

In real terms it is a cut.

*[Translation]*

The fate of Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana and Swaran Jayanti Rozgar Yojana is similar to that of other schemes. There is a stagnation. This is the observation of the Government regarding the employment.

*[English]*

"The sinking employment generation in the last two decades has further accelerated the gulf between the haves and have-nots."

*[Translation]*

It is what the stand of the Government in the economic survey of 2006-07

*[English]*

"With a lower agricultural growth and increasing informalisation of the labour force, the livelihood options in the rural India have shrunk in recent years.

*[Translation]*

The Government themselves are saying this:

*[English]*

"As a proportion of labour force, the unemployment rate has increased from 2.62 per cent in 1993-94 to 2.78 per cent in 1999-2000 and stood 3.06 per cent in 2004-05."

*[Translation]*

Economic Survey 2006-07 says it has increased, but actual position will be known later. We will have to attack unemployment. You are seeing the condition of the urban and rural areas. Figures are there. As per the NSSO 56th and 61st round of amongst women. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I may tell you that your time is over. You can continue.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): I am speaking only on the Budget.

*[Translation]*

The Government are saying in the General Budget and this thing is being discussed all over the world. The hon. Minister and the Ministry will have to be sensitive. When we see the 56th and 61st round of the NSSO, we come to know that the rate of unemployment has increased amongst the girls hailing from the rural areas as compared to the urban areas.

*[English]*

So in that case,

*[Translation]*

We expect from the Government that they will frame a more concrete programme in this regard. I am not happy merely with the allocation, you have to see performance.

*[English]*

because the Minister himself has introduced the Outcome Budget. We want performance. Only allocation is not going to satisfy us.

*[Translation]*

I will give you two-three examples. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Feb. 2002 has been introduced from 2006. For this Rs. 11,300 crores were allocated for the year 2006-07 and I have got the figure, for the year 2006-07 from NREGS and for the period upto 31st Jan, 2007 from the website. The figure of the department is Rs. 6714.98 crore which

*[English]*

was released up to 31st January, 2007.

*[Translation]*

We are increasing the allocation from Rs. 11,300 crores to 12,000 crores, utilization was Rs. 6714 or Rs. 15 crores upto 31st January. Performance has a great importance. I think our Government should pay attention to each of the matters, because no purpose is served only by allocation of budget. More than that of the Finance Minister, it is the responsibility of the whole Government that the resources being mobilised may reach the last needy person. This is on the website, so I am not speaking on it. If you see the performance, the number of people who have claimed.

*[English]*

There is a big gap

[Md. Salim]

*[Translation]*

I am not going into the details of that figures because that is available on the website. If you see them, you will find that there is a big gap between the target fixed, the estimated funds required and the works which are being carried out. Due to this people are getting more disappointed. You were telling that we could do that but in fact, that is not being done. I am saying this thing because we leftists are supporting the UPA Government. We are not supporting it because

*[English]*

the growth rate is higher.

*[Translation]*

we are doing so for inclusive growth.

*[English]*

growth with equity and without that we are not going to satisfy.

*[Translation]*

Your own people are not satisfied. You have to take a lesson from the situation prevailing in the country. If we speak only about growth and remember the same old thing that.

*[English]*

there will be a trickle down effect.

*[Translation]*

There is a great surge in the share market and it will trickle down slowly, then, it is wrong as you should have made efforts for it. We the leftists have been saying right from the beginning in respect of resource mobilization that there should be no difficulty in imposing tax on the capital gains made by those who have the capacity and those who are becoming billionaire as the balance sheets of Corporate sectors one after another show their rising profits. What difficulties are there if the rate of corporate taxes is increased. The Government will have to see that on one hand the people are starving and they are not having access to the market and on the other hand, wealth is being created in the market, profit is being made.

Sir, the first objective of the budget is how to reshuffle the money. If you do not reshuffle the money by imposing the taxes then you will find it either in the Swiss Bank or in the Hawala racket. The Government will have to be vigilant regarding the flow of money in the market. The Government did not show the courage of imposing corporate taxes, who are the Government working for, how is the tax being imposed? In this regard, we leftists have a straight allegation against the Government that they are not showing so much courage as they should have shown for mobilizing resources for the progress of the country and for those marginalized people who are waiting for it. It was an appropriate time with the GDP growth above 9 per cent. At this juncture, resource mobilization should have been done through corporate taxes and long term capital gains, but you have not done so. Exemption of thousands of crores are being given to those who have huge amount of money. If you see about resource mobilization you will find exemptions of more than Rs. 50 thousand crores only in the corporate taxes. To whom are you giving the exemption? When we talk about food subsidy, it is said there should not be any subsidy. For which farm subsidy this exemption is given.

I would like to draw your attention to those areas which are getting subsidy and the resultant beneficiaries thereof and also towards those areas which are required to be given subsidy. Apart from it, I would like to say about agriculture. Our colleague Shri Karunakaran has spoken about agriculture. I will not speak about it. The Government had a great challenge to control price rise and inflation but they could not do it. It is being said in the budget that they have temporarily suspended the forward trading of wheat and rice. I would like to say that such trading was started at the time of the NDA Government for increasing hoarding and promoting price rise. If you say after three years that it happened in their regime, then we would like to ask you—what you have done during the said period. You had to stop it in these three years, if we do, in the name of forward trading, business of those produces which have not been produced, the prices will increase. Those who are producing are not getting returns. When our farmers go to the market with their produce, they do not get remunerative prices but when the same produce goes to the hoarders, the prices of the same go up. To check it, you have to strengthen the public distribution system. In our country, the public distribution system has been damaged in the name of liberalization during the last 15 years. There is no such system existing in a number of states of the country. We do understand that price rise is a deterrent. If the people have information about the guaranteed supply of ration, if they are assured that they

will get the ration at this cost next week, then, the hoardings will decrease. You have to bring the essential commodities under this system.

Sir, now I would like to say about the performance. The will power of the Government is known by their performance. It shows the way the Government department is functioning. Only 47 per cent disbursement took place out of the allocation made by the Government for the PDS as on 31st December, 2006. The figures say so. Similarly, only 28 per cent disbursement has taken place under the allocation made to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. Disbursement of 42 per cent under the Public Works Department, 47 per cent under the Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and 44 per cent under the Ministry of Water Resources has taken place. It shows our old habit under which the figures are maintained as on 31st of March, and the funds are spent in the last quarter of the financial year. With this habit no proper use of the funds take place and the money does not go to the proper place and at last all the funds are mismanaged. Therefore, we expect from the Government that there should be quarterly and half yearly assessment of the performance. The outcome will be visible only when the money will be spread over the year in a proper way.

Sir, the allocation made by the Government for the social sector is not being utilised. I would like to impress upon this point also. Here many members discussed about agricultural crisis. Many members stated that the farmers have committed suicide and they are still doing so. I would like to know about the action being taken by the Government in this regard. There are two types of crisis namely forward as well as backward. The Government are stating about death & disability insurance and the people are starving. We have three national survey data in respect of health and family welfare. You will find that the Anaemia rate among the mothers to be has risen by 5% during the last few years. Malnutrition rate among premature babies has also risen by 5%. Who are we working for? It is really a matter of shame when the Indian companies find place in the fortune magazine, we proudly announce it but we should also keep in mind the fact that there is a 5% increase in malnutrition among children as well as 5% increase in the cases of anemic women as well. It is not a matter of shame for Government only but for the entire country. The Government will have to target it. No provision has been made in this budget for targeting it so that this shortcoming could be overcome.

Sir, it was stated that the ICDS will be promoted. There is a provision under the National Common minimum programme to universalize the ICDS. The Government have promoted it but it is really not upto the requirement.

*[English]*

Mr. Finance Minister, the time is running out.

*[Translation]*

Therefore you should pay heed towards universalising and expanding the ICDS, otherwise you cannot address the malnutrition of our children and their mothers.

Sir, much has been said about the suicide by farmers. At the time, when this Government had come to power, in November, 2004, the Hon. Prime Minister had delivered a speech in the Panchayati Raj Conference about Business hub & national rural employment. There he had said this point while remembering Mahatama Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. But, today we can see that the Government are not following that way. The matter can not be solved by just having crop insurance or credit flow. We are thinking in wrong direction, we are not evaluating the situation seriously. We have to fix support price for the crops. We will have to make its implementation cheaper and the tax will have to be lowered. Along with it we will have to minimize procurement and universalize crop insurance. What is crop specific and season specific? Why don't they extend it everywhere? All matters are universal but why have they made it crop specific and season specific. They will have to increase it. Farmers are committing suicide and we are saying that credit flow is increasing which is in fact also enhancing their debt. Until agriculture is established as an economically viable activity whatever amount is pumped in shape of credit, it cannot be repaid and the suicide cases will continue.

Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance has made an announcement about insurance and has said that it is feasible only if State Governments contribute 50% in this regard. In Nov. 2004 the Prime Minister had stated in his speech during the Panchayati Raj Conference that

*[English]*

There is a plethora of schemes

*[Translation]*

There is no need to bring in new schemes we will have to monitor existing schemes. The Hon. Prime Minister has himself stated that the problems of all the states of this country are not alike. You cannot touch every state in a single prescription, even the problems of all the districts of a state are not alike. There should be some flexibilities in schemes. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now because the time allotted to you is over long time back.

MD. SALIM: Sir, I will cut short my speech and make only points.

*[Translation]*

Our Colleagues have said much about agriculture. As I am an urban man, therefore, you would not like to listen from me the agriculture related problems.

Sir, I would like to say something about the minorities. The Government have said that they are allocating Rs. 63 crores for the corpus of the National Minority Development Finance Corporation. Last year also some funds had been allocated. It has been stated in the speeches that it is an appeasement of the minorities, what sort of appeasement is it? For whom are you doing all this? I would not mind it and I may also appreciate for the Rs. 63 crores but this all has happened after the submission of the report of the Sacchar Committee. The Minority Development Finance Corporation had been established during the 8th five year plan which is 10 years before the report of the Sacchar Committee and the Government had said that there would be an authorized capital of Rs. 500 crores for this corporation. The State Governments and the Union Government would contribute therein. I represent West Bengal and I proudly say that it is the only West Bengal which has contributed 100% to NMFDC. No other state has done this thing. It shows their good political intentions and still it was a matter of 8th plan, they could not utilize paid up capital, authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores. It is a backlog of 10-15 years. It is not a Grant. They are providing banking services with this fund. This fund is used for providing loan to the unemployed and children of minorities to make them self employed. Artisans take money and the State Government have to give 100% Guarantee. If Bihar or UP become defaulters, the funds for the schemes will not be released to them and it will be deducted from their plan. But this authorised capital will remain intact. When we were standing over that place and demanding that the authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores be enhanced to Rs. 1500 crores during the 10th plan, this thing did not happen even during the 11th plan. The Government are still filling up the backlog of the last 10 years since 1997-98 while we have entered into the 21st century. The Sacchar Committee has recommended to pay money to the NMDT, the Hon. Prime Minister has himself stated that the downtrodden SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities have their claim in the national resources but the BJP expressed their criticism and you immediately got scared

and backtracked that you had not made this point. Had you not made this point? Inclusive growth of all parts means financial inclusion. Our nationalised banking system has not yet reached to everyone and for that very reason the needy have to approach the money lenders. The Government will have to bail out the artisans. Today, the condition of the weavers of our country has become very pathetic but no provision for them has been made in this budget. The second major profession of the rural people after cultivation was weaving but now their profession has almost been shattered. The Government should come forward to help them. ...*(Interruptions)* I have said, I will try to conclude my point but first I will state that.

*[English]*

The Government is committed and the NCMP is committed that you have to ensure social justice. You have to show that you are concerned for all sections and segments of the society, particularly those sections and those segments of the society who are till now, even after sixty years of Independence, not able to come on the path of development.

*[Translation]*

They will have to be brought in the mainstream and for that we were expecting from the Government and the hon. Finance Minister to be more sympathetic. I would still, demand that on the one hand the Government will have to target for mobilising resources, reducing exemptions they will have to show the courage to raise capital gains taxes and corporate taxes and on the other hand, they will have to ensure that the tax GDP ratio further grow which has of late grown a little bit. This will have to be linked with the planned developmental work, then only a bridge between the promises made and dreams shown by this Government and the method of translating them into reality could be formed. If it does not happen.

*[English]*

There is a growing gap in this country. We are sitting on a time bomb. The gap between the have-nots and the have-lots is increasing. The Government is required to do a lot to bring down the gap and bring it to a manageable condition. The gap should be bridged. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches can do so.

Now, I request Shri Kharabela Swain to take the floor.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, can I speak from this seat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you can.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, while dealing with the Budget proposals for 2007-08, let me first deal with the Economic Survey of 2006-07. One of the salient features of that Economic Survey is that India needs East Asian level of taxes since India has moved into East Asian growth trajectory.

16.15 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

This sets the tone for the entire gamut of the Economic Survey. It says that it requires high growth rates with low inflation and it wants to rein in inflation without demeaning the growth.

That is the theme on which, time and again, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance of this country keep on promising and insisting. The most important factor of this Economic Survey is, it will usher in growth essentially through growth that removes supply constraint in agriculture and through infrastructure and social sectors.

Sir, two points have been specifically identified in the Economic Survey. One is retail. It has got the potential to link the distressed farm sector to booming industry and service. The second one is tourism. The Economic Survey says that tourism can generate a large number of low-skilled jobs. Broadly I can say that there are four or five specific indicators of this Economic Survey. One is an organized retail sector to get a lag up, to boost the farm income and lower the price. India should be promoted as a 365-day tourist destination. Measures to revive the debt market and encourage more individual and FII investments in them, stronger regulation for commodity future, no rushing in into the convertibility of the rupee and food loans to farmers should be provided against the Kisan Credit Cards were also some of the

indicators of this Economic Survey. But let me tell you that I am very disappointed, as many of the people are with regard to the Budget of 2007-08. It is, the hon. Finance Minister's tight rope walk between inflation and growth. He has danced to the price tune and he has very insistently tried to save his Party, the Congress. The slogan of this Budget is inflation hatao growth badhao and Congress Bachao. That was the main theme of this Budget. *...(Interruptions)* I will not pass any comment against him. Anyway, he is a new Member. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should not be any cross talk in the House.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Should I tell you that you should learn how to put a correct supplementary question? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I am not allowing. This is not fair. Please take your seat. I am not allowing you. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kharabela Swain.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you try to stop me, I will consume more and more time. You do not know me. I will not sit down. *...(Interruptions)* I will consume more time. *...(Interruptions)* You are also a new Member. So please sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, please address to the Chair. Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kharabela Swain.

*(Interruptions)\*...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please take your seat.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When you spoke well, I appreciated you. You should also know how to appreciate the good speech. So you please sit down. I have appreciated your speech in the past. You may remember it.

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\*Not recorded.

[Mr. Speaker]

Let me tell you that the hon. Finance Minister has dealt—for about 15 minutes—with the issue of uplifting the rural sector. He has mentioned this in his printed speech. But I was surprised that even the Congress people, the hon. Members of the Congress Party were not happy about it. They did not appreciate it. So, I will say that this is not a visionary Budget. It is set by political exigencies. This was the best opportunity for any Government, given the high tax revenues and growth combination, to announce a big bang strategy for sustained high growth. Why I tell this is for this reason. I appreciate what the hon. Finance Minister says. I agree to the point that the GDP ratio is at its peak. The tax revenue has doubled. The fiscal deficit is a record low. The expenditure as a percentage of GDP is the lowest. The growth has been unprecedented. I appreciate this. When I appreciate these things, I think that he had a great opportunity to go for the economic reforms because the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister, time and again, say that they want a 9 per cent or 10 per cent growth in the Eleventh Five year Plan. Mr. Minister, how can you do it? How could you achieve this 9 per cent or 10 per cent growth if you do not go in for a big bang economic reforms? You do not go for the reforms. You do not go for the reforms with regard to the public sector undertakings, disinvestment in the public sector undertakings. You do not go for the reforms in the labour sector. You do not go for the reforms in several other sectors to which I will come at a later stage.

Sir, I agree that they always talk about inclusive growth. They also mention about inequality. Inequality is a necessary fall-out of growth. I know that. But it has to be corrected by subvention and policy intervention. I want to know where the policy intervention in this Budget is. Where did the Government intervene so that the fate of the economy of this country is changed? Rather, the strategy of the Budget for 2007-08, it seems to me, is governed by incrementalism. You just throw some money at a problem and you wish that the problem will go away. The hon. Finance Minister—what he did is—has put more and more money in every sector like health, education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme, infrastructure and he thought that all the problems will simply vanish and go away. But they will not go away because of this. What about the delivery mechanism? What about the delivery system?

I can tell you with regard to about 26 Ministries. By the end of last December, only 40 per cent of allocated

money of those Ministries has been spent. Can you spend the rest of 60 per cent within the next three months only—by 31st March? Can you do it? So, it is not the allocation which matters. It is the delivery mechanism that matters. What has been the outcome? It is not a question of outgo. It is a question of outcome which this country is interested in. I am interested in it. The hon. Finance Minister is also interested in it.

Now, I will come to the question of agriculture because agriculture is firmly associated with inflation. The hon. Finance Minister is very much interested in doing way with this inflation. Please see the first several paragraphs. For about the first 10 minutes, he has dealt with it. He tried to deal with the problem of inflation. Inflation, he said, is basically a constraint of supply.

It is a phenomenon. But you go through the Budget. Here the agriculture is only a theme. There is no clear cut agenda with regard to agriculture. For the last 10 years, the production of pulses, rice, wheat and edible oil has been constant. You can ask me as to what we were doing when our party was in the Government. I agree with this. But now the economy of this country has got a boost. More than 9 per cent GDP growth is there. The Government has got more money now, the Government has got more leeway, and the Government has got more space and more elbow room to deal with the problems of agriculture.

Sir, about 11.5 per cent of our farmers are facing misery. I would like to ask a question to the Finance Minister and to this Government. What has been the provision in this Budget to deal with the supply side constraint on wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds? Is it sufficient to say that we would irrigate 24 lakh hectares of land and give Rs. 2,25,000 crore as rural credit? Even the hon. Member from the Left Parties Mr. Salim was saying that merely increasing the rural credit will not help.

I know the Finance Minister has succeeded in doubling the rural credit within three years and he has even exceeded that. But why are our farmers still committing suicides? I would like to say that one of the major steps that is to be taken to stop suicides of farmers is to have a real crop insurance scheme which should be operative in this country. There is a crop insurance scheme now, but there is nothing insurable under this scheme. It is only subsidy distribution by some banks. They are merely distributing the subsidy given by this

Government. On what basis are they distributing this subsidy? Every block has been taken as a unit. It means, if the crops in an entire block are destroyed, then only the farmers are eligible to get some subsidy or some insurance amount.

Sir, you yourself are a leading farmer and you are leading the farmers' community. Do you believe that the crops in an entire block would be wiped out totally any time? Is it possible? Several times we have insisted with the hon. Minister and with the Government to treat the Gram Panchayat as a unit. If there is a crop loss in a Gram Panchayat, then the farmers should be eligible to get some crop insurance.

Now, the Government says that the revenue collection has gone up by 30 per cent. Every year it is going up by 20 per cent to 30 per cent. So, why do you not make more allocation for crop insurance. I would like to say with firm authority that if this crop insurance is applicable in real sense, farmers' suicides will stop in this country. I said several times that during the tenure of the NDA Government, the growth rate was only 4 per cent. We did not collect any revenue. That was the situation at that time. It was not because of any fault of ours but 'because we took some very stringent reform measures, you are enjoying the results of that. That is what we did.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Sir, this crop insurance scheme was introduced by the NDA Government. The hon. Finance Minister has given Rs. 2,25,000 crore for rural credit. He is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the Left Parties are not only controlling this Government, but they are also controlling the economy of this country and we saw an example of that this morning in the House.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, let him speak about the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If you say like this I will attack you more and more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is why, the Government is so scared of the Left. It is total capitulation in front of a Party which does not have any agenda and the Party which has brought West Bengal, where they have ruled for the last 30 years, to an abysmal state. Everybody knows that pretty well. But still, just to enjoy the power, just to enjoy the post of ministership, they are capitulating before the Left. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: They were with them also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: They themselves say that they were never with us. How can they just force us? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will just make some points to the hon. Minister that Mr. M. Swaminathan, one of the greatest leading agriculture scientists of this country has made. How do we go for proper utilization of every drop of water and should we go for that? Have we done something? Have we indicated anything like that through this Budget? How to increase the productivity? Are the pilot projects taken up for restoring the water bodies sufficient?

I think, the hon. Minister mentioned about Orissa when he said that in Karnataka and Orissa, the World Bank is going to sign some agreement for the restoration of water bodies with us. I hope that very quickly, by the end of this month, as he said, it happens in Orissa. I shall be extremely happy. I agree that this is one of the good projects. I think, the Government will also take very strong steps in that regard so that not only in Orissa or Karnataka, but in other States of this country also, the hon. Minister will be able to say how the water availability increases and how the rain water is stored for the irrigation projects.

The hon. Finance Minister has spoken about reforms in Agriculture Extension Service. It is a good proposal. I thank him for that. He wanted to create the Agricultural Technological Management Agency. But he wanted that the District Magistrate or the District Collector would head it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): It is already so. That is the present set up.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: All right. Then, I would like to inform him that the District Collector or the District Magistrate heads about 60 other organizations. Does he have any time to go for agricultural upliftment. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister not to go by that thing and kindly see that somebody else, some other specific officers, who will just deal with agriculture, heads this agency so that something happens to agriculture. It will never happen if you ask the Collector to head it because most of the time not a single meeting is held in one year.

Sir, I would like to say something about fertilizer subsidy. Does it require a change, Mr. Minister? I think, it requires a change. We must see to it that the fertilizer subsidy directly reaches the farmer. It should not go to the manufacturer of the fertilizer. It is only now that the manufacturer or the factory owner who gets it. It never goes to the farmer. So, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to see to it that it reaches the farmer and he should also see to it that the health of the soil improves.

As far as growth is concerned, I will come to the second point, which is with regard to the development of infrastructure. The high growth can be sustained if the problems of poor infrastructure and skilled manpower shortages are addressed. The Budget has failed to do so. The Economic Survey stated that there is a paucity of skilled manpower in this country. The Finance Minister says nothing about it. He is merely increasing the number of ITIs. He did not mention anything about how to deal this problem.

Now, there are several news items where we find that by 2010, if this condition prevails in India, rather we will have to import some of these skilled persons to deal with this problem. Shall we face this problem when India is supplying its skilled manpower to all over the world? Does the hon. Minister think that just by merely increasing the number of ITIs we are going to solve this problem?

What about the IITs? A country like India is having only seven IITs. Do you not want to have an IIT in an upcoming State like Orissa? It is because Orissa has attracted now Rs. 4 lakh crore of investment; so many industries are just now coming to Orissa. But we do not have skilled manpower because we do not have a single Central university; we do not have a single IIT. Do you not want to have one of them in Orissa? A country like India requires not only seven IITs but it requires about

500 IITs. You can have more than one in several States. Even in poorer and backward States like Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh you should have IITs. I would like to appeal to do that. A kitty of big power projects, a fund for airport upgradation, a time-bound plan for clearing investments would have enabled faster capacity creation, driving output supply and competition to keep the prices down. It would have happened if you have given more stress on infrastructure.

As far as the infrastructure of power sector is concerned, it is the power which is required for 8 per cent or 9 per cent growth. It is the power that is essential. Power is the engine of growth. With power cuts for six hours in most of the States, a peak power shortage of over 12,000 MW, there could have been big effort for generation. Mr. Minister, did you do anything with regard to the power generation through your Budget? Every year the Government suffers transmission and distribution loss of over Rs. 30,000 crore due to theft. But, you have merely increased the allocation for this power sector generation. You have enhanced it from Rs. 650 crore to Rs. 800 crore only. Only you have added Rs. 150 crore for the power generation. It is very surprising. You may say that it is the question of public-private participation or cooperation but I do not have much faith in this that the private sector will come in a very big way for power generation.

The hon. Finance Minister said that our country needs East Asian level of taxes. East Asian level of taxes is 8 per cent. But he reduced the level of Customs Duty up to 10 per cent only, not up to the ASEAN level. He did not do it. Through the Economic Survey he said that it should be done but he did not do it. Far from leading all items towards a uniform rate, the Budget tinkered with different rates for different items. So, it has increased the scope of mis-declaration. It is going to happen. Mr. Minister, have you done it? If you would have done it for a uniform rate, for most of these things this problem of mis-declaration would not have arisen. What the Finance Minister did is that he really introduced some cut which is in an elitist way. He reduced the import duty on pet food from 30 per cent to 20 per cent.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Swain ji, please conclude now, as you have taken a lot of time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It has been decided in today's BAC that the discussion on the budget will continue tomorrow also, so give me some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: 20 Members from your party have to speak. I have no objection if you want to consume even their time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: No one objected when Members from the Left front were speaking.

*[English]*

I will try to conclude.

So, while there was no cut in Customs Duty to bring it to the ASEAN level, there was an elitist cut in the reduction in the import duty on pet food.

It has now become a \* ... Now, the import duty on pet food has been brought down. In one of the newspapers it has been written ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, he has said .... How can he say that? Please expunge these words. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unparliamentary words may be expunged.

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, even in one of the leading newspapers it has been mentioned that pet food is being served by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi in the Congress Working Committee meeting, and that is why, the import duty on pet food has been reduced.

Take for example the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Many Members have mentioned about it. I also know that while you extended this service from 200 districts to 330 districts, you increased the allocation only by Rs. 700 crore. Why has this happened? The Scheme is faltering. I say that this Scheme is faltering because many of the States have failed to lift even half of the allocated amount. The hon. Finance Minister knows that the money is lying and it is not

being spent, and that is why, he has not increased the allocation. "So, I come to the point of delivery mechanism again. I will just appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see what has happened to the delivery mechanism here.

With regard to forex reserve, the Government is proud and the hon. Finance Minister is proud that it has gone up to 185 billion dollars. This Government could have created a strategic food grain reserve by using this reserve just like akin to US Oil Reserve. It could be used for retail and that would have brought down investment to establish a supply chain. He could have done it. He could have funded the infrastructure, which needs a sum of Rs. 14,40,000 crore. That is what is required. He could have done that.

Another point which has been mentioned by one of the colleagues from the ruling alliance, Md. Salim, who is now sitting beside the hon. Minister, is about the exemptions. It was required by the hon. Finance Minister to set the house of exemptions in order, and because of these exemptions, there is a loss of tax revenue in the Tax GDP ratio to the tune of Rs. 1,75,000 crore. Secondly, I will mention that this enables the corporate houses to pay as little as 19.5 per cent tax whereas the upper limit is 33 per cent. If the upper limit is 33 per cent and the actual tax paid by them is only 19.5 per cent, that is because of these exemptions. He has merely tinkered with that, and he has gone on for more and more exemptions while he has mentioned several times that there are too many exemptions and these exemptions should have been done away with.

Then, I also told about reforms. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Which exemptions? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please conclude now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please allow me five more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take only two more minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if the hon. Finance Minister is very unhappy about hearing these unpleasant words, then it is better that we will not say anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I only asked you which exemptions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will mention about those things at the time of discussing the Finance Bill and not now because that was the time matters relating to taxes will be discussed.

Why is it that the Pension Regulatory Fund Bill has not been piloted in this Parliament even though it has been cleared by the Standing Committee on Finance almost two years back? The Left Parties always say that they are concerned about the poor people and they say that you increase the capital gains tax and corporate tax. But I would like to know how much of money has been given by this country to the pension holders. There will be a time after some days the Government will have no money except giving pension to the retired employees.

That is why all the parties combined together, except the Left, agreed that the Pension Fund Regulatory Bill should be passed. It is just because of the Left that this Bill has not been brought. So, most of the time, in a way, they are running this Government. Most of the time, they successfully blackmail this Government.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Swain.

*(Interruptions)\* ...*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, with regard to health, the hon. Finance Minister said that 22 per cent increase is there. I would not go into the details about it. But I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what happened to the six of the AIIMS like institutions, which our NDA Government declared, and which our Prime Minister laid the foundation stones. Every year, when we appeal to the Health Minister, he says 'only the boundary walls have been, constructed.' For how many years they would show us only the boundary walls? Mr. Finance Minister, is it your progress? What has happened in Patna where an AIIMS-like institution was to be opened? Have you done anything about this? Is it the success, is it the growth that you are talking about?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the time, the hon. Finance Minister is talking about the pilot projects. When our Government was in power, the then Labour Minister Shri Sahib Singh Verma initiated something about the

insurance for the unorganized sector. But now, the hon. Finance Minister says that Arjun Sengupta Committee is giving them the Report and as per that Report, they would act about the pilot projects. They are just talking about pilot projects after pilot projects after pilot projects. This is the only thing, which this Government knows. They just talk about only the introduction of the pilot projects. But what is the ultimate result, we do not know.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Please tell me what did he do?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross talk please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: What did he say?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: One or two months before the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, Mr. Sahib Singh Verma, the then Labour Minister declared that he was chalking out some plan ...*(Interruptions)* You can say that you did not do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Aaron Rashid, please take your seat.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am asking you Mr. Minister that when you are getting the credit for the NREGP and other things, why do you not get the credit for this also? It is because you are having the proletariats like the Eest! You do something about this. Merely telling about the pilot projects will not suffice.

Last but not least, Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to bring it to your notice another very important point. Now, in the name of AIDS and HIV education, some books have come. I have got some literature, which have been provided to the teachers and they would teach it to the students of Class VI. I cannot show it to you because it is out and out pornography. One of the literature says that 'the sex education course helps to curb the teenage pregnancy'. 'No sex education please, we are Indians'. Will you simply go for that? The Muslim Clergies are opposing it; the Jains are opposing it; the Hindus are opposing it; and the Christians are also opposing it. So, I would appeal to you, Mr. Finance Minister to kindly tell

the HRD Minister that he should not go in for this type of sex education to the Class VI students in the name of just dealing with HIV and AIDS.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): The farmers are getting ruined due to hailstorm. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. The House will function according to rules. You may raise an issue by giving notice under the Rules. This is not the occasion to raise it here. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the crops of farmers have been destroyed due to heavy rains and hailstorm which has ruined the farmers of that State ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not an opportunity. You can raise an issue under the rule. Please sit down; I am not allowing you now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will function under certain rules. Please raise an issue under the rules. Please give notice for that. Shri Chander Kumar ji, please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chander Kumar ji. Please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Prof. Chander Kumar.

...*(Interruptions)\**

\*\*SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Our Prime Minister while replying to the debate on the Hon'ble President's address told us in this august House, that river water, the life source of human beings unite as and not divide us and requested political parties to treat water as a

national asset. All leaders had given us this advice. I also welcome and endorse it. But our Finance Minister knows the need for proper utilisation of river water in our country. Our Hon'ble Finance Minister must be knowing the bitter political battles that are being fought in many States and between States in our country.

As there is no clear unambiguous policy to share the water resources and no adequate steps are being taken by our Govt. to discuss and decide this issue, people see only flames in rivers. Please look at the allocation for irrigation purposes. He knows the sad stories about the sufferings of our farmers. Yet he has allotted only Rs. 11,000 crores for the whole of India which has 30 States and 105 crores of people.

In the same budget our Finance Minister has graciously allocated Rs. 96,000 crores to strengthen our defence. As it is a sensitive issue, I am not commenting on it. While this expenditure goes on rising year by year, will there be any end to it? It is time that our nation consider it seriously. Is it not a symptom to show that one too have been pushed into the arms race.

While irrigation has received a meager amount of Rs. 11,000 crores, the Finance Minister had told us that our Banks will lend a credit amount of 2 lacs to our agriculturists. It is only a recommendation. It is not allocation. You are only indicating the place where they could borrow. You are not lending or borrowing. Our bitter experience tells us that for the large number of small land holders this is just a fairy tale.

In India, our Finance Minister has at last accepted that the price rise is due to manipulation and speculative market and not due to dire scarcity.

Online trade in food grains had been there and this government failed to curb it and hence we are forced to pay through our nose.

Even after the submission of the Budget, many more items of goods and primarily cement and other essential needs for construction went up and our Finance Minister had to plead for the mercy of the cement cartel. Our Finance Minister had been telling this notion that private trade and private investment is making our country into a terrestrial paradise, but now he is also lamenting over inflation and price rise.

\*Not recorded.

\*\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri M. Appadurai]

Hon'ble Finance Minister I request and appeal to this Govt. to introduce a new system of information, on monthly basis, if not daily.

Let me tell you, as a common man, I am thrilled to read and hear about the high rise in the share market every day. And our Prime Minister and Finance Minister regularly furnish details about ocean of foreign investment in our country. You are also announcing about the rise in the volume of foreign exchange reserve. Though these matters are beyond the comprehension of the common voters, yet this brings cheer to the demoralized people.

I only request on behalf of the youths in India, and as a citizen, our Govt. to publish regularly every month as to how many India'n youths are employed in the newly established industries in India. As you declare that our country is growing the rate of 9% and so on, then there must be an increase in the employment also. Please indicate it regularly.

In this budget the Finance Minister has not mentioned anything about unorganized sector, unorganized labour and any welfare measures to them. In India around 10 crores peoples are engaged in small trade. Now, many big companies in India and many MNCs are entering into this small trades and due to their arrival in small trade, the 10 crores small traders are lost their job and business. So the Finance Minister should take any steps to safeguard these small traders.

In this budget, the Finance Minister has not announced any plan or steps to be taken to curb or abolish black money in the country. As well as he has not mentioned anything about to collect income tax arrears of around Rs. 1,40,000 crores from the rich, businessmen, corporate.

The Finance Minister also has not allocated enough fund to Sarvashikhsha Abhiyan Scheme to provide basic facilities to the school and poor children in villages. The money allocated for youth programme is very meager and it is only, 45% only. I request the Finance Minister to allot more fund. I also request the Finance Minister to allot more and enough fund to the welfare of Women, Children and for the development of backward classes.

In India still around 26 crores of people are living below poverty line and 65% of them are living in villages.

What are the steps being taken by the government to eradicate poverty in India and what are the, steps being taken by the Government to uplift them. Moreover, around 60 lacks people, mostly women are engaging and earning their livelihood in beedi industries and the tax/customs duty in beedi has also increased from 7% to 11% which will affect the beedi workers directly. So the finance Minister should take, some relief measures to the affected beedi workers in the country.

I also request as our country is growing and developing the ban on recruitment to government jobs and public sector must be withdrawn immediately. As these measures are missing, this budget had not pleased any sector. That is the merit of this budget. Our Finance Minister's budget had apportioned equal.

\*SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I rise to participate, on behalf of my Party DMK, in the General Discussion on the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Thiru P. Chidambaram in the House on 28th February, 2007. It has got lot of salient features which would go a long way in benefiting the common man and therefore, the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh under the overall guidance of UPA Chairperson, Annai Sonia Gandhi. I heartily congratulate our hon'ble Finance Minister, Thiru P. Chidambaram for this. I welcome the Budget and its progressive measures, namely focusing on Agriculture Sector like more allocation of funds for agriculture, massive programme for repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies, the agreement for Tamil Nadu has already been signed, farm credit target increased for this financial year etc.

#### **Writing off of agriculture loans**

There are various social welfare schemes which have been brought forward for the benefit of common masses by our leader Dr. Kalaignar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Dr. Kalaignar has brought forward Agriculture Loan writing off scheme under which, more than Rs. 7000 crores have been written off by the cooperative banks in Tamil Nadu. That is the reason why the incident of farmer's suicide is not reported from the State of Tamil Nadu because it is a boon for the farmers who lose all their crops due to natural calamities and other disasters, would urge the Centre to bring a similar scheme throughout the country and to give compensation to the State of Tamil Nadu towards the revenue loss to the State Government due to writing off of agriculture loans to farmers.

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

### **Education Sector**

The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Kamarajar started the noon meal scheme for school children which has now been extended by our beloved leader, Dr. Kalaingar up to high school with nutritious meals and serving eggs also twice a week. We welcome the Mid-day Meal scheme extended in this Budget to 3427 educationally backward blocks. Similarly, one lakh scholarships for class 9-12 students, interest-free loans for industrial training institutes, two lakh teachers to be appointed during this year and 5 lakh new class rooms are welcoming features in the Budget. With this Finance Minister effort Kamarajar dream will come true.

### **Strengthening of PDS system**

One more achievement of Dr. Kalaingar is that rice is being distributed to the people in BPL at Rs. 2/- per kilo through Fair Price Shops. To control price rise, I would suggest to the Government to strengthen the Public Distribution System and to issue all essential commodities through Fair Price Shops. For example, in Tamil Nadu, the system of Public Distribution is very strong and streamlined and people are getting rice at the subsidized rates. The Government should also take measures that all essential commodities are distributed through the PDS System. NABARD should take care to procure the pulses and oilseeds from the farmers with minimum support price and distribute them to the public to maintain the price level and to reduce the handling and transport costs, and eliminating the middlemen.

### **Social Welfare Measures**

Keeping in view that a large number of workforce are in the informal and unorganised sector, the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Dr. Kalaingar have brought forward a progressive legislation for providing social security and welfare measures to those workers. They have listed out various categories of workers like cobblers, barbers, washermen, rag pickers, fishermen, agricultural workers, handloom workers, rural artisans, etc. who can register themselves with the Labour Welfare Board, on free of cost. The registered workers are given Rs.1 lakh against accidental death; Rs. 15,000 in case of natural death and Rs.2,000 for cremation expenses to the next kin of the workers. I would request the Hon. Finance Minister to adopt these schemes and implement them at the national level, as he has

announced insurance cover for rural landless in this Budget.

For education of their children, the workmen are getting from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 6,000 for the purpose of education from the level of 10th class to higher education. Rs. 2,000 for the marriage expenses and Rs. 6,000 as maternity benefit to female members. Those workers who are registered with the labour welfare board for a minimum period of 5 years, on the completion of 60 years, they will get Rs. 300/- p.m. as pension.

### **National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

We welcome extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme from 200 districts to 330 districts. Sir, as the House is aware, Dr. Kalaingar has brought forward a scheme, with his visionary outlook and egalitarian approach, in Tamil Nadu under which unemployed youth who are registered in the employment exchange are given cash assistance as a relief and part of the welfare measure. The landless poor farmers are also being given two acres of agricultural, developed land so that they poor people can use the land for productive purpose and earning their livelihood. I would request that this should be taken as a model scheme and implemented throughout the country and the State of Tamil Nadu should be given grants for this purpose.

### **Interim Relief—6th Central Pay Commission**

Sir I would urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister to announce interim relief for the employees of the Central Government since the final report to be submitted by the 6th Central Pay Commission would take more than one year from now, and thereafter its implementation.

Therefore, I would request that pending the final report, all employees of the Central Government should be given interim relief, since the cost of living index is going up and the hike in their salary is overdue.

### **Income-Tax Exemption Limit**

Income tax exemption limit has been increased by Rs. 10,000, extending to Rs. 1,10,000 in the case of salaried people and to Rs. 1,45,000 to women employees. At the same time, education cess on all taxes has been hiked from 2% to 3. I would therefore, request the Hon. Finance Minister to increase the IT exemption limit to at

[Shri C. Kuppasami]

least 1,30,000 so that some relief will be given to most of the salaried class whose salary has increased only marginally.

**Need to bring Amendment to IT act to exempt PSU employees allotted accommodation**

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister to the news-item appeared in the Times of India, dated 9th March, 2007, under the caption "Budget brings Higher tax for PSU employees—New Act, More Burden". It says that the proposed amendment of the IT Act, on the valuation of perquisite in terms of housing accommodation given to PSU employees, will increase their taxable income by 20%. But if the employee pays rent, the amount will be deducted from the taxable amount. The Hon. Finance Minister in his anxiety to tax perks and benefits being extended to employees of multi national companies, even employees of State Government undertakings and Central Government undertakings who have been allotted quarters are being taxed, as if it is taken as house rent allowance. Most of the employees who have been allotted quarters by the Government Undertakings are staying there because of compulsion, as their services may be requisitioned at any time by the employer and during emergency. Moreover, the quarters that are allotted are only unfurnished and should be considered as a welfare measure. I would therefore strongly request the Hon. Finance Minister to bring forward amendment to section 17 of the Income-tax to exempt all PSU employees, as is given to the employees of Central Government and State Government, from the levy of income-tax, the value of accommodation given by the Central or State Government undertaking.

**Need to hike interest rate on EPF**

Now the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made so many announcements for Senior Citizens like tax relief of Rs. 2,000, Exclusive health insurance for them, Reverse mortgage scheme and we welcome and appreciate those progressive measures. Now that the joint family system has collapsed, senior citizens have to depend on their own savings and terminal benefits like EPF. Since the interest rate on EPF being paid to workers at the time of retirement is negligible, as a welfare measure, I would request the Government to create a separate fund to provide remunerative rate of interest on EPF to workers so that they are not subjected to market fluctuations.

**Inter-linking of major rivers**

As I mentioned earlier, massive programme for repair, restoration and renovation of water bodies would go a long way in judicious and optimum use of water resources. Earmarking the fund of Rs. 1,800 crores to NABARD for planning of 70 lakh structures as a new programme for ground water re-charge is a welcome measure. We would suggest to the Government to take the programme of Inter-linking of major rivers in the North with the Pen insular rivers in the South seriously and expedite all the ongoing projects. I would urge upon the Centre to expedite this project phase-wise so that all the riparian States get water for irrigation and other purposes without discrimination. As the Hon'ble Prime Minister has made a remark on the floor of the House recently, national water policy may be evolved to deal with the problems of water disputes between various States.

With these words, I support the General Budget with the hope that the Hon. Finance Minister will favourably consider all the suggestions which I have made.

\*SHRI D. NARBULA (Darjeeling): Sir, I must first of all congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister with whose efforts the rate of G.D.P. has improved from 7.5% in 2004-05 to 9% in 2005-06 and expected to 9.2% in 2006-07.

In this year's budget the Govt. has given importance in the education and health sector. The allocation for education has been enhanced to Rs. 32,353 crores and for health and family welfare to Rs. 15,219 crores.

For Sarba Siksha Abhiyan the amount provided for this year is Rs. 10,671 crores, and for strengthening the teachers' training institutions a provision of Rs. 450 crores has been made.

This budget proposes to appoint 2,00,000 more teachers and construct 5 lakhs more class rooms. The amount provided under this scheme should be properly utilized.

For mid day meal schemes Rs. 7,324 crores will be provided. In addition to the children in primary classes, the Govt. proposes to cover children in upper primary classes of 3427 educationally backward blocks. Here I would like to suggest that a monitoring committee should be constituted so that the amount provided under these

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

schemes shall be properly utilized and the poor students get benefit.

The Central Govt. also proposes to introduce MEANS CUM MERIT Scholarship. Under this scheme selection will be made through a National test from among the students who have passed class VIII. The selected student will be given Rs. 6,000/- per year for study in Class IX, X, XI and XII. The govt. proposes that 1 lakh scholarship may be awarded every year under this scheme.

This budget has allocated Rs. 611 crores to provide Post Matric scholarship to Scheduled Caste/Tribe students and provision of Rs. 91 crores has been made for similar scholarship to the students belonging to social and educationally backward classes. But considering the percentage of the population of the OBC in the country this allocation is not adequate so I propose that the amount should be enhanced.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission 34,000 schools have been provided drinking water supply till December, 2006, and for this scheme the allocation has been enhanced from Rs. 680 crores to Rs. 5,850 crores now for the year 2007-08 and for sanitation the Hon'ble Finance Minister proposes to increase the provision from Rs. 720 crores this year to Rs. 954 crores next year. I would like to bring it to the knowledge of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that several primary and secondary schools in the interiors of my constituency have been deprived of drinking water and sanitation facilities. Several coeducation high schools and Higher Secondary schools have been facing great sanitation problems, so I hope that the problems of these schools will be redressed during this year.

The Finance Minister in this year's Budget has kept provision to encourage the farmers. In my constituency 'Darjeeling' though Tea is the main crop, a large number of farmers depend on agriculture. Cardamom (Big) and Ginger are the main crops. Besides these a large number of people also depend on other agriculture products vegetable and floriculture. But for the last few years the cultivation of Cardamom (Big) and ginger are effected and destroyed by some disease. I appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to keep some provision for providing treatment so that the Cardamom (Big), Ginger and other crops are protected and save these poor farmers from being ruined.

Tea is one of the important crops, which fetches a good amount of foreign exchange. The tea bushes which were planted more than 100-150 years ago really need replantation and re-juvenation for its survival. I am thankful to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for giving a special package of tea fund in this year's budget.

I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for introducing a new scheme called AAM ADMI BIMA YOZANA which will provide security to the unorganized workers under this scheme he has proposed to extend death and disability insurance cover through Life Insurance Corporation of India to the rural land less house holds.

Under Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yozana this year's budget has increased the allocation from Rs. 3,000 crores to Rs. 3,983 crores.

The UPA Govt. has made target to electrify the entire villages in the country by 2009 but several villages of different blocks in my Constituency have not been electrified yet. So I hope that special consideration will be given to the people living in the interior villages of my constituency.

Finally I thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister for giving additional benefits to the assesses by increasing the threshold limit in different categories.

I support this General Budget placed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister before this august house on 28th February, 2007.

\*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Chidambaram was good at playing around with words, but over a period he sounds bogus and boring. It took some time for the merchant of dream budget to expose himself and 572 attract all-round denunciation. Gone are the days when Chidambaram used to advise the Indian farmer to stop cultivating wheat and vegetables for the world market is already flooded with these items instead go for cut flower and cash crops. He also promoted prawn cultivation on hugely fertile land. To unearth black money he advocated voluntary disclosure scheme. He was the darling of the neo-rich, he promoted playing in the stock market and spending excessively on consumer durables and cosmetics. But that was the Finance Minister of the post-liberalisation nineties.

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

The new UPA FM is the latest middle-class tormentor. To say that the budget for 2007-08 is lacklustre is to repeat the obvious. The Finance Minister's new-found love for the farm and rural sector will not yield anything. At best it will fatten the pockets of politicians, bureaucrats and middlemen. In any case, the Economic Survey uncovers the banality of UPA claims on rural spending. *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan*, which the NDA Government launched with great vision, is today in total disarray, thanks to a scheming, absentee minister at the helm. All allocations for education will go down the drain, under Arjun Singh, the Economic Survey has conceded that much that the total literacy cannot meet the target. But the increased cess will further pinch the common man.

Under a Government, that came to power in the name of *aam aadmi*, according to a recent survey, almost 47 per cent of a salaried person's income is taken away as tax. The indirect tax is the biggest loot. In the name of service tax the middle, class is forced to eke out a wretched living. From telephone, ball pen to school notebooks, even a cup of tea in a decent hotel is taxed. When the FM talks of additional Rs. 1,00,000 crore tax mobilisation he is talking about further taxing the common man, for most of it will come from direct and indirect taxes. The tragedy is a small or medium businessman is taxed heavier than big MNCs or desi tycoons.

Import duties have been cut. The Finance Minister proudly claims that hundreds of tonnes of food items are being imported to control the price rise. But the Indian farmer is still under rural indebtedness. His produce does not get better remuneration even though we pay double the amount for the imported stuff. To tackle rural indebtedness, the FM has no idea.

The Congress has spiked India's dream. The NDA left a booming economy. We were exporting wheat and other food items, stocks were overflowing, there was no scarcity for anything. Inflation was at the lowest at 3.5 per cent, interest rates low, infrastructure industry was peaking. For two years UPA reaped the harvest of this buoyant economy left by the NDA. Things have changed and the Chidambaram budget proves the party is over. Our experts analyse this in greater detail.

Nobody had ever accused Chidambaram of being a pet lover. But the irony is that he has made pet food cheaper, while he insists it will take two to three years for tackling food scarcity. Budget is no magic wand for

price control, he says. It is not a matter for low joke as Lalu Yadav has made it out saying that the BJP people are fond of going for walk with their chained pet dogs. The serious side is most pet food items are imported and the duty cut helps MNCs make a killing in the Indian market. This is poor man's budget, UPA brand.

The budget presented in Parliament shows that Congress refuses to learn any lesson. At a time when the common man feels deeply distressed about the high cost of his daily meals, it was astounding to hear the Finance Minister exult about the "good news for cat and dog lovers", and announce that the duty on pet foods had been reduced from 30 per cent to 20 per cent.

This Government's mandate was: relief for the *aam aadmi* and *kisan*. But this budget is a total betrayal of this mandate.

Common man (Aam aadmi) is crushed by inflation and has shown his anger by turning UPA out of power in Punjab and Uttaranchal. Government concedes that in the current year that is 2006-2007 inflation rate is estimated at between 5.2 to 5.4 per cent, which is higher than last year.

But if we take a look at the prices of essential commodities, prices have soared by 50 to 100 per cent. Finance Minister says that he is concerned over inflation and has taken various steps in the past and has promised various other measures in the present budget. But, there is big gap between what the government says and what it does.

It is beyond doubt that one of the major reasons for prices of essential agricultural commodities to rise is forward (future) trading system introduced in 2004. Making a beginning with only a few commodities, today forward trading is allowed in 92 commodities. Experts have given ample proofs that prices of pulses and food grains have been rising in leaps and bounds due to forward trading in these commodities. Sometime back government had withdrawn two pulses namely tur and urad from forward trading list and now in this budget Finance Minister has proposed to withdraw rice and wheat from the list of forward trading. While the system of forward trading is causing havoc for the common man, the Finance Minister instead of imposing a blanket ban on forward trading has only promised that commission will look into this whole issue. This clearly shows Government's unwillingness to bid farewell to this anti-people forward trading system.

In normal market, price of a product is determined on the basis of its demand and supply in the market and generally the limit of total business is determined by the total production. It is observed that on any single day the quantum of business in different commodities is 5 to 10 times more than its annual production. Once future market starts working, money plays its role. Big dealers and companies may keep on purchasing future deliveries and in absence of supplies prices continue to rise and an artificial scarcity is created in the market. This happens in other countries of the world as well.

Recently, companies have started making purchase of agricultural produce from the farmers directly or through mandis. Supported by deep pockets, these companies are even purchasing the future deliveries of these commodities, which mean these companies have purchased the present and are purchasing the future also. Anybody who dares to sell any commodity in future without really possessing the same, these companies take the price to a much higher level using their financial muscles, and thereby such people incur heavy losses. In this way stocks with these companies keeps on rising and also their power to enhance the prices of these commodities.

Price rise, especially in essential products, has been there in this country, but future trading in commodity market have made the problem of inflation even more acute. If we have a look at the data of future commodity market its worth noting that due to the future markets the prices of essential commodities have increased significantly and the same has affected the consumer badly. The more distressing is that the benefit of higher prices does not reach the farmers.

In the last season farmers could get price of wheat in the range of Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 per quintal whereas the same wheat attracted much higher prices in the future market. As such future market benefit hoarders, agents and various companies, both domestic and foreign, engaged in agricultural marketing. Sometime back an alarming case came to light where the Government had made an agreement with Australian company regarding import of wheat, which made huge purchases from Indian farmers at a much lower price than what it was paid by our Government. In fact, future market in commodities on the line of share market is an alarm bell for the people of this country. This kind of system will make the life

difficult for the common man. We have to put limits on speculative activities. We cannot put the majority population's life at stake for speculators who are not even 0.1 per cent of the total population.

The UPA policies of the last 32 months, despite the sycophantic media hype, have completely undermined the healthy growth process and taken the nation to a path of rising inflation-cum-increasing interest rates spiral. If the present trends continue for another two years, then India will land straight into a financial crisis of the type East Asia and Latin America experienced in the 1990s, and from which these countries are yet to recover even today. These countries were booming economies, with growth rates of 10 per cent per year for two decades running. East Asian countries were called "Economic tigers". The World Bank and the IMF eulogised them as models to follow because they "had got their basics right". They however obviously had not got their basics right, because three years after the eulogy these nations went into deep financial blowout in 1997 from which they have yet to come out. The same can happen to India and for the same reason.

Thus we need to temper and moderate our euphoria about the recent spurt in growth rates of GDP. There is however nothing in the track record of the UPA to indicate that they have the knowledge or guts to correct for the pitfalls that lie ahead, and by bold reforms to contain India's looming financial crisis.

In fact, the UPA Government has tried to brave it out by bravado and easy media hype to discount the real malaise in the economy that threatens a growth slowdown in the coming years.

The Finance Minister Mr. Chidambaram is equally clueless about the sustain ability of the high-growth rates in GDP. He boasts that in no other Finance Minister's tenure has GDP grown so fast and for so long. But the sectors that have contributed to the growth have nothing to do with the Finance Ministry. The Economic Survey put out by his Ministry itself points out that nearly 70 per cent of the GDP growth is due to the service sector, and that too in private trade, transport, communication and IT which are growing in spite of the meddling by the 'other IT'—Income Tax Department—of his Ministry. In utilities—electricity, gas and water supply—there has been a deceleration in growth. Who is responsible for that?

[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

The Finance Minister can contribute to growth by encouraging investment by giving tax incentives, lowering interest rates, controlling money supply, and giving tax deductions for services provided by companies to their employees. But this Finance Minister has done the exact opposite by frequent IT raids, taxing perks irrationally, raising interest rates on loans, and printing money to accelerate money supply beyond the threshold of 14 per cent per year rate, suffocating the economy with high cost of capital and inflation. This is a sure prescription for stagnation.

And who else but the Finance Minister must bear the responsibility for inflation and rising interest rates? Inflation is entirely due to permitting forward trading in foodgrains, and the rise in money supply from the illegal foreign funds coming into the economy via the Participatory Note [PN] route. These two factors are entirely due to Mr. Chidambaram. He had been forewarned by the RBI and SEBI, besides by the Tarapore Committee. Only now when inflation has hit the economy, the Finance Minister has woken up to suspending the forward trading in foodgrains. But what about the PNs?

Moreover, if Mr. Chidambaram claims credit for nine per cent growth rate in GDP, will he also accept responsibility for the poor investment in agriculture and the rising unemployment in the country? By frequenting discotheques no Finance Minister can learn about the sustainability of the growth in GDP.

This is the first time since 1947 that fresh loans have fallen short of interest payments on past loans taken, and hence represents the feared debt trap into which the economy has fallen. This one single deterioration in the nation's finance should sound alarm bells loudly. It represents the monumental failure of the Finance Minister as well.

Agriculture has averaged a miserable 2.3 per cent in growth rate in the last three years, while the nationalised mining sector has undergone a decline. In the manufacturing sector, traditional industries which need to be modernised such as textiles and small industries, have been starved of bank funds and hence performing poorly. The Economic Survey points out [p.176] that investment in agriculture has been steadily declined over the last ten years, and is at present at an all time low of a mere 1.8 per cent of GDP. It is a settled fact that unless

agriculture grows at a rate not less than four per cent, a high GDP growth rate in the economy cannot be sustained without inflation.

Moreover, given the low yield per acre and per farm hand, the productivity in agriculture cannot be improved without enabling 100 million youths in the rural areas find other jobs than in agriculture. There is nothing in the Budget of Mr. Chidambaram about this important concern.

Thus, the 2007-08 Budget is anti-developmental budget, a hotch-potch of financial allocations without any strategy, stated objectives, priorities or direction.

[*Translation*]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Except the speech of Prof. Chander Kumar, nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR : Hon. Finance Minister has presented the budget for the year 2007-08 in this august House ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give your notice under a specific rule and you may raise an issue under rule. Do not speak in this manner violating the rule. Please cooperate with the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Aaron Rashid, please take your seat. Why are you agitated?

[*Translation*]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: This budget has been appreciated by the farmers, the labourers, the Government employees and the industrialists. I want to congratulate the Finance Minister for that. ...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are not raised in the House suddenly; the House has its rules. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, our UPA Government have completed two and a half years of its rule in November, 2006. In the budget presented in the House, the target fixed for GDP growth rate was nine percent in the Xth Five Year Plan. He has achieved that target in the last year of Xth Five Year Plan. In the same way, the target fixed for GDP is ten per cent for our Xth Five Year Plan. Our UPA Government will try to achieve that target keeping in view the economic reforms.

Hon. Finance Minister, has mentioned in his budget that the manufacturing sector and service sector have achieved the maximum growth. It is very commendable. But, we have not achieved that target in agricultural sector. Our entire economy depends on agriculture as we are predominantly an agricultural country. In the present scenario our agriculture is dependent on vagaries of nature. Some of the hon'ble Members were mentioning that various crops were damaged in many states due to rain. Earlier it was also told that agricultural production was decreasing and the inclement weather will affect future production. I would like to make a request to the hon. Finance Minister that about 115 million families depend on agriculture. This is a large industry. In addition, intensive and extensive agriculture are our main objectives.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to land reforms and other reasons the land holdings in villages have become small and that small holding is not suitable for commercial agriculture. If we calculate the average daily wage of all the family members of a farmers working at that particular land for their survival, it will not be more than fifty paise per person. I would like to make a request to the Minister of Agriculture in general and Finance Minister in particular that we must make land use planning. If we want to see agriculture in a wide perspective. Presently, we do not have any land use planning. The efforts made by us in agriculture is actually 'a hit and trial method'. We do not have any scheme for land use planning even when we have so many national commissions and many experts of agriculture. So, I request the Finance Minister to make a provision of land use planning in the budget so that we can formulate schemes based on small land holdings, as per various types of soils, climates, padology at block

level. It is essential because we can not implement crop pattern diversification unless we have proper land use planning. I have observed that there are many rain-fed areas which used to produce varieties of pulses. Rajasthan was such an area which used to produce gram and other pulses. All those areas are producing less and less of lugmous crops due to excessive manuring and fertilization. No experiment was conducted about all those things.

There are so many universities. There is no lack of them in any state. There are many agriculture and horticulture universities but the research done in those universities is not transferred to the fields of farmers. The biggest paradox is that our Finance Minister says that he wants to form the universities of excellence. I got the opportunity to visit the university of Hyderabad. I told them that a lot of research work is done in the Hydrabad University. But they had no answer to my question about the technology transferred to the fields 15 kms from the university and the social changes made by them.

What type of know how has been provided by you to various pharmaceutical industries? I would like to tell you that I was a student of Punjab University, Chandigarh. At the time when Punjab University was set up initially, there was a totally different concept for the surrounding rural areas and we students used to visit each village and study their crop pattern in labs and we have submitted that report. Today, in those peripheral areas the entire economy of those people has changed. Now truck farming, vegetable farming and dairy farming have come up there. People are earning more and more income from small land holdings by commercial track farming which has been named as vegetable farming. We may have big universities but as long as the technology does not reach the people, we cannot get any benefits out of it. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Finance Minister that he must strengthen agriculture sector. He must make its land use planning. Its pedalogical survey may be carried out and all those higher officials who are here in Delhi and take part in committee discussion which do not reach villages. Technology is not being changed in villages. Today, satellite is introducing many new things. Entire information is being given about climate and system is being provided for everything including the changes in crop pattern. But it is really ironical that we stay adamant on other things and today our economy is going downwards.

[Prof. Chander Kumar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are also involved in agriculture and I am also related to it. Today educated people are getting away from agriculture. He knows that if I am appointed as class-IV, I would earn Rs. 5 or 6 thousand per month as salary but in agriculture, I will have to wait. What is our market trend today? If we decrease something then it becomes distress sale and we do not get full value for that. If there is a shortage of certain items then we grow them but the farmer is forced to take the product to the market and there, he is not even able to meet his expenses incurred. It is my humble request that we must see all these things in a really wide perspective. Therefore, I would request that the research and development programmes that are being carried out by Agriculture and Horticulture Universities, that technology should be transferred to villages. I hail from Himachal Pradesh and there are small land holdings in my State. Today we are number one in the country in off season pedicares and also in tomatoes and horticulture. I pity that thousands of less educated people from Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh migrate from there every year. They go to other States in search of employment. They are exploited there. I, therefore, request you to generate a work culture respective states. There human potential should be best utilized in their own works. I really felt sorry while I was reading all the reports.

17:00 hrs.

I have seen in the economic review. On that basis when I asked a girl regarding what she would do after completing her tenth standard she replied that she would stay at home as there is no place for her in the development of this country. Therefore, I would like to say that, be it less educated people or well educated people, they must be given some employment for there growth. Be it cottage industries, small scale industries, agriculture, floriculture or horticulture, this occupation structure should be extended to them and the same should be monitored. I have observed from this budget that hon'ble Finance Minister has allocated huge funds for other programmes. The Government have allocated funds for National Rural Development Scheme and other programmes but there is no proper monitoring of the same. Even the special group has not submitted its expert report. All that money has gone down the drain and there has not been any outcome of the same. Therefore, I would like to say that there are various departments of our ministry, they should be given money on the basis of occupation structure, climate of the area, agricultural

pattern and their work profession so that people from one state do not migrate to other States. It is really bad that the unorganized labour is not insured. Over here we have educated Members of Parliament from each State and they advocate for them but I would like to ask them as to how many people migrate from Orissa. Only less educated people migrate whereas those who migrate from Himachal Pradesh are Doctors, Engineers, Professors, Educationists but very less number of unskilled or skilled labour migrate to other States. Such things should be there. We believe that the prospective plan which has been drafted in five years should be such that every poor person in the village is able to get employment and earn his livelihood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through the Finance Bill prepared by the hon'ble Finance Minister. A number of such industries have been given tax rebate. He has mentioned about transfer of technology. Amongst the venture capital companies, it includes IT Industry, Hardware, Software Development Companies, which have been given tax rebate. No excise duty has been imposed upon them. Will these people who are being given tax rebate, work for transfer of technology. Will they work for small blocks. When they will enjoy the tax rebate or concession? Will they work at the village level? Rich people want to become more rich. They want themselves on the world map. They have gathered huge wealth but what poor person has received? Therefore, I say that this should be properly monitored. Out of the people availing infrastructure facilities, who are from PPI who will build road network, bridges, dams and huge water projects. They have given concession to such people also. The people who have been given concessions, I doubt that those who will get the money and invest it further, would they provide infrastructure in villages? There is a need for its proper monitoring. It should not happen that those who have been given concessions should give their contract further to other people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have Corporations like NTPC and NHPC who do not execute any project themselves, they transfer them to others. They have agreement with the State. They want that they should be given maximum money. Their budget is increased but no project is completed by them.

Therefore, I request the hon'ble Finance Minister that he has taken a very good step, by providing relief to such companies that would give this technology to

villages, change the face of the village and improve their economy. He has invited companies from outside also and there is a provision for providing relief to them as well. He has also provided relief to them in power sector also. Under the power sector, in each smallest village, poor dalit people of village must get electricity.

I would like to give an example that our Regulatory Commission on which income tax was being imposed has been exempted by them. Now the Regulatory Commission holds that if any harijan's house is one km. away and electricity is to be provided to him then he will himself have to pay the cost of pole, wire and meter. A poor harijan, a tribal person who lives so far off is being asked by them to bear the cost of pole, wire and meter, it can very well be assumed from this as to how useful commission has proved to them. Therefore, it is my humble request that on our Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Programme, there should not be any restrictions of such commissions that if they get such works done they will have to pay the money first. These are small issues which should be looked into by them.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister who has made an increase of 35 per cent in allocation for education. It is rightly said that if a person is well educated he can find a good job anywhere. I am proud to say that being a small State, Himachal Pradesh is number one in the field of education. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister about the fund allocation he is making for villages, whether he can make provisions for 5 teachers in primary schools where there is only one teacher at present. It should be made mandatory to have five teachers upto fifth class.

The problem is that private individual have opened private primary and high schools and has appointed teachers at low pay scales. Students of Government schools are taking admission in those schools because of which our strength is depleting. So, this has to be reviewed. Proper monitoring should be made as far as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is concerned. No proper seating arrangement is available for our primary, middle and high school children. Many schemes like Black Board Operation were introduced and at that time a report was given that every thing will be made available, but at that time also nothing materialized. Kothari Commission in their report observed that -

*[English]*

"The destiny of India is being shaped in the classroom?"

*[Translation]*

The conditions of schools in the villages is so bad that even proper seating arrangement is not available there for children. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Minister that he may make 36 per cent allocation, but it should be made mandatory and some penalty should be imposed on the parents of those children who do not send their children to schools. Education should have been our birthright and it should not have been included under Direct Principles. It should have been included under the fundamental rights; you have placed this subject in the concurrent list and have made provision for funds. You have stated that examinations after 8th standard will be conducted at the National level and those who will be successful in examination and interview will be promoted to 10th and 12th standard. At least minimum number of teachers should be posted in every primary, middle and senior secondary school. 10+2 system is prevailing in senior secondary schools and after passing 10+2 examination one can go for higher education to become doctor or engineer. No proper laboratory facility is available there. Therefore, all these things should be made mandatory. Mr. Chairman, Sir, until and unless you make the appointment of teachers mandatory, State Government will not appoint them. Therefore, State Government should be given direction about this.

Sir, I would like to congratulate our Finance Minister for imposing three percent cess on income tax, as a major portion of this amount will go to education. I understand that one percent of the revenue earned thereby this cess will be spent for the socially and economically backward classes. This amount will be spent for their development and higher education. In the same manner there are many components for the Scheduled Castes also. Many points are very pragmatic in this budget, but I want that this budget should be growth oriented. I have observed that whatever allocation is made to the states, it is not being spent earnestly by many states. I have seen this situation in your outcome budget. Perusal of the outcome budget shows that the performance of many states has been very poor. I would suggest that they must be warned that their budgetary allocation would be curtailed for showing such poor

[Prof. Chander Kumar]

performance; it may be in respect of water schemes or P.W.D. schemes. Our planning fails, when we fail to transfer the outlay into outcome.

Mr. Chairman, with these words I again support this budget and extend my thanks to you for giving me time.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI HITEN BARMAN (Cooch Behar): Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget 2007-2008 presented by Hon. Finance Minister, on behalf of my party All India Forward Bloc.

Seventy percent of the population of the country live in villages. They are farmers and there is nothing worthwhile for them in this Budget. Funds have not been allocated for irrigation, checking of soil erosion etc. more funds should be allocated for development of agriculture.

The Government has failed to check inflation. Common people are unable to purchase foodgrains. Various indirect taxes have been imposed on people. Specific steps should be taken to check inflation.

Public Distribution System is at stake due to globalization policies. But the Government is duty bound to provide foodgrains at cheap rates to the common people. Thus more funds should be allocated to strengthen the Public Distribution System.

In different parts of the country SEZs are being set up but small industries are being overlooked. As a result the colonial powers are grabbing agricultural land for industrialization and small industries are being ruined. Thus the economic sovereignty of the country is adversely affected.

There is no specific scheme for the jute industry in this Budget. Jute growers are not getting remunerative prices and the industry as a whole is on the verge of destruction. Therefore adequate funds should be allocated for jute industry and to save the jute growers, Jute Board must be set up.

Though funds have been earmarked for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people, but it is still inadequate. To safeguard these people of the

\*English translation of the speech originally laid on the the Table in Bengali.

backward communities, a strong infrastructural set up is required and for that funds are needed.

As far as Sarba Siksha Abhiyan is concerned share of the Central Government has been brought down to fifty percent from seventy-five percent.

Resultantly, most of the states will be compelled to disband the scheme and the target would not be achieved.

There is a proposal to increase the insurance premium of the senior citizen from Rs. 15,000 to 25,000. This would not be beneficial to the senior people. So it should be reviewed

North Bengal includes six districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri, Maida, Darjiling, North Dinajpur and South Dinajpur. They may be declared as tax-free zones so that agro-based industries can be set up there. Besides, last year only five crores were allocated for six districts of North Bengal Development Council. This years Rs.100 crores should be allocated for the council.

I urge upon Hon. Finance Minister to keep these points in mind to respond in his reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while I rise to speak the hon'ble Finance Minister is leaving the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is present here. Please start your speech.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Sir, the first budget was presented on 26th November, 1997 and since then many budgets have been presented. There is a long list about the details of Revenue and Expenditure. We are all aware of the improvement in situation. There is a legal provision in article 265 of the Constitution that no tax can be imposed or collected and no expenditure can be incurred without the permission of the Parliament. Budget contains the financial planning of the next financial year i.e. for the period from 30th April to 31st March. There is a provision in the article 112 of the Constitution that every year in the month of February the details of tentative expenditure and revenue has to be presented in the House. In this manner, many budgets were presented. Budget reflect the economic policies of the Government.

Sir, I am an ordinary social and political worker. I have sincerely heard the speeches of many learned members and economists and have also observed the shortcomings and lacunae in the budget. I have certain limitations being a supporting member of the party in power. It's difficult for me to decide where to praise the budget and where to not. The constraint of discipline also stops me from detailed discussion on the budget. A comprehensive provision has been made in the field of education in this budget. I welcome the provisions made under *Serva Shiksha Abhiyan* in the budget under which schools are being constructed in the small villages, boundaries of schools are being raised on a large scale. I welcome this. The provision of funds made for the teachers is also a praiseworthy step. But the State Governments like Bihar are patting their own back that they are appointing teachers. You have provided the funds and they are earning accolades.

Sir, the provisions made in the field of health is also commendable. I commend this and think that they have done a right thing. The important thing is that the amount provided should be spent judiciously and it should be properly monitored. The Govt. has implemented National Employment Guarantee Scheme and under that it has made provision of Rs. 2800 crore and allocation for this purpose has been increased by Rs. 330 crores.

When 100 districts were declared backward during the NDA Government. None of the districts of Bihar was included. There was not a single district of Bihar. I welcome the National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme introduced by him; however this scheme is not being properly implemented in Bihar. The job card for the poor is not being properly issued. Even the BPL list being prepared is not accurate. And the condition of job card is such that the brokers of BDO office, C.E.O. office and police station have formed their clans. The job cards of the poor are being purloined in connivance with the local officers, and the actual beneficiaries are not receiving cards. So, I would like to ask if any mechanism for the monitoring of funds is being evolved by him lest the funds earmarked under the Employment Guarantee Scheme for the upliftment of the poor should be pocketed by the contractors and brokers. I want that further action should be taken in this regard.

Sir, several features have been discussed in this budget. Rs. 24,60 crore have been allocated for *Bharat Nirman* in this budget. Allocation has also been increased

for Education and Health sector in this budget. He has made several proposals for the drop cuts. By allocating Rs. 954 crore for the total sanitation programme he has added another feather in his cap. Similarly, he has also increased the amount of *Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Programme*. There is another proposal for setting up of a fund of Rs. 400 crores exclusively for construction of roads in every village. He has also increased the amount under *Rural Infrastructure Fund*. All these steps taken by him are worthy of appreciation and I welcome them. I want that the quality of the works should be maintained and these should be properly monitored. Besides, attention should be paid to ensure that there is proper coordination right from the public representative upto the Government.

Sir, India is a country of villages, however, this, is an era of globalization and liberalization. In the wake of this era the policies of the country cannot remain uninfluenced from the developments which have been taking shape for the last 15 years. So many parties have been in power ever since the time of *Narsimha Rao Govt.*, the outcomes of globalization and liberalization have not been favourable for the farmers and not in the interest of the common man. To what extent do we wish to put a check on the developments of that era? We are in the process of facing its outcome too. Today, farmers are committing suicide. Where these incidents of suicide are taking place? These are taking place mostly where agriculture has been modernized. Modernisation of agriculture has taken place more in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. *Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal* is sitting here, he had given a reply to a question on 28th November in this very House. The question was, "What is the main reason behind the suicide being committed by the farmers in the country and the reason for their inability in paying off the loan?" And the reply was that "There was no proposal of extending interest free loan as it would affect the finance capacity and stability of the banks. In order to resolve the difficulty faced by the farmers the Government has announced a rehabilitation package after identifying 31 districts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra which are under the burden of debt. As far as I know this rehabilitation package has not seen the light of the day. The benefits of the scheme announced by the UPA Government under the Common Minimum Programme have not accrued to the farmers. As a result of which, the condition of farmers is worsening day by day. Since benefits of the relief package are not percolating to the farmers.

[Shri Vijoy Krishna]

Sir, the Swaminathan Committee has been widely discussed by several colleagues. We have Members in the House who belong to farmer families. We have learned Members in the House who have also discussed Swaminathan Committee. The Committee has made dozens of recommendations for reforms but there is not even a shadow of it in this budget. A recommendation to provide loan to farmers at 4 percent interest rate was made. This also does not find any mention in this budget. I would like to know that the farmers whose cause we take up in the House and on the basis of whose votes we win elections to the Lok Sabha, we are unable to give even loan to those farmers and we procreate a situation whereby they are compelled to commit suicide which was done by the NDA Government. We have been a failure to mitigate the effects or check the wave of that current, then to what extent we have done justice them, to those voters with whose support we stand here.

The Government has announced Rs. 750 as support price of wheat. Is it proper in the wake of price rise? Does it amount to justice with the farmers? I would like to raise this question before the House that the farmers should at least get Rs. 900 Minimum Support Price of wheat. If it is not given then I think it would be great injustice, particularly in regard to several tal areas, there is one Mokama Badhaiya Tal area, there is one tal area in Chhapra, Chor area, and there are plains where water gets logged. There is water logging for three months which should be drained out in time. The peculiarity of the land of tal area is that it should get wet and the water should be drained out on time, however, the people of Bihar have been demanding the implementation of the scheme in that area but it has not been done so far. There does not appear to be an integrated approach in this budget for Tal and Chor area in the entire country. I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and the Department of Water Resources for releasing an amount of Rs. 27 crore albeit a small amount, for 'Tal' area in Bihar. I am citing just one example but there are at least 64 Tal areas in the country for the development of which there is a need to formulate an integrated scheme.

I would like to refer to Diyara Development Board. I hail from plains and represent the Barh area. It is the heart of that place and particularly the Diara area of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is divided into several parts. I would not discuss the Diara area of the entire country, I

would refer to only Bihar. The habitants of Diyara are in the Aara area in Buxur adjacent to Uttar Pradesh and from Aara to Danapur, Patna to Mungher via Fatuha and Fatuha to Mungher, Mungher to Bhagalpur, Bhagalpur to Farakka area of West Bengal live a difficult life. In regard to road, electricity, water and kharif crop several Governments gave many assurances for setting up of Diara Development Board for the upliftment of farmers of Diara area so that benefits could accrue to the farmers there, however, it is still a dream. The Diara Development Board is being widely discussed across the northern part of the country. The social and political workers be they of any party have risen above party lines in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, who have made their own identity and have always taken up cudgels for those issues. He has been raising these issues himself. He knows these issues, however, they do not have any reflection in this budget. In regard to my constituency Barh, I have been reiterating that we should get some relief from floods. The rivers flowing down in northern Bihar wreck a havoc in that area.

There used to be regular discussions that an integrated action plan will be formulated involving Nepal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on whether the dam is to be built or not. Whether any action plan was formulated, no. He has been the foremost leader among the political workers and political leaders thought to be the experts of the said field who had waged a struggle for it. Today I would like to say to him that many Governments came to and went out of power; many vicissitudes were witnessed. High hopes were pinned on the UPA Government, but today the same are not getting fulfilled. Through you, I would like to make a demand to our Government that they should not put signature on their own death warrant. They have got no plans or system to solve the issues being confronted by the farmers like the issue of the area of the river basin ('Diara') issues of 'tal' area and the issues of drought prone areas especially that of the central Bihar. Which system are they going to put in place, whose system are they going to operate or are they going to introduce the corporate system? Which system are they going to introduce—I am posing this question before them. Yesterday, while they were discussing the plight of the labourers in the unorganized sector, I was restlessly following it. The plight of the labourers in the unorganized sector is very pathetic. Everyone from the peon to the MP longs for power. It is good to have the desire for power, but what is the line

of duty? There is no identification of it anywhere. I treat myself also as a part of it. What kind of facilities are available for the labourers of the unorganized sector, farm labourers who produce foodgrains for the country and the society by toiling hard in the fields exposing their body to heavy rains and scorching heat braving even the bites of scorpions and snakes. While a section of the society keep peacefully sleeping in their air-conditioned rooms, labourers allow their bodies to decay to fight with their poverty and in order to produce more quantity of foodgrains for the country. What kind of system is in place for them? What is the provision for the security of the farm labourers and the labourers belonging to the unorganised sector? What kind of provisions are there in this budget for the labourers belonging to the unorganized sector working in factories and in the Beedi sector, pavement dwellers, labourers, and the pushcart labourers? I could not comprehend this point.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government of Haryana which mustered the courage to increase the minimum labour charges. I wholeheartedly praise the Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Hudaji who raised the wages at such a time when even the big guns hesitated to arrive at a decision regarding the question of wages for the labourers. Today the Union Government also appears to be hesitant in this regard. This is my allegation. Mistriji you please stand by me. You have fought for the interests of the labourers. I know about that, that's why you have to support me. Many of our friends have discussed in the House the plight of the labourers of the unorganized sector. I would like to say that a legislation should be enacted for this purpose.

Learned people discuss a lot about the special economic zones. I was listening to the view expressed by Swain Saheb and Salim Bhai. What is special economic zone? Whether the issue of special economic zones belongs to a single party? We have to deliberate over such issues rising above the party lines. In the case of Special Economic Zone, they are providing fertile lands. For this reason, many places are witnessing rebellion and unrest. Injustice is being done to the farmers. Unproductive land is available in many places, but they do not want to utilize it. Why do they want to create a political battle ground in this regard? Please do not set up a political battle ground in this matter. 400 SEZs are going to be set up here. More than a dozen taxes including excise tax would not be imposed on them. They

are creating a new independent state within the country. This is their new policy. This is going to make them glitter. I have got information that in Bihar the Government intends to acquire land with the help of the land-mafias. Through this House, I would like to warn them that the people and farmers of Bihar are not going to tolerate that the system of SEZ be put in place through the land-mafia. There are vast areas of wasteland there. They should utilize the said land and set up SEZs there. If they act in this way, I feel that they will receive cooperation from every quarter. The same kind of situation prevailed during the regime of NDA also. At that time, these people were engaged in 'feel good' and India shining and today the government are engaged in 'Bharat Nirman.' They should act after much deliberations only, they should act wisely. Inflation robbed them of half of the ground on which they were standing. They failed to assume power in two states. They were defeated in the elections. This is a warning for them. They do not have the inclination to share everything with their partners. The Congress brethren are not willing to share with the political parties, which are helping them to run the Government. What is the meaning of the red flag? Whenever one sees a red flag undulating in the air, he becomes alert thinking that there is some kind of danger lurking ahead, indicating that one should stop. One red flag remained already hoisted and they are making way for the hoisting of the red flag in the plains of India. Red flag of the east says-thesis-antithesis-synthesis. It says that works should be carried out only after serious contemplations, but they are not willing to listen to anybody. It seems that they have the solitary right to rule, the people have given them the mandate to rule. My Congress brethren people have not given you the mandate, it was a mandate against the NDA given to everybody. They should grasp this point. By this time, if they do not comprehend all these matters, they are going to be in a very precarious situation.

During emergency, I was in jail. ...*(Interruptions)*. My family owes its political allegiance to the Congress party. ...*(Interruptions)*. Don't try to frighten me by your frowns; I am seeing many people's gazes. My grandfather, father and mother had served jail terms. Hereditarily, I am a congressman. By taking up a cause against the congress, I alone joined the fold of leader Jayprakashji. When they tried to trample the second war of independence, when they wanted to gag the freedom of press, at that time, I raised my voice against them. Since then, I have been

[Shri Vijoy Krishna]

witnessing all these events. I reiterate that the legacy of the Congress is the national movement for freedom and it is well known for that. However, Gandhiji in his last days had opined that the role of the Congress was over, so it should be disbanded. But they did not pay heed. Don't accept the advice, but at least follow some norms. When Morarji Bhai was elected as the Prime Minister, he believed that he had got a complete majority and there was no need to keep in view the interests of all the factions. Governors and ambassadors were arbitrarily appointed. When people tried to prevent him from taking such steps, he did not oblige. When the people suggested to select consensual candidates for chief ministerships, he was adamant that the candidate will be of his choice. When a candidate belonging to the backward class became the Chief Minister, efforts were made to dethrone him. When he acted in the case of Nilmani Raut Rai, mild tremors were felt. Subsequently more tremors were felt when the case of Shri Ram Naresh Yadav came up. Cracks appeared when he ousted Shri Devi Lal and when Shri Karpuri Thakur was removed, his Government itself was overthrown. Please keep off your hands from all these matters. Like Kalidas, they are cutting off the branch on which they are sitting. Why do UPA introduce such Bills in the House when there is no consensus on it? Partners from Tamilnadu have a different take on it where as the partners from Bengal speak in a different vein. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Why are they behaving in such a manner, they should abstain from such acts. They should stay clear from the inner contradictions. Prices are rising day-by-day ...*(Interruptions)*. 83,000 millionaires have been created and the number of people living below the poverty line is also increasing day-by-day. There are neither any steps to curb the price-rise nor is there any concern for the common man. What must be there in the budget is actually not provided for. Chidambaram ji has certainly talked about the financial discipline, economic progress and also has mentioned about the encouragement to the capital market. Works relating to the social sector are of course portrayed in the budget. A little accomplishment in the work field can be noticed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: I will take only five minutes more. ...*(Interruptions)*.

They say that they will curb inflation, and are saying that they have written letters to prevent hoarding. Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sir, you are remembered as an honest, polite, gentle person. When you leave the chair of the Prime Minister, the same old Fiat car in which you used to travel on the Delhi roads, will help you out. The entire people of the country know that you are a good, simple man.

But his advisors are of dubious nature. I fail to understand what is the yardstick of his honesty. This work has been entrusted to the people having dubious character. The Government has allowed the Essential Commodities Act to lapse. How action would be taken against the hoarders? His party is supported by the hoarders and due to their backing they have come to power, why would they take action against them. They are in power in many states, they will not take any action. The Government allowed the Essential Commodities Act to get lapsed. In Bihar also, it has been allowed to get lapsed. The Government let it happen and did not revive it. It gave freedom to hoarders operating in the state. Now, he is writing a letter. Hon'ble Prime Minister the task of taking action is in your hands. Mr. Chairman, Sir, now you are in the chair. Yesterday, when you were here, you were delivering the speech as a Member. I agree with you that the IB and Intelligence are part of the state apparatus. Nobody can prevent the Government from making a list of the hoarders of foodgrains in different states. The Government is not making use of the IB. Once, IB was used for this purpose. Why the Government did not intend to use it? What are the hesitations and why the Government want to cover up this issue? The Government is afraid of whom? Today, weather is changing, Some people are apprehending that the change in weather will adversely affect the wheat crop. Though, according to the scientists of the Agriculture Research Institutes, the situation is not such. Such reports of experts are being published for the last two-three days. Even then, wheat has been imported. Similarly, the Government have brought some commodities in the ambit of futures trading.

I would like to ask what is the problem in removing pulses from this list? The Government must close this type of trading because it is for providing benefit to capitalists only. The futures trading is playing a catalyst

in making the farmers commit suicide and encouraging capitalism. A friend of mine, who is an expert in this field was telling me about the birth place of this type of trade. He is also a member of this Government. At present, he is not present in the House. He was saying that Chicago is the birth place of this kind of trading. Old Stock Exchange is in Chicago. There also, the condition of the farmers did not improve. Will you not learn lesson from there also? Whether you will not take lesson from America and Chicago, where it originated and then flopped? Why the Government want to get it going? Why is it not immediately discontinued? This system has been started by them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: There are political compulsions before them. It appears that some politicians may harm them. At least, pulses, ginger millet and maize should be taken out of it. Why the Government are not doing it ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding my speech within 2-3 minutes. This is the situation at large. I would like to submit that the Government must pay attention towards all these issues. The Congress said "Congress Ka Hath Aam Admi Ke Sath and Ho Raha Hai Vishwasghat". The hand of the Congress Party is with the common man but the common man is being deceived. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Opposition should not applause because in all circumstances, we are with the Government. We are not going to support the communal powers, which created unrest in Gujarat and got Mahatma Gandhi assassinated. They have initiated the price rise — Everybody is aware of it, but we also want to tell them to reform themselves and try to understand the ideology of the leftists, (Red Flag). I pray him with folded hands, because I know that our death warrant in the form of public wrath will also be signed along with yours.

Chidambaram Saheb, I attended a marriage ceremony in a village. There people asked me as to what has happened to Dr. Manmohan Singh, because he has entrusted important jobs to Shri Chidambaram and Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and these persons do not represent the common people. These persons think of the welfare of only rich people and not of the poor. Why doesn't Dr. Manmohan Singh ji sack them? They are the enemies of the poor. This has been told to me in every village, every rural area, wherever I paid a visit. Then, I

thought, whether I should speak out my mind or not, because. Shri Laluji may expel me from party. Then, I thought, this issue is related to the common man, and I should warn the UPA not to sign its death warrant. I have been following both the ideologies. Dr. Lohia said, the biggest two problems of India are—water and sanitation. Even today, women have no other option, but to relieve themselves in the dark before sunrise or at night. We have created this kind of India. We people may belong to the Congress, BJP, RJD, CPI or CPM, but we should rise above and the party lines should introspect to find whether we have been able to provide drinking water and sanitation facilities to the people? The Government must evolve a separate way from the splendour of the budgetary provisions and should not sign its death warrant. ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to tell the Congress brethren to save themselves and us from this ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude your speech.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Please control the price rise. With these words, I support the budget with a heavy heart.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Are you supporting the Budget? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: I support the budget with a heavy heart ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the General Budget of 2007-08. I would like to thank the hon'ble Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Chairperson of UPA Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and all my colleagues for this budget.

Sir, in the present budget, effort has been made to take care of all the sectors. For this reason, the budget has come before the population of 100 crores as a popular budget. It will help to strengthen the foundation of educated and healthy India by providing 24% for education and 21.9% for health. By providing Rs. 108 crore for the welfare of minorities and by increasing agriculture loan from Rs. 17 lakh to Rs. 22 lakh,

[Shri Hemlal Murmu]

developmental activities have been made a symbol of success. Similarly, increasing M.Phil and Ph.D. education budget for SC/ST students from Rs. 35 crore to Rs. 88 crore, providing Rs. 3,271 crore for the welfare of SCs/STs and 20% increase in allocation under benefit scheme to Rs. 17,691 crore is a proof of progress made and popularity earned by the Government. Extension of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme by including 330 districts in place of 200 districts and the scheme of strengthening Public Distribution System and linking it with computers is definitely a commendable step. The provision of additional allocation of Rs. 600 crore for Self-help Groups, health insurance scheme for old people and provision of monthly income for old people in lieu of mortgaging their houses is highly praiseworthy step.

17.43 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Despite this, people of this country have lot of expectations from this popular and progressive Government. I, therefore, would like to submit some thing regarding the reality of the works done by the Government. Hon. Finance Minister has emphatically said this in his budget speech that black-marketing and hoarding would be controlled. This is an important issue. As the hon. Member, Shri Vijoy Krishna ji has just said in his speech that the prices are rising due to loopholes in the law regarding controlling the prices of essential commodities. It is true. This has to be seen as to how to control the monopolists and middlemen. I think that the Government should set up a cell to monitor as to how profiteering and black-marketing can be checked. This task should be done jointly both by the Central as well as State Government. An stringent law may be brought, if necessary. If someone informs about such people, he should be given a citation letter and rewarded properly by the Government. Then only check on black-marketing is possible otherwise nothing is going to change.

The Central Government formulates special schemes for the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. But I feel pained to state that the schemes being implemented in their areas under special component scheme with grant-in-aid, according to that every tribal adult has Rs. 1,68,000 on his head as debt since post independence. Tribals have been provided this much amount. If it is investigated, it seems that the amount of

grant has not touched even their door. Their condition has not changed a bit. If we say that their condition has got even worse, it would not be false. So, now it is time to think seriously that the funds allocated for the development of scheduled tribes, schemes formulated for them are being implemented or not. It has been mentioned specifically in the rules that the hon. Governor of the concerned State would inform the Union Government about the utilization of the funds and details of the developmental works. I feel that this system is not effective as there is no increase in the rate of development schemes in the scheduled tribe areas.

Sir, we can see it even today that the funds allocated for the developmental schemes to be implemented in tribal areas are being grabbed by the mediating and corrupt officers and the funds are not reaching them. If, we, who are praising this budget and dreaming the development of the people of the country, would not pay attention to these things, a large section of the country would remain backward economically, educationally and socially. That's why, it has been provided in the constitution that these people may be given reservation, but I feel that the benefit of reservation has not reached them.

The National Rural Health Mission Scheme has been implemented throughout the country. This is an appreciable step towards polio and leprosy eradication. But in the country particularly in the tribal areas and that too in Jharkhand diseases like Malaria, Kalazar, phylaria and Tuberculosis have spread horribly due to which lacs of people die every year. Sir, no effective measure has been taken so far in this regard. I would like to submit that I have won Lok Sabha election from Rajmahal Constituency, Jharkhand. I had got done a survey with the collaboration of WHO in my area and collected slides in five villages. It has been detected from those samples that 43% of the people there secrete falcifarum, which is called brain malaria. In which a person becomes unconscious and dies. No immediate step has been taken in this regard, which is a matter of great concern. The Government should certainly focus on it. I would also like to submit that even the Directorate of Malaria has not been set up in Jharkhand.

The provision of setting up the Directorate should be made and action should be taken.

Sir, Indira Awas Yojana is definitely an ambitions plan for the poor and the most backward sections of the

society. The budget allocation under this scheme should have been enhanced in this budget. And the initial amount should be released from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 35,000 because this scheme is meant for down trodden people who have even no roof over their heads.

Sir, the amount earmarked for Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Yojana is nominal in this budget. This amount may be increased because there is a provision of only Rs. 2.40 crore in this budget. The amount should be increased.

Sir, a large number of beedi labourers reside in my area. They are more than three lakh. They must be more than 25 lakh if Jharkhand is to be seen collectively. The beedi labourers of Jharkhand may be given the same facilities as have been given to the beedi labourers of Kolhapur.

Sir, I would also like to submit regarding the interior tribal areas. There is no bank, no post-office there. As a result, difficulty is being faced in the effective implementation of National Rural Development Scheme. Provision should be made for the labourers for depositing and receipts of their money. The hon. Finance Minister should consider their problem and the number of banks should be increased in rural areas.

I would like to draw the attention of Government through you towards one more point. We should not talk about NDA Government and UPA Government only, because this cannot solve the problem. All the tribal States particularly Jharkhand are facing the growing terrorism in the country. In Jharkhand, 18 districts are under the grip of terrorism.

In these districts even MPs', MLAs', SP, DSP, Inspector and distinguished persons are being killed. The reasons behind increase in extremism in Jharkhand are unemployment, poverty, economic disparity, displacement of people and exploitation by money-lenders. I would like to submit that even in the reign of the UPA Government the naxalite violence has increased. During the year 2004 there were 1533 incidents and while in the year 2005 the figure was 1608.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than 15 minutes, please conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Sir, please give me some more time. Please give me two or three minutes because now I am explaining the main thing.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. You can place the remaining part of your speech on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: During the years 2004, 2005 and 2006, 119, 153 and 157 police personnel respectively were killed and in Jharkhand alone 128 policemen were killed during the last two years. Almost all the distinguished people in Jharkhand are being killed and only Rs. 32,119 crore have been allocated. I would like to give major reasons for this that the State of Jharkhand possesses minerals, water and land. You will be surprised to know that Jharkhand alone exports 90 million tonnes of iron ore but there is no plant or factory there, consequently the unemployment is increasing. If the situation remains as it is, the depository of iron ore will be finished within ten years. Only eight percent of land in our State has irrigation facility, on the other 29 percent forest has been preserved but if the depository of iron ore is finished, there will be increase in unemployment and stress will be laid on the forest so, there is a need of it today. If we want to eliminate extremism, we need all round development, the development for employment, setting up of factories in the area and provide employment to the people there.

With these words I conclude. I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Sir, the fact is that while the budget was being presented, the common man including farmers, women, had hoped that it would lessen their difficulties and grief. But with utmost grief not only I but even the other members of supporting parties have to tell that even they are being forced to support this budget. Just now the Minister himself asked the RJD Member if he is supporting or not. It means the Members may give speech against the budget but give support, make them cling to the power. Everybody is opposing the budget and this reflects the mentality of the

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

Government that it would not work for the people of the country. They just want to remain in power. The situation in the morning itself explains that even if being beaten they remain in power. We got such kind of Government, it is a sad thing.

We say that the farmers are the backbone of the country. Common and middle class people are important for the country. Women are the creator of the country and children are the future. Small industrialists give employment to many people but if we see through their view we will see that small scale industries got nothing but the Government are rapt in joy that it have given exemption up to Rs. one crore. What will it bring to them?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a very long list of speakers. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by two hours, that is, upto 8 o'clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is extended up to 8 o'clock. Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan, you can continue now.

18.00 hrs.

DR. K. S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, please take 'Zero Hour' first ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, let us have the discussion first and then 'Zero Hour' ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: I was telling that in the whole budget, small scale industries have not been given support and it is an important thing among other important things. Many Members have discussed about farmers. I don't want to talk much about this issue but I am surprised to see that the hon. Finance Minister has obliged the farmers by giving 15 minute of time to them. He told that he was speaking on agriculture. I will explain it later what he told afterward but what he quoted, reflects that he adores Saint Tiruwalloor, it is a good thing. While quoting the Saint he told that if the farmers remain seated idle, even the saints who renounce the world, will not

get salvation. It is true. Hon. Finance Minister, even we read Saint Tiruwalloor, I will tell later on. He was saying that if the farmers remained seated idle, they would not get salvation, but farmers are committing suicide in their tenure, where will they escape then. You ask the Saint where he will migrate. You made speech for about 15 minutes but what you told. While talking about the farmers your stress was on 45, 46 and 47 points that are related to the credit. Loan facilities have been extended it is a good thing that farmers should have loan facilities.

Loan is necessary but why the farmers are committing suicide? Because the farmers are not able to repay the loan amount, that is why debt stressed 625 farmers are forced to commit suicide. What should we provide such farmers? Only the subsidy on the fertilizers will not serve the purpose. It would be good if we use bio-fertilizers by minimising the use of chemical fertilizers. But this subsidy benefit has not direct access to the farmers. We have to think about the measure how they would get direct benefit. Only companies harvest the benefit of the subsidy.

Sir, regarding the issues raised about the farmers I would like to submit that we, during the incumbency of NDA government, had evolved a scheme of inter-linking of rivers for water management. If this Government continues that scheme and makes it successful, I claim that we, by accumulating water of all the rivers, can be successful in providing water to each and every piece of farm land. The scheme was evolved with a view to connect every village and piece of land to the water facility. But the present Government has not paid heed to this inter-linking scheme. What should we do for the farmer today is that we should make such a plan through which farmers should get the remunerative price of their crops.

Farmers work hard for their crops throughout the year but they do not get the expected price of their crops on time because of the wrong policy of the Government and as a result they commit suicide. I would like to give a small example of that. This incident took place in my own parliamentary constituency. In my constituency the farmers are growing dollar gram in large quantity as it has a good export business. It is being used as cash crop. The farmers are expecting good price for it but in the meantime the Government framed a wrong policy. They banned the export of pulses because the pulses had become costlier. It can be understood. Though I assert that the pulses were exported during that period of three-four month also when there was a ban on export of pulses.

Let us talk about the Ministries. Though the Ministry which frames policy is a separate one but the export of pulses was banned suddenly and the dollar gram is also included therein. Though this dollar gram is not used as pulse but it was also banned. Export was banned. The farmers did not get the price. Rates were slashed. The ban was lifted for some period when the crop was ready. The rates were up within 3-4 days after an announcement of lifting ban. But when the whole matter was reported it was found that export has not been opened fully. Therefore, the police as well farmers are really fed up with back door drama of the government. Export will be made through DGFT wherein only three companies may get this facility. Now was it for three only? Out of them one was Mumbai based and another Bhopal based. Their Commerce Minister can state what is going on between them when it came to know that General export has not opened, the traders discontinued to purchase the produce from farmers. The rates of dollar gram slashed so much so that the farmers who grow dollar gram are crying now.

One more case of wrong policy has come to light. Wheat came in the market of Malwa region. In fact they talk about improving public distribution system and computerization. When wheat came in the market of Malwa region then there was no arrangement to buy it. The Government price is very low. The traders are purchasing it but they will use it for hoarding. At that time government will not offer remunerative price and as a result they will not have any stock and go for import of wheats. Today the price of wheat which is being offered to farmers in Rs. 800 and later the Government will import it at the rate of Rs. 1000. The quality of the imported wheat is not good which is supplied to distribute through PDS. In this way the policies of the Government are totally wrong.

The computerization of PDS will not serve the purpose. It is necessary to think about all these things. He says that he has spoken so much regarding agriculture. The Finance Minister says that he has delivered a speech for 15 minutes in respect of agriculture. I would like to quote the words of their saint Thiruvalluvar regarding the way of speaking. Please convey my point to him. I also have the book. We also read though it is translated version. It seems good to read the views of a saint. While quoting a saint, one should not pick the points of his own interest only and to skip the remaining. If one wants to read it then it should be read completely. When the Minister claims that he has spoken about farmers for 15 minutes; it is not a matter of pride he should know how to talk? Saint says

*[English]*

to talk idle means speak profitless words

*[Translation]*

and for those who speak profitless words he says that

*[English]*

in the presence of many is worse than doing ungracious acts of friends.

*[Translation]*

We are enemy for friends as well use the words which have no meaning and which causes no profit. He further adds

*[English]*

If men of worth,

*[Translation]*

if your Finance Minister thinks himself a man of worth as he is a minister of this country, therefore, we also treat him like a worthy and big man. *[English]* if men of worth utter vain words, fame and greatness will depart from him

*[Translation]*

keep this point in your mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is my request that my points may kindly be conveyed to Finance Minister, you talk like your saint, all will go far and will sit in a corner.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I will speak about agriculture as it is the most affected sector. Government will consider the report of Radhakrishnan Committee and Dr. Swaminathan's report; what happened to those reports; we don't know? Why don't Government act according to them? They said the farmers should get remunerative price for their produces and at right time. I am unable to understand why don't Government frame such policies?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to the point related to women about which the Minister of Finance says that he has done a lot for them. 'So far as the question of women development is concerned; he has done something but nothing special. May be the Government have done something. I state that women work in ICDS project. It should be universalized so that maximum funds can be provided for women. The Government claims that Rs.4000 crore have been given but it is meagre amount. There are lakhs of women working with Aanganwadis under ICDS. I think the number of women who are getting honorarium are more than two lakh. Just imagine, how

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

the budget is prepared. The honorarium being paid to the women working in Aanganwadis is important because 99% of Aanganwadi workers are women. What burden government is going to put on them. You have formulated health scheme thereafter the question of AIDS control comes. It is right in case of mothers but here the AIDS is secondary problem. Children and women are suffering from anaemia. Which is the cause of maximum deaths. The Finance Minister has told that separate schemes are being formulated for them but who will visit door to door. The Aanganwadi workers visit door to door but there is nobody to take care of them? There are lakhs of Aanganwadi women having burden of work load may take your health scheme ahead. Are you going to formulate such a scheme for women? You have to think whether those women have a strength to deliver medicine door to door. Therefore, I would like to state that the schemes which are not well planned may not be implemented properly and the people may not be benefited and thus the fund meant for it will not be utilized properly. There should be proper record available at the time when scheme is being formulated but this vision will appear only when the Finance Minister takes care of the lifestyle and feelings of common man.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what has the Finance Minister done for common man. Even he has failed to control prices. Apart from this he has just given an income tax exemption of Rs. 10,000 only to women and elderly persons. What purpose will serve this amount of Rs. 10,000 I am unable to understand what kind of facility it is? Today prices are rising rapidly. Government says that the saving schemes tendency are on increase. I would like to ask where is that?

[Translation]

When tax has been levied on interest earned on mutual fund, education cess is charged from common man, and tax burden is on the rise, rebate on income tax is likely to be reduced, in such a scenario, what will a common man do? There is nothing for the common man in the budget. I will only say that you are thinking about one small thing. It is good that you are thinking of history and culture. Congress is also talking of culture. I appreciate it. I welcome I have a suggestion. The idea that you are thinking of celebrating the 150th anniversary of freedom movement of 1857. They have allocated Rs. 30 crore for four institutions. Bhandarkar Institute of Pune is very beautiful. People working there are very much dedicated. I have seen that 5-6 year back. Due to some misunderstanding some person without any cause

of provocation tried to set on fire the institute which resulted in heavy loss. I was minister at that time and visited the site. I have myself seen that people who were working there. They had tears in their eyes. They had been nourishing a dream. Historical documents are valuable documents and what they did. I welcome the steps of providing funds for such an institution. I have a suggestion as they have stated that the number of books would be increased in Nehru Museum. I would like to suggest that Rs. 20 crore may be earmarked for books only. Britishers used to call Freedom Struggle of 1857 as mutiny or bandh but in 1907 great freedom fighter Veer Savarkar for the first time called it a freedom struggle. He wrote a book entitled '1857 ka swatantraya Samar' in 1907 and translation of the book is also available. I would like to suggest that some more copies of that book should be published. Situation witnessed here is seen at other places also. It would not be right if we forget our history, samskars and culture as we become short tempered. The book should be distributed to everybody.

Sir, I have one more suggestion to make that statue of Savarkar may be installed at Marshlist port from where he had plunged into the sea. If you are going to celebrate the 150th anniversary of 1957 in the true spirit then install the statue of Veer Savarkar and statues of Madan Lal Dhingra and contemporary freedom fighters. About AIDS I would like to state that sufficient funds have been earmarked for its control. You did not agree with the suggestion given by Shri Swain that the funds may be utilized for medicines only. Mr. Chairman, Sir, most of the parents suffering from AIDS cannot afford to take medicines. Their children don't get nutritious diet. They fail to look after their children. Medicines are very expensive. I would like to request that funds earmarked for AIDS should be utilized for this purpose and not for the institutions like NACO which spent the funds on advertisements and imparting sex-education. In this regard, I would like to caution the government.

Sir, while concluding I would like to request the Minister of Finance that for the first time after independence I felt agonized after listening to his speech. People of the country while listening to the budget speech had pinned great hopes on him. When smilingly he declared that now I give you a good news that rates of dog food has been slashed. Food meant for ordinary dogs was not made cheaper but it was the food meant for dogs kept by the families. An ordinary dog eats only ordinary roti and not the high quality dog food. The manner in which this statement was made, was improper. When the common man of the country is dying of starvation, farmers are committing suicide, the Finance Minister elatedly announces the reduction in dog food

price. I would like to request him to desist from such comments and not humiliate the common people of the country in this way. I have nothing to do with the intention with which he has done it and how the conspiracy has been hatched with so and so multi national company. I would like to request that Finance Minister should maintain the dignity of the office. Our Finance Minister is not talking of common man. The Finance Minister should maintain the dignity of the office and the Chair he occupies. This is my only submission.

*[English]*

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi may be angry with you, Madam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your speech. You were highlighting all the major issues of the women. It is a good speech.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It is a good speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request Mr. Nikhil Kumar to speak.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request that his debate may be discontinued here and we may continue it tomorrow. Now, please take up the Zero Hour.

*[English]*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, what about 'Zero Hour'?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will consider that later but I cannot give you an assurance.

Now, Mr. Nikhil Kumar, you can speak.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Please hear me. Let the Members who are there for raising matters in 'Zero Hour' give an assurance that after their speech, they will sit here and listen to others. Otherwise, after speaking if they are running away, there will be nobody for this Budget debate. This is not acceptable. Or, there should be Budget discussion first and then we will take up the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the moment, there will be no 'Zero Hour'. We will consider it only after eight o' clock.

Yes, you can speak.

18.24 hrs.

*[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN in the Chair]*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Madam Chairman, I would like to start my speech by reminding you that I may kindly be given as much time as you have taken. Madam Chairman, had just asked me to conclude within 5 minutes, please don't insist on that.

*[English]*

Madam, I rise to speak on the Budget for the year 2007-08. But before anything, let us see the economic environment of the country in which this Budget has been presented. There has been a steady increase in the manufacturing growth rate so that over the past three years, it has increased to a present rate of 11.2 per cent.

Even in the services sector, the growth rate has been steadily climbing and today it is over 11 per cent. These have, together, led to an average growth rate of 8.5 per cent. This is a signal achievement of the UPA Government because, Madam, you will realize that the situation in 2002-2003, as was pointed out by our hon. Minister of Finance was not very encouraging. If, in spite of that, the country has maintained a steady growth rate and when 31st of March comes this year to signal the end of the Tenth Plan period, we will have achieved nearly the target set for us of eight per cent in the Tenth Plan.

It is this context that we have to see the Budget. Yes, the country does need to be taken care of in some areas which have been left out and these areas which have been targeted by the hon. Minister of Finance. I find this is a good Budget. It will encourage production, it will generate employment and above all, I find it an excellently crafted strategy for bringing out the prices and counter inflation.

There are some very important steps, some classical steps to counter inflation in this Budget. I do hope that these classical steps do not prove counterproductive in due course. But, nevertheless, it is a good Budget and I compliment the hon. Minister of Finance for it.

The hon. Minister of Finance has also, as I said, paid attention to some areas which were left out and,

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

therefore, he has crafted this all-inclusive Budget. He did mention that he had spent 15 minutes on agriculture. Madam, those 15 minutes were meaningful because they contained some good suggestions to help develop the agriculture sector and increase its growth rate.

For some time now, our agriculture sector has not been showing good results. It has barely registered a growth of 2.3 per cent against a target of four per cent. The hon. Finance Minister has decided that he will pay special attention to agriculture. An important statistic is that whereas in India nearly 70 per cent of our people are dependent on agriculture, only two point, seven per cent, of the Americans are dependent on agriculture. Still the United States produces food not only for itself but it feeds almost half the world. So, we need to see what is wrong with us that such a huge country, bigger than the United States, where 65 to 70 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture, are unable to produce food for ourselves. It is in this context that we have to see the proposals made in the budget in respect of agriculture.

But I shall first take up education. I compliment the hon. Minister of Finance for paying special attention to the education of minorities' children. He has provisioned for increasing the share capital of the NMDSC by Rs. 63 crore and providing Rs. 108 crore for development plans in districts with minority concentration of population and above all provided nearly Rs. 210 crore in different scholarships for different courses. These are all extremely well-considered steps and he deserves to be complimented.

There are two things, however, which I would like to submit for his consideration.

There is no mention about improving the quality of education of madarasas. Madarasas are cash-strapped because of which they are unable to produce the requisite good quality education, I repeat this is entirely because of lack of finances. So, my appeal to the hon. Finance Minister is that he should set apart a bigger portion of the kitty in the next year's Budget for Madarasa education.

My other appeal is to include more madarasas in the list of those approved by the Government for funding. Not only madarasas, there are other educational institutions also which do not get financial aid from the Government. In my State of Bihar, it is called in Hindi

"bitta rahit shiksha neeti" and this 'bitta rahit shiksha neeti', had led to almost disastrous consequences in the State. I am well aware of it that this is a policy that needs to be brought to an end almost instantaneously. I remember that way back in 1989, the then Congress Government had taken a decision to end it from 1st February, 1990. But it has not been done and the effects have not at all been happy for our younger brigade, our youth. It is in this context that I say that if the madarasas are cash-strapped, then we are not doing justice to our minorities because they will not be able to get proper education and when they do leave the madarasas, the level of their education will be so unsatisfactory that they will not be able to be good citizens of this country. I repeat that they must be included in the scheme for financing of educational institutions in a larger number.

The second thing is and we note with satisfaction that nearly 1,400 ITIs have been included in the Finance Minister's list to be made into Centres of Excellence, but I regret to say that not one of them belongs to Bihar. I would appeal through the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India to my State Government to please pay attention to this so that there is in Bihar at least one, if not many more, Centre of Excellence in the ITIs. The ITIs are extremely useful for preparing people for vocation and employment. If these are to be made into Centres of Excellence, it will be for the overall good of our younger generation.

The hon. Finance Minister has also dwelt on the power sector. I have not much to comment on that provisions he has made for this sector. But there is one significant feature that I wish to bring to the notice of this hon. House and to the Government of India. The Integrated Energy Policy document that has been brought out has worked out its requirements of power in times to come, for the next 25 years or so, assuming the targeted growth rate of eight per cent in the Eleventh Five Year Plan. This is not correct. The target of our growth rate in the Eleventh Five Year Plan period is to be ten per cent and therefore, the calculations in the Integrated Energy Policy document, should be corrected because they flow from a wrong assumption. An important factor in these calculations is that this year, which is the last year of the Tenth Plan period, we were supposed to or were expected to generate 41,000 megawatts of power. Unfortunately, there has been a big shortfall and only 23,000 odd megawatts of power may be generated by this year end.

There is extreme importance today to be given to power generation. In this context, I go back to my State. Recently, the Union Cabinet's Committee on Economic Affairs, has approved the setting up of a 1000 MW Super Thermal Power Project in Nabi Nagar in my constituency in Aurangabad. I thank the Government for it. It has been a long-standing project. We have waited for it for the past 18 years and it will now see the light of the day and so we thank the Government of India for it. However, it was originally conceived of as a 2200 MW Power Project. Its capacity has been reduced to 1000 MW. I have a two-fold request. One is, that as of now, it may be okay, and the work on construction will begin. It will be taken up by NTPC in collaboration as a Joint Venture with the Railways, and there will be four units of 250 MW each. That is fair enough. However, even now a decision could be taken that in time to come, this Project will be upgraded to 2200 MW as was originally conceived of. If it is done, it will not be doing any favour to Bihar because Bihar is, at present, extremely power deficient. As far as installed capacity goes, there is today a total of only 653 MW. Again this, there are two major Super Thermal Power Projects which are not functional—Barauni and Kati. I would appeal to the Government of India that it should do all it can to see that both these are made to be functional.

Bihar needs power, and this Nabi Nagar Super Thermal Power Project, should be expanded to its original 2200 MW capacity. If it means setting up of another Plant there, then that should be done. This should be possible since the feasibility study has already been conducted, and it has been found feasible to put up a 1000 MW Power Project. Then, why can the second one not be set up there? I would request the Government of India to kindly pay attention to this.

I come now to the question of agriculture. There are some thoughtful steps that the hon. Finance Minister has suggested. He suggests increase in the farm credit. He has also thought of several plans for the distressed districts, he has thought of water-related schemes. Let us take up farm credit. There is a big increase of 28 per cent from last year, which is very good. But whatever the statistics may say for the last year, the fact is that the farmers access this credit with great trouble. They are put to extreme inconvenience, Government must do whatever it can to reduce this inconvenience. The basis

on which such credit is given is the Kisan Credit Card. First, the farmer finds it extremely difficult to get a Kisan Credit Card issued. Then, when he finally gets it issued, he finds it even more difficult to get credit on that. A part of this inconvenience can be done away with, if Kisan Credit Cards are made an item of general issue, just like PAN and Identity Cards. These should be issued by the Office of the District Collector, who has all the revenue records and knows exactly who is a farmer and who is not. The Kisan Credit Card should be made an item of general issue. I appeal to the Finance Minister that he may do this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I am only half through, Madam.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have taken more than ten minutes on that Bihar project itself.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: My friends from the other side were saying that the agriculture sector has not been given enough importance. On the basis of the *Aam Admi Bima Yojana* alone I would say that the Finance Minister should be complimented. This is an excellent concept, the Centre will meet 50 per cent of the premium amount. But I hope that all the State Governments would meet their part and pay the second half, meaning the other 50 per cent of the premium. If the Finance Minister finds any obstruction, he should to it see that such States fall in line. This is because the people who are landless will be benefited by this are really landless. They are living below the poverty line and they need this kind of assistance.

Talking of below poverty line, there have been a great deal of irregularities in the drawing up of BPL lists. This is perhaps because the mode of action adopted by the States is not quite okay. The work has been allotted to people who are not concerned with the District Administration and come under the influence of this or that consideration and as a consequence, the overall result is not satisfactory. In my own State, especially in my District, the BPL list is a bit of a scam. It needs to be rejected. It needs to be drawn up afresh. In drawing the list afresh, if it becomes necessary then we should review the parameters. I, therefore, suggest that the Government of India should pay special attention to the drawing up of parameters afresh, if only for the benefit of those who live below the poverty line.

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

I now come to the issue of providing social security. The Government of India has come up with some excellent programmes for alleviation of poverty, like the *Indira Awas Yojna* or the *Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna*. But, I am unhappy that the funds given to the States for these are not being utilized. I would like to submit very politely to my friend Kharabela that it is not the question of delivery there. The money has been received and it is there in the District Magistrate's Office. Though received, it has not been spent. This needs to be looked into and reviewed. About 38 per cent of the funds given to my District, and overall in Bihar 42 per cent of Rs. 953 crore allocated for the *Rozgar Guarantee Yojna* only have been utilized. Similarly, for *Indira Awas Yojna* a total of only 36 per cent has been spent. For the *Gramin Rozgar Yojna* once again the total amount of expenditure done so far is well below 40 per cent. With this kind of implementation poverty alleviation programmes of the Government of India can not be successful.

An important point about Bihar is that every year North Bihar is ravaged by floods. An interesting statistic is that 46 per cent of Bihar today is flood prone and this means that it is 17.2 per cent of the total flood prone area of the country. I would request the Government of India, that even though this happens to be a State subject, it should take the initiative to draw up flood control programmes, in consultation with the State Government, if North Bihar is to be saved from this annual misery and annual ravages of floods. I do not agree with the argument that this will not be possible because these rivers come from Nepal. It is possible in the 21st century with modern technology available to us to construct dams which will prevent back flow into Nepal which is what Nepal objects to. With utter seriousness, I urge the Government to take this seriously and take steps about this. We must see that North Bihar is saved from the annual ravages of flood.

I now come to the definition of a senior citizen. There are Ministries in the Government of India where a senior citizen is defined as someone who is of 60 years of age or above. But the hon. Finance Minister has pegged this age at 65 years. This is unfair. There should be a uniform age for determining senior citizens and I would appeal to the Finance Minister to bring it down from 65 years to 60 years.

Since I am also the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology, there is one

important point which I would like to mention on that subject.

The MAT has been applied to the IT industry from 2007 to 2010. It is fair enough. Let it be applied. But what happens after 2010, has to be clarified because these companies which earn for us 31.5 billion dollars in foreign exchange, have to enter into long-term agreements with their partners abroad. They must know as to what is going to happen. That is why I feel that this is an important matter.

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Thank you, Madam, for giving me the 644 opportunity to speak on the General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram.

I am speaking on behalf of Thiru Vaiko, leader of the Tamils. Madam, in this General Budget for 2007-08—being the beginning of the 11th Five Year Plan—the slogan being that the country would be put on a sustained growth path during the 11th Five Year Plan and at the end of the Plan, the growth rate is expected at 10 per cent. This gives us very good encouragement and hopes.

This Budget also aimed at agricultural growth by four per cent; full of employment opportunities; rural infrastructure development; and also preference for health and education to all the sections of the society.

Regarding the allocation of funds, there is an increase of 31.6 per cent in the allocation for *Bharat Nirman* programme; increase of 34.2 per cent for the education sector; there is an increase by 29.9 per cent for health and family welfare; *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and *Mid-Day Meal Scheme* get an increase of 35 per cent.

*Mid-Day Meal Scheme* is to be extended not only for the primary classes but for the upper primary classes in 3,427 educationally backward blocks in the country. This needs to be extended throughout the country.

Rural drinking water and sanitation is to be taken care of. As such, the proposals in this regard are most welcomed by the public at large. But we pray that the benefits of the above schemes shall reach the poor, who are very much to be cared of, and very much in need in the remote villages and for the poor farming sector.

Giving scholarships to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be very much streamlined and proper care should be taken so that each and every student in the category gets the benefit to continue with their education.

Certain aspects which are also welcomed are increasing the economic viability of the agricultural sector wherein 50 lakh new farmers will be brought into the banking system next year with a target of Rs. 2,25,000 crore. This is no doubt a marvelous programme that would help the farmers at large. But I would like to urge the Government that beneficiaries should be from all over the country.

Duties on most chemicals and plastics have been reduced and customs duty on polyester fibers and yarn has also been reduced from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent. I hope this would bring down the prices of the textile goods. Farmers should be protected with easy procedures while getting farm loans from the banks. There has been no mention about the education loan. Loan of Rs. 15,000 per acre for farmers is very meager. That should be increased at least to Rs. 20,000 because of the increased daily wages for the coolies as well as increased fertilizer rates, etc.

Further, there is no mention about water resources management by which linking of the inter-State rivers for the betterment of drought-ridden areas can be made. Our hon. Finance Minister has been very kind enough. He has taken 15 minutes to promote agriculture in the country; I wish, on behalf of Shri Vaiko who is my leader, that he could have taken two more minutes to say something about linking of waters between different States so that the future of the country is not at stake and also the farmers are protected. As was told by the hon. Member who spoke earlier to me, Bihar is flood-ridden and there are areas which need water. Drought-ridden areas will welcome water from the flood-ridden areas. So, linking of the rivers for the welfare of farmers throughout the country has not been mentioned. That needs to be thought of. In the whole of the Five Year Plan, this project has been neglected. This needs to be taken care of and some amount should be earmarked, say about Rs. 1,000 crore and it should be given to the bank saying that if any State is interested in taking up the river linking programme, it could utilize that amount, it will go a long way in linking the rivers. This is the theme of my leader, Shri Vaiko.

I thank you for the opportunity given.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajnagar): Thank you Madam Chairperson. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget for the year 2007-08 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram. I would have preferred to congratulate Shri P. Chidambaram, because it is his 10th Budget as Finance Minister of this country. But I am not doing so as my expectation that he would render justice to the people all sections of the society has not been fulfilled. The Hon. Finance Minister's colleague Shri Palani Manickam is also present here in this August House.

People belonging to various sections of the society like farmers, employees, and business people would have expected a visionary Budget from the Hon. Finance Minister. But this Budget is not able to fulfill the expectations of the people at large. So it is a very disappointing Budget. Though this Budget has allocated more funds to agriculture and other sectors compare to previous Budget it is still insufficient. In our country people depending upon agriculture remain as high as 70%. But budgetary provisions are not enough to meet the demands of the agricultural sector.

I do not want to speak on national issues. I want to confine my speech to Karnataka and my parliamentary constituency only. Large number of farmers have been committing suicide in states like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Maharashtra. But the Hon. Finance Minister has not even mentioned the suicide cases of farmers in his Budget. It is very unfortunate. Since the Government is not serious on this issue they have not expressed any concern about why the farmers are committing suicide? And how to address this problem? Farmers have been facing hardship everywhere in the country.

I would suggest that the Government should provide seeds to the farmers at 50% subsidy and loan at zero percent interest rate. It is because of the GATT agreement today that our farmers have not been getting subsidy, quality seeds and pesticides. I would like to point out that there is no marketing strategy with the Government

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

and every one exploits the farmer whether it is, the middleman or the retailer. But the consumer always pays more than 200% compared to the price received by the farmer. It is a matter of regret that the profit on agricultural produce is being pocketed by the middlemen instead of the farmers.

Despite heavy rains in some parts of Karnataka many parts of the state are reeling under severe drought conditions. 160 out of 175 taluks are facing this problem. Because of the drought people of Karnataka are selling their cattle at throwaway prices to slaughter houses. There is no fodder for the cattle. It is high time that the Government should look into this serious problem, come forward and set up 'Go Shalas' in Karnataka and provide good MSP for their crops. Another thing I would like to say is that this Budget provides concessions on the food for cats and dogs. But it does not ensure the food security of the common man. There is no tax concession or subsidy on the food used by the common people.

The Government of India has launched several programmes like Indira Avas Yojana, Ambedkar (Housing) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme, Rural Drinking Water Scheme, Rural Telephone, National Rural Health Mission, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act etc. But sufficient funds have not been allocated for all these Schemes. I would like to cite an example. Rs. 20,000 is provided to a beneficiary to build a house under Indira Avas Yojana. This amount was fixed when Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India. But the same amount is being provided even today. It is really funny Sir, today due to price hike, high inflation is there in the country. Cost of one bag of cement is more than Rs. 300. One has to pay atleast Rs.200/- per day to a worker/coolie. In such a condition how is it possible to build a house with a meager sum of Rs. 20,000. Sir, this amount should therefore be increased to Rs. 1 lakh. It is not only my opinion. My colleagues and other Hon. Members are also supporting this point. It is very much essential to provide 1 lakh rupees to build a permanent house. If you do not do so there would be no use providing a meagre amount of Rs. 20,000. If a person builds a house by using this meagre amount the house will need to get repaired every now and then. It leads the common man to get into a debt trap. So, it helps neither the beneficiary nor the Government.

As far as Information Technology and Bio Technology are concerned, Karnataka stands 1st in software industry.

Bangalore is a brand name in the world. The capital of Karnataka Bangalore is also known as the I.T. hub, and it is also known as the garden city. People all over the world have been attracted by the software industries of Bangalore. It has all the potential to become world no. 1 in software industry. But it is very unfortunate that the blooming Bangalore is suffering from lack of infrastructure problem.

Lakhs of employees work in software companies in Bangalore. These software companies are paying Rs. 1,250 crore income tax per month. It will become Rs. 20,000 crore per year. But I am sorry to say the lack of infrastructure like quality power supply, drinking water road etc affects the IT-sector adversely. Due to these infrastructure problem software companies are going away from Bangalore. For example, Apple Software Company has already left Bangalore. That is why it is the need of the day to provide necessary infrastructure to software industries in Bangalore. The Hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri H.D. Kumara Swamy had approached the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India several times and also the Hon'ble Finance Minister and submitted proposals for financial assistance for this purpose. But no financial assistance has been provided so far. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to provide at least Rs. 1,000 crore for the development of infrastructure in Bangalore. Otherwise we will lose the status of Bangalore as IT city in the world.

It is very unfortunate that Karnataka is always getting step-motherly treatment. Because of political differences Karnataka is not getting adequate financial funds for its development.

White revolution has taken place in our country and the entire credit should go to the farmers who are the backbone of our economy. But what is the farmer getting for this. He is getting just 9.25 paise per litre for milk when the people are prepared to pay Rs. 20 litre for mineral water. Unfortunately the farmer is not getting the same Rs. 20 per litre for milk. He has to look after his cattles, he has to do their service for 24 hours, he has to purchase fodder for cattles, which is Rs. 15 per kg. But he is getting Rs. 9.25 paise per litre for his milk. What an irony it is Madam? A person fills water from a tap into a bottle and he gets Rs. 20. It is very painful for me. Therefore my suggestion is that the remunerative price of milk should be fixed at least at Rs. 20 per litre. Otherwise living condition of the farmers cannot improve.

It is meaningless if the farmers do not get remunerative price for their produce.

I would like to appreciate the mid-day meal scheme launched by the Government. I wish to suggest that along with mid-day meal a glass of milk should be provided to all students. So that it would inspire our farmers to increase the production of milk. And it helps our children, the future of our nation, to get nutritional food.

My parliamentary constituency Chamarajnagar is an hilly region. It is a most backward district not only in Karnataka but also in the country. 36 percent of people are living below the poverty line in my constituency. Human Development Index report says that the Chamarajnagar ranks 25th place out of 28 districts in Karnataka. Our district has been carved out of the Mysore district 8 years back but still there is no development in Chamarajnagar. It is dominated by the people who belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I was born and brought up in such a hilly and backward area. There is no college, there is no hospital, no good school, no power project, no university, no medical and engineering college. My people have been getting education in educational institutions run by an NGO, that is Vivekanand Girijan Sangh. Therefore it is my humble request to the Finance Minister to provide sufficient funds to build infrastructure and ensure family welfare measures under special provisions in my constituency. Therefore the Government should consider it under special budgetary provision and allocate adequate funds to set up educational institutions, hospitals, stadium for promoting sports and games. And initiate all the necessary steps to provide housing to the weaker sections and the Tribals.

Malai Mahadeswhera Hill in Karnataka is one of the famous pilgrim centres. Every day thousands of pilgrims are visiting the Malai Mahadeswhera Swamy Temple. But there is no adequate infrastructure facilities like road, drinking water, guest house, lodging and boarding for pilgrims. Famous Hogenekal falls is also nearer to Malai Mahadeswhera Hills. That is why Centre should provide adequate funds and take steps to connect Hogenekal fall with M.M. Hills. That's why I request the Government to come forward to improve the infrastructure in Malai Mahadeswhera Hill so that it becomes a major pilgrim centre.

Sir, in this Budget the Hon. Finance Minister has increased the income tax exemption limit by only

Rs. 10,000. There is inflation and price hike sir. I would like to request Hon. Finance Minister to increase this exemption by Rs. 50,000. And as far as physically challenged persons are concerned the exemption of 75,000 should be increased by 1,50,000. Sir. I would like to point out that developed countries like America have given cent percent exemption to physically challenged persons. But in our country we are imposing tax on the physically challenged. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to give complete exemption to the physically challenged.

Sir, I would like to say about Bangalore Metro Project. In this Budget only Rs.164 crore has been allotted to the Metro Rail Project. It is like giving small amount of buttermilk worth of only 10 paise, to an elephant. How is it possible to take up such a big project of Rs. 50,000 crore with this meagre fund? Therefore, I want to impress upon the Government to provide at least Rs. 1,000 crore for this project.

19.00 hrs.

There is no mention anywhere in this Budget about inter linking the rivers. There must be a National Water Policy. Sir I would like to suggest that interlinking of rivers is the only way to solve water disputes. It will help us to improve the standard of living of the people and our nation will progress and prosper. But this has not been mentioned and funds have not been allocated. We have already completed 10th five year plan and we are entering into 11th five year plan, but nowhere interlinking of rivers has been mentioned. I am of the opinion that if the Government delays interlinking of rivers it would affect the federal structure of the country. Therefore, this should be included in the Budget.

Apart from this I would like to suggest to the Government to reduce the rate of interest on the loan, provided to farmers. The Government has been providing loan to buy a car at 6% interest whereas a farmer who is the back-bone of Indian economy has been paying more than 9% interest on agricultural loan. Is it not an irony Madam? I have raised this issue several times but there is no response from the Government. Therefore, I urge upon the Centre to take necessary steps to provide agricultural loans to farmers at 4% interest and to fix Minimum Support Price for all agro-produce including onions, tomato, wheat, rice, potato, pulses.

[Shri M. Shivanna]

As far as Anganwadi workers are concerned they are working for the whole day. But they are getting only Rs. 200-Rs. 300 per month. That's why I request the Hon. Finance Minister to take steps to regularize their service and increase monetary benefits.

I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the conditions of tanks and lakes in the country. Almost 90% of lakes have been accumulating silt. As a result the storage capacity of these lakes have been decreasing gradually. We are exploiting ground water. Level of ground water has also been declining. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to provide adequate funds as a special budgetary allocation to desilt lakes.

Narayan Hridayalaya in Bangalore is famous. It is doing a good job giving good treatment for cancer patients. People from all over the world are getting treatment here in the hospital. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to accord deemed university status to Narayan Hridayalaya.

With this I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion on general Budget, 2007-08. For at least about a month now, from the time people knew about the Budget Session of Parliament, there were expectation amongst people that the Government would deal seriously favourably, with two aspects in the Budget, namely price rise and agricultural issues.

[Translation]

The Government is not going to address any of the problems.

[English]

But unfortunately, problems relating to these two aspects has not been addressed by the Government in the Budget. The entire country, the media and every segment of the society has largely been disappointed on this score. The two major problems of the economy have not been addressed in this Budget. It has been said from the very

beginning that global commodity prices have exerted pressure on the domestic prices. But nothing has been said about how the Government is going to deal with that. There are certain figures given by the Government. These are not my figures. The Consumer Price Index has registered a hike and I have talked about it while making my submissions the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and I would not refer to it here again. I will also not quote the entire chart, but would only quote certain figures as examples.

With regard to onion, the hike is 186 per cent. I want to remind you that our Party lost Delhi elections because of onion. ...*(Interruptions)* You please wait and see. MCD elections are coming. There is no need to comment now. Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you are a very senior Member. You are going to hear the results very soon. The reality will dawn on you. With regard to moong dal, the hike is 118 per cent; with regard to urad dal, the hike is 82 per cent. I am talking of January and February, 2007 figures. Shri Mistry, you are a very senior Member. I have come here for the first time. I have never been an MLA. This is the first time I contested the election and won. I do not know how to cross talk. I have directly contested the Lok Sabha elections and have come here.

With regard to wheat, the hike is 60 per cent; with regard to atta, the hike is 44 per cent. Red chilly is grown in my constituency. Red chilly is exported from my constituency. The entire northern part, which is called Bombay-Karnataka, red chilly is one of the major products. Farmers are fighting for the MSP because the market prices have come down when they went to sell it. As far as red chilly is concerned, compared to 2004, the hike is 60 per cent. These are figures given by the RBI. With regard to cement, the hike is 39 per cent. Shri Suresh Angadi, who is sitting here, is one of the big cement dealers in Karnataka. He is the supplier of cement. ...*(Interruptions)* With regard to steel, the hike is 29 per cent.

Madam, when this is the state of affairs, it is so unfortunate that these problems have not been addressed. Shri Palanimanickam is sitting here and taking notes of what we say. I would like to tell him that Governments will come and Governments will go and parties will come to power and they will go out of power. But you have to address the problems of the people. People are really suffering. That is why I would request you to take some serious measures about these issues.

Second issue is agriculture. The hon. Finance Minister stated that in the last year the GDP target was three per cent, which was not achieved. The achievement was only 2.3 or 2.4 per cent. This year the target is four cent. If you look at the entire speech of the Finance Minister, there is absolutely no constructive proposal or blue print. Without that, how can you achieve four per cent results? How can you achieve that without giving proper proposals and without making agriculture economically viable?

The Tata Institute of Social Sciences conducted a study. It said:

"The farm sector does not get redeemed from all its problems just by lending the farmers more and more. This only leads to enlargement of the debt trap. One debt is affected to redeem from another debt and culminating in extreme steps by the farmers taking recourse to suicide."

This thinking has in its credence in the fact that last year Prime Minister visited Vidarbha. He talked of doubling the agricultural credit. This does not help. Hon. Prime Minister for whom I have the highest regard as an economist and as a person, went to Vidarbha and announced a big package. But what is the position today? Before the hon. Prime Minister went to Vidarbha, the average suicide rate in Vidarbha was one suicide in every eight hours.

After the hon. Prime Minister declared the package, it has been reduced to four hours. There is a suicide case in every four hours. So I would like to tell the hon. Minister of Finance that just by announcing the credit facility, the problem cannot be solved. He has to be given remunerative price and to give the remunerative price, please avoid the middle man. To avoid the middle man, distress sale should be avoided. How can the distress sale be avoided? It is not only by giving the crop loan, but you should also give the agricultural product loan. After the agricultural product is ready, the cold storages should be arranged in the entire country. He should have sustaining capacity to keep it in the cold storage. If he does not have the sustaining capacity, naturally he will go for distress sale. So to make him sustainable, you have to give him the agricultural product loan, and after he receives the product, he should be given agricultural product loan by which he can have sustaining capacity and he can store it in the cold storage and he can sell it when he gets the remunerative price.

Along with that, I also urge the Government to bring the interest rate at four per cent. It is also mentioned in the *Economic Survey*. The Swaminathan Committee had also recommended it and the State Government like the Karnataka Government is giving the interest at four per cent from the cooperative sector. This demand was made well before the presentation of the Budget. I had made the demand during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks and now I also urge that before you could reply, please talk to the hon. Minister of Finance, talk to the hon. Prime Minister and see that interest rate is reduced.

There is one more thing which you can do and that is the crop insurance. When Shri Kharabela Swain was speaking, somebody told that it was your baby. Yes, I agree that it was our baby. I agree with him and I am not disagreeing with that. But when the crop insurance scheme was introduced by the NDA Government, it was the beginning. Now after that four or five years are over. What is the position? It has added more problems than the solutions. It is a very cumbersome process. Can the Government not make it farmer friendly? For example, I am telling you that five years average is taken. For example, in my own district, in my own State, four years there was drought. If you take the five years average, the lowest ever will be treated as average productivity and he will not get the insurance benefit. ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: What is the position? I am also telling you about the relief in my own constituency. In my constituency, 2003 kharif crop insurance the claims have not been settled. A number of 742 farmers are supposed to receive their insurance claims and from 2003 to 2007, four years have passed. Many a time personally I have gone to the regional office of Agricultural Insurance Corporation at Bangalore and a number of farmers have also visited there. So I am again bringing it to the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Finance. Do you know if you go to the regional office of the Agricultural Insurance Corporation at Bangalore, farmers will be treated like beggars? It is not this Government or that Government, it is the bureaucratic approach that has to be changed and you have to tell them that they are our masters. They have to be treated well. They have not got their claims for the last four years. If they go, they are using force and they are sending them out. So with all these things, I am requesting the hon. Minister to improve the Crop Insurance Scheme.

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

You can bring it to the Gram Panchayat level. Previously, it was up to the Taluka level. Subsequently, in our Government's period, it was brought up to the hubli level. Now, you can bring it to the Gram Panchayat level which will definitely yield results. So, one is remunerative price. Another is about crop insurance and the third is about power generation. If quality power is given to the farmers, they will not ask you anything more. It is not only many areas but also the entire country, with the exception of a few States, where more than six-hour electricity is never given in the villages. It is given just for six hours. In some of the States, it is given in midnight. They are giving electricity during midnight. How can the farmers utilize electricity for drawing water even though they are having bore-wells and wells? They are not able to utilize it. In such a case, power generation has to be given utmost priority. It is unfortunate that nothing is properly mentioned about power generation.

Then, transmission loss is around Rs. 30,000 crore. Every year, we are losing about Rs. 30,000 crore as far as transmission loss is concerned. We have kept only Rs. 800 crore to control the distribution and transmission loss. It has to be looked into. As far as power generation is concerned, for a period of 50 years, you are in power. Out of the total 60 years of Indian Independence, for 50 years, you are in power. But till date, you are not able to supply quality power.

Coming back to Education, I do not want to go into the entire details of education. But I can only put two or three questions. If you can kindly note and give me replies to them, I will be happy. You have increased the cess by three per cent. I have got one question about it. All the three per cent which, you have increased as cess, will it be used for education? This is the first question.

Second, the Tapas Majumdar Committee, which was constituted by this Government, has very clearly recommended that six per cent of GDP should be spent on education. Are you going to do that? My third question is this. Though, in totality, you have allocated more to education including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, yet, in other way, you have reduced the allocation. Why is it so?

About foreign universities, the CNR Rao Committee, which was appointed, has cautioned the Government to be cautious before giving them entry into the Indian education system. What are you going to do with the CNR Rao Committee's recommendation? This Committee

was appointed to study the investment thing as far as foreign universities are concerned.

These are my question about education. The hon. Minister Shri Palanimanickam and the hon. Finance Minister both are from Tamil Nadu. You have given Rs. 50 crore to the Coimbatore Agriculture University and the Gobind Ballabh Pant Agriculture University.

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: It is one for the South and one for the North.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: My constituency of Dharwad is an educational hub. There, we have two Universities. One is the Dharwad Agriculture University. It is doing yeomen's service. It is doing a very good service. There one is the DCH Cotton - Dharwad Cotton Hybrid. That product has been discovered by the Dharwad University. It is giving good service. In the name of excellence, you are giving that money to the Coimbatore Agriculture University. Kindly extend it to the Dharwad University also. I would request you to do this. Further, you are planning in the Eleventh Plan, some IITs in the country. Hubli-Dharwad, the northern part of Karnataka, is a neglected area. It is the educational hub. There are two Universities, two Medical Colleges and three Engineering Colleges. They are having a lot of connectivity nowadays. The IT sector is also developing there. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to sanction an IIT for the Hubli-Dharwad area. I have touched upon agriculture and price rise.

I would once again urge upon the hon. Minister to give serious thought to it and do something which can help the countrymen.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Union Budget for the year 2007-08.

At the outset, I would like to compliment and congratulate our able Finance Minister for presenting his sixth Budget from the year 1996-97. I would also like to hail our Finance Minister for his efforts to usher in growth in Indian economy and the steps he has taken to control fiscal deficit. People in urban areas who are the dominant sections expected a dream Budget from him. Shri Chidambaram has done a lot for them in the year 1996 when he presented his first Budget. This time, his target was to improve the lot of agriculture and the millions of

farmers who underwent untold sufferings. The unfortunate part is that farmers do not have a such a strong lobby as the urban middle class. This explains why the media which gave him bouquets in 1996 is not happy with him this time, but I am confident that the steps he has taken in the Budget to promote agriculture and farming will go a long way in assisting millions of farmers in the country.

The UPA Government under the guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi and under the able leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh have taken Indian economy to great heights. We are proud to note that our foreign exchange reserves have touched an all time high of Rs. One lakh crore. Manufacturing and service industries have attained growth rate of over 11 per cent. The agriculture sector, as has been stated by hon. Members from the Opposition, has, however, suffered a setback with growth rate occurring around 2.3 per cent. Inflation is a cause for serious concern.

The Budget has addressed both these concerns. By reducing customs duty, the Finance Minister has ensured availability of cheap imports which will help augment supplies. Our Government should keep a close vigil on the price front. It has already taken several measures and they have already brought down inflation rate by one per cent.

Our Government is implementing two flagship programmes to build rural infrastructure. 'Bharat Nirman' will get nearly 32 per cent of the total Budget outlay, that is, Rs. 24,603 crore and the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will get initially Rs. 11,000 crore. More funds need to be deployed on both these programmes in the coming years.

The Government has also substantially increased its outlay on primary education and health sectors. For the first time, a sum of over Rs. 32,000 crore have been allocated to education, accounting for nearly 32 per cent of the total Budget outlay. This large outlay will help to wipe out illiteracy to a great extent in the country and help the students to continue their studies appreciably. Extension of Mid-Day Meals Scheme, once introduced by our tall leader of the nation Shri Kamaraj, has now been extended to other areas also. Hon. Shri Chidambaram's Budget is focused on bringing about prosperity in rural areas which have been totally neglected in the past.

Now, I have one suggestion to make. The Government should take concrete steps to link rivers of the country to tackle the problem of recurring droughts and floods. The political parties who have a large presence in North India should give up their opposition to this project which will promote genuine national integration. The President of India and the Supreme Court have given directions to the Central Government to implement the project. The political parties in North India should give a helping hand to this national cause. In the name of river linking projects, the previous Government finalized a plan to link Ken and Betwa rivers. This project, being implemented at a cost of Rs. 30,000 crore will benefit Gwalior Region. This project will not address the problems in Southern India. Our Government should not delay the implementation of the project to link Peninsular rivers. If any State is opposing this project, the Centre should nationalize all the rivers.

Madam, I also demand that the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme should be expanded to include Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Pudukottai and Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu this year itself. Our hon. Finance Minister hails from Tamil Nadu and he knows well about the backwardness of these districts. I hope, he will support my earnest demand. The above mentioned districts are perennially drought prone and the RLEGP will not have any meaning in Tamil Nadu if these districts are not included in this Scheme. I would request our hon. Finance Minister to personally intervene and ensure that these districts benefit from this Scheme.

Madam, the income tax limit for the salaried class should be raised from Rs.1.10 lakh to Rs.1.50 lakh as expected. The salaried class complies with tax regulations with utmost honesty. They should not be burdened and I would request our hon. Finance Minister to show some consideration to the salaried class. The Service Tax is, at present, collected at the rate of 12.5 per cent, which is quite high. The tax is being collected easily from the users and hence there is need for decreasing the rate and widening the net.

I demand a blanket ban on online trading in all essential commodities especially on farm products. This speculative trading has played a major role in increasing the prices of essential commodities. If the Government is keen on moderating inflation, the online trading on these commodities should go without further delay.

[Shri N.S.V. Chitthan]

Madam, generally, the age of 60 is considered to be the age for extending any consideration to senior citizens. This age limit is taken for consideration in the Railways and Airlines and for house tax concession also. *...(Interruptions)* Madam, it seems you also come in this category. But I am at a loss to understand why the Finance Ministry is still sticking to the age of 65. If the age limit is reduced to 60 the senior citizens who are in the age group of 60 to 65 will be very happy and will be benefited towards tax liberalization and exemption. So, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to show his consideration to senior citizens of this age group.

Madam, our Government has been encouraging institutions of excellence. It has given a grant of Rs. 50 crore each to prestigious institutions in the past. Madam, Gandhigram, in the Dindigul parliamentary constituency started during the year of Independence by Dr. (Mrs.) T.S. Soundaram, disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, is engaged in the integrated rural developmental activities. It focuses its attention in various sphere like health, education, social welfare activities like running orphanages for the destitute women and orphans. It also generates employment through khadi and village industries besides running training centres in micro enterprises. As this is a unique rural and Gandhian Institution, I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to extend a grant of Rs. 50 crore to this Institution so that it may grow and serve further to rural community.

Madam, the nationalized banks are charging seven per cent interest against the advances made by them to agriculturists. Umpteen number of times, we have raised our voice and concern to reduce the rate of interest to four per cent as the motor car companies are advertising zero per cent interest for the buyers on the loans raised for the new vehicles. If that is so, the farming community, which is feeding the entire country, should be charged at least lower rate of interest.

Madam, there is a toll free number in Aerodromes to get information regarding the flight services and accommodations. The hon. Railway Minister has announced, in his Budget Speech, that the toll free number will be available to get the timings of trains and accommodation of seats. Similarly, I urge the hon. Finance Minister to introduce a toll free number in nationalized banks to be informed about the status of loans and other information.

Madam, the prices of building materials such as cement, steel, etc. are increased to a very high level. With the result the middle class and the lower middle class people are finding it beyond their reach either to construct a new house or even to carry out repairs in their houses. This is the right time for the Government to intervene and see that the prices are brought down to a reasonable level.

Madam, Madurai is the second biggest city in Tamil Nadu. It is considered to be the Athens of South and gateway for South Tamil Nadu. It has got ancient and cultural background. This temple city is attracting lakhs and lakhs of floating population and tourists every day. Madurai is having ten flights per day to Chennai. Both IT Park and tidel park are to be started soon. At present there are super speciality hospitals in private sectors to treat richer and affordable patients. I urge upon the Government of India to start a Research Institute Hospital like AIIMS in Madurai.

With these words, I conclude and I support the Budget.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad): Madam, Chairman, in the budget that has been presented in this House for the year 2007-08, the Finance Minister has increased the allocation for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships and Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan and has allocated funds to give scholarships at graduate and the post-graduate level for minorities. We welcome the step. But the question arises whether the amount allocated for the welfare of minorities by the Finance Minister really reflect the statement made by the Prime Minister or present the real picture? The Prime Minister had stated many a time that Muslims should be given fair share and first right and even said in response to the President's Address that Muslims should be provided targeted intervention. In view of the statement of Prime Minister made in this regard and funds allocated for the welfare of minorities especially for the Muslims by the Minister of Finance, I am compelled and agonized to state that your budget does not fulfil promise made by the Prime Minister in his statement.

Madam, secondly it has been stated in the budget speech that Sachchar Committee presented its report and on the basis of the report they have increased the amount

of funds for corporation constituted for national minorities. We are thankful for that. Now the question arises that after the presentation of Sachchar Committee report it has come to light that educational backwardness and literacy ratio among Muslims is 59% which is below 60% and on the basis of that they have allocated Rs. 70 crore for pre-matric and post-metric scholarships. I would like to inform the House, through the Chair that the Chief Minister of my state i.e. the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has allocated Rs. 80 crore for giving scholarships to Muslims during the current year. Here, you talk about the statement of the Prime Minister and say that Muslims should be given fair share and first right. I would like to ask whether there is any co-relation between these is? I would like to demand from the government through the Chair that the allocation should be increased to Rs. 150-200 crore for pre-matric and post-matric scholarships.

Madam 11th Five Year Plan will start this year. Working core group of Planning Commission has recommended allocation of Rs. 17,000 crore for the welfare of minorities. They, have allocated only Rs. 512 crore for 11th Five Year Plan. If the whole minority is taken into account, it will come to Rs. 40 per head. Given the population of Muslims in India, the grant of Rs. 512 crore means Rs. 30 per capita, which is like a drop in the ocean. Is this the concern of the government? There is a saying in English that

*[English]*

there is a gap between the lip and the cup.

*[Translation]*

The working group of the Planning Commission has recommended that Rs. 17,000 crore be allocated for the welfare of the minorities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The moot point is whether the government is going to implement it in letter and spirit.

My next point is regarding extending loan facilities to Muslims by the banks, i.e., access to credit particularly with reference to 15-point programme. What is the minorities share in 15-point programme? Through you, Madam Chairman, I would like to urge the hon. Finance Minister to clarify during his reply whether it is not true that the government need to allocate Rs. 23627 crore during the financial year 2007-08 for various programmes under 15-point programme as enunciated by the hon. Prime Minister, like ICDS, Sarvashiksha Abiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, SGSY, SGRY, SGSRY, IAY, JNNURM and IITs. Can the government assure this House and guarantee the minorities that Rs. 544 crore will be allocated under each of the above programmes for them under the 15-point programme?

Madam, I would like to bring to your notice that no public or private bank is ready to extend loan facility to the Muslims. Negative zones have been created. According to a survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in the year of 2005, it has been established that there is a nine per cent gap in so far as Muslims are concerned in the priorities fixed for priority sector lending. SIDBI and NABARD do not extend loan to Muslims and Muslims maintained more accounts in proportion to their population. However, of all the sections of society, outstanding amount is very less against Muslims. Who is responsible for that? This government has been in office for the last three years, but what is the net result? We expected that Rs. 1000 crore would be allocated to the Ministry of Minority Affairs during the current year but a paltry sum of Rs. 530 crore were given. They are talking about Sachchar Committee. The Government should have earmarked a handsome amount for Muslim minority in view of the recommendations of the Sachar Committee but it was not done.

Madam, the Government of India allocated nearly Rs. 120 crore for the victims of Sikh riots in Delhi in the supplementary budget during the last session of September. The Government had announced that the center would give ex-gratia grant to the Muslim victims of Gujarat riots on the lines of the victims of Sikh riots, but it was not done. This provision seems to be absent in the current budget as well as and, thus, the government has failed to keep its promise.

Madam, there are 4,90,000 registered waqf properties in India with a meagre income of Rs. 160 crore. The Sachchar Committee has recommended that these properties be developed commercially and the income accrued there from should be utilized to address educational backwardness, unemployment and poverty among Muslims. This government has given Rs. 2.90 crore. Does the government tread cautiously in giving generous grant under the fear that the members of the other side would blame them of Muslim appeasement? I would say that. *...(Interruptions)* you gave us Gujarat. You better keep mum. I am not addressing you. Why do you interrupt while I am speaking? *...(Interruptions)* We do not need your support. You are a sunken ship. I am drawing the attention of the government on this issue. This cannot be procrastinated for long. On the issue of Muslims, they are instituting Enquiry Commission or setting up a Sachchar Committee. Whereas, benefits are given to the weaker and backward sections of society. The

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

Government should work for the welfare of Muslims undauntedly. The Muslim community has pinned great hopes in this government that it would work towards providing basic facilities to them, removing their educational backwardness and extending loan to them properly.

Lastly, I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to ask the banks including RBI as to why loans are not given to Muslims applicants by the public sector banks whereas Muslims earn a huge foreign exchange for India while working in the gulf? Why is there no poverty alleviation programme for Muslims in India whereas they constitute 13 percent of the country's population? Are not we the citizens of this country? Are we destined to always live in poverty and unemployment? I urge upon the Government to ponder over these things and take remedial measures. Mere lip service will not do. The people are watching our actions. Some positive steps are needed to be taken.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (Jabalpur): Recently U.P.A. Government has presented the budget for year 2007-08. This is not a new phenomena or budget is not presented for the first time in the country. Sir, in spite of that the budget going to be presented this time is different on account of country's prevailing atmosphere, expectations of the people and circumstances.

For the first time, the inflation rate is sky-rocketing. The prices of the commodity meant for the use of common men is rising each and every day. Common people, labourers, farmers, small traders, service class, all are suffering.

Thus the atmosphere prevailing before the presentation of this budget was that this budget will bring some relief for them. The prices of the essential commodities and food items will come down. Farmer was hoping that the Minimum Support Prices will be increased, Government will announce something concrete so that the farming may become profitable occupation. The labourers were hoping that their children will get two square meals easily, they will get ample job opportunity, small traders and service class was hoping that tax structure would be simplified, there will be relief in service tax and income tax.

But, Sir, with great pain I have to say that all were badly disappointed. General public of the country are feeling cheated. This is all because the Congress had said that the Congress would always remain with common man.

This had remained a tradition in this country that whatever is promised must be fulfilled but how this has been fulfilled. Sir, in the budget the food stuff for the dogs and cats have become cheaper but no such provisions are made in this budget that food items are available at the reasonable rates for common man.

The Common man's basic needs are food, clothes and house and better education for their children and health care for their family. But what happened Sir that instead of making efforts to fulfill the basic needs this Government has hiked the prices of brooms and dusters and even after that the Government is chalking that it has presented a good budget.

This budget is mere jugglery of figures and outcome of this is that only 20 percent of the budget amount will be spent on plan expenditure and developmental work, the remaining amount for proposed schemes and developmental work will be mobilized through other sources and loans and the consequence of this loan will be that per capita loan burden will rise from Rs. 22000 to Rs. 23500.

But, what the Government is doing. The Government is bent upon discontinuing the subsidy. There are some areas where less subsidy will not make much a difference but if the subsidy is discontinued from agriculture and on the items of daily needs of the common man then the adverse affect will be such that the essential commodities will be made available to the people at higher prices of import.

In the Economic Survey, the UPA Government has accepted that as compared to employment opportunities, unemployment has doubled. But despite this acceptance nothing concrete seems to have been done to overcome unemployment. Sir, today approximately 50 crore people are in the 15 to 50 age group in the country and a large number of them are facing unemployment. And the country has to pay a heavy price for this. Youths are indulging in criminal activities and they are falling prey to terrorists and Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are highly publishing the Employment Guarantee Scheme, where in reality today

there was a need to review and remove the short coming because the minimum wages given at present are very low and there is no such provision that each and every adult will get work throughout the year.

This country is considered as an agrarian country. Almost 60 crore people are associated with agriculture and among them 80% farmers own less than 2½ acres of land and all these farmers are debt ridden and despite this the Government is claiming that they will achieve the target of 4% growth rate in the agriculture sector which is totally impossible. In the tenth plan the growth rate in the agriculture sector was 2.3% and target for which was raised to 4%. Sir, until the public and private investment is increased in the agriculture sector, the achievement of this target is impossible.

Sir, in reality the total public investment in the form of percentage of gross agriculture produce was 2% in 1999-2000 which is now reduced to 1.54%. In such a condition targeting 4% growth rate in the agriculture sector without any announcement of arrangement of investment is a cheating with farmers.

I am putting forward some figures to show as to how adverse climate and absence of any concrete agriculture policy is affecting the production of foodgrains. In 1999, the production of wheat was 7.64 crore ton and production of pulses and 1.43 crore tonnes whereas in 2006 the wheat production is 6.95 crore tonnes and pulse production is 1.43 crore tonnes.

To overcome this shortage in production the UPA Government has imported wheat at the rate of Rs. 1100 per quintal but the farmers have got only Rs. 780 per quintal as a support price for wheat. If the Government start procuring wheat from the farmers at the rate at which the Government is importing and same is announced as a support price then the condition of the farmers will improve and the farmers who are the bread providers of the country will not have to commit suicide.

Sir, but with great regret I have to say that no efforts are put by the Government in this budget to increase the support price for farmers, contrary to this, the UPA Government under some conspiracy to discontinue the subsidy in the agriculture sector is laying emphasis on giving loan to farmers so they are publicizing at the top that the loan meant to distribute among farmers in 3 years has been distributed in two years itself. Whereas

Government has not made any assessment about the part of loan credited to the farmers and that is why the farmers are compelled to commit suicide. While getting entrapped into the debt trap.

Today the farmers does not need loan but reasonable price for their crop, produce. But the UPA Government is talking about constituting one more namely Radhakrishna Committee to review the credit policy in the light of suicide by the debt ridden farmers, the report of the previously constituted Swaminarayan Committee for the farming sector is biting dust since October last year and no decision is taken by the Government in this regard. This directly means that the Government is cheating farmers of this country.

The middle class of the country was hoping that the income tax limit will be increased to 1.80 lakh from 1 lakh but Sir, only raising limit by 10 thousand has disappointed the people of middle class. While raising the limit by only 10 thousand, many essential services have been brought under the net of service tax due to which the possibility of rise in inflation has increased. Sir, the service was introduced with 3 services in 1994-95 and in 1996-97 total 6 services were included but now service is charged on 99 services and in comparison to 8% rate in the beginning now the rate has been raised to 12 percent.

*[Translation]*

One of the major reasons for sky-rocketing prices at present, is service tax also.

If the Government, really intended to bring down the prices, it would have either reduced or withdrawn the service tax on services of general use but the UPA Government did not do it. Rather, today when the foremost necessity of the country is the universalisation of education and to make it easily available to all an increase of 1 % in education cess in the budget reinforces the perception prevailing in this country that the Congress party does not want the people of the country get educated because during the last 55 years it has taken advantage of the illiteracy prevailing particularly in the rural areas to dupe the people and rule over this country.

However, the Government is propagating that our GDP has increased 9.2 percent in 2006-2007 as compared to 7.5 percent in 2004-2005, as such everything

[Shri Rakesh Singh]

is all right in the country. However, through Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask whether these figures are of any help to the poor. Could the farmer be stopped from committing suicide, unemployed be provided employment if these figures are given. Could labourers be provided means of livelihood by projecting the figures of development. Could prices be checked with these figures?

This is such a budget which has not made the common man, the labourer, the farmers, the small trader or even the salaried people happy. Then, who are getting relief from this budget. Sir, if someone has felt some relief, it is the capitalist and this has been the policy of the Congress. However, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that people have become vigilant and they are ready to teach a lesson to the Congress party.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Madam Chairman, a book "My Budget Speech" has been given to all the Members with your permission. I would like to quote some excerpts from the book. This book has been written by the National Centre for Advocacy studies. I would like to read out a few lines to provide a glimpse of it.

[English]

"How Open is Our Budget?"

India ranks 17 among 59 countries in terms of openness of its budget documents. How much transparent is our budget. A recent study done by International Budget Project, Washington in partnership with various civil society groups around the world including Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability in India, reveals that budget documents in countries like Botswana, Brazil, South Africa, etc., are more accessible as compared to India."

19.47 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

He further says:

"Thirty-three per cent countries did not audit their budgets and in the budgets of more than 50 per cent countries, including India, information on conditions associated with external debt was not detailed."

[Translation]

It is a very serious matter. Today, every citizen of India is burdened with a foreign debt of thousands of rupees. They have not clarified as to what action they propose to take to relieve the country of this burden. Further it states that—

[English]

"Even after enacting the 'Right to Information', common people spend money to obtain financial information. It is worth nothing that in the year 2004, which was the first year of your Government, only 32 people could access the internet as a source of information."

[Translation]

That is, after the enactment of the 'Right to Information' Bill, by us in the House, only 32 people could access the internet in the year 2004 with regard to the Budget. Other people could not access to the internet as the Government are not making transparent budget.

In the last session, hon'ble Minister had moved a Motion regarding holding a discussion on the approach paper of the 11th Five Year Plan, which is to commence from this year itself i.e. 2007. I welcome it, but what happened, discussion could not be held over that approach paper. One day, it was included in the list of business and after that it was left out. Then on the last day of the previous session, discussion on the said paper was initiated but it could not be concluded and the session came to an end. A very good opportunity has been missed. Had the discussion on approach paper of the 11th Five Year Plan been taken place before the presentation of the budget, the Government would have prepared this budget including the suggestions of all the Members of Parliament, whom people have elected and then you would have said that we have prepared the budget keeping in view the wishes of the people. But, unfortunately, the Government have missed that opportunity.

I would like to quote a few lines from the National Herald. It was published on the 18th of September, 2006 that some tussle was going on between the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

[English]

"Embroiled in myriad criticisms and divergent opinions, finalization of the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Plan is likely to be delayed further as Plan Panel Deputy Chief, Montek Singh Ahluwalia has taken a decision to give a fresh look to the entire document."

[Translation]

Well, I accept the viewpoint of the Government. Dispute cropped up over FRBM. The Cabinet Minister of the Union Government was saying that FRBM Act should be repealed, whereas the Planning Commission desires that the FRBM Act should not be repealed. Whatever may be the result of this tussle, naturally it will not be good.

Sir, the Government says that the growth rate is 9.2%. It is a good thing, but despite achieving this growth rate one of the institutions of the Government itself i.e. the NSSO has stated that inspite of a growth rate of 9.2%, the number of people below the poverty line has increased in Delhi, Maharashtra and Haryana. What kind of calculation is this? What kind of financial system is this? If the growth rate increases, the number of people living below the poverty line should also come down. But it is increasing instead of decreasing. The figures, presented by the Government itself, are projecting this. Hence, I request him to clarify in his reply as to why such a thing is happening? With regard to agriculture, the hon'ble. Minister of Finance, has in his budget speech said that he desired a 4% growth rate of agriculture. However, the Government is able to achieve only 2.3% growth rate by the end of the Tenth Plan. As per the approach paper of 11th Five Year Plan, the growth rate of agriculture is 1.9%. The Approach paper has been prepared by the Planning Commission. According to the Planning Commission, the agricultural growth rate is 1.9% whereas the Minister of Finance, in his budget speech has said that it is 2.3%. I would like to know why there is such a difference. This also may please be clarified. Today growth rate is on decline in the agricultural sector. It is not increasing as per our expectation. The main reason behind it is the lack of proper Water Management policy in the country.

Floods and drought affect our agriculture adversely every year which hampers our rate of growth. Last year floods lashed Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat causing a loss

of Rs. 25000 crore from business point of view. The damage to agriculture cannot be assessed exactly. Agriculture suffered great loss. It happens every year. With a view to check it, the NDA Government envisaged a scheme for interconnecting rivers. A survey was also conducted in this regard. An international institution IWMD submitted a report in this regard. Perhaps, Budget allocation was made for this purpose, though I am not sure about it. A committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu was constituted. There were some environmental bottlenecks. Environmentalist apprehended that interconnecting rivers may affect environment. This issue was reviewed. After all the procedural formalities, the issue of leveraging such huge funds came up. Another body NWSPP also conducted a survey on it. It assessed lesser involvement of funds. Two plans, Plan 'A' and plan 'B' were envisaged. If plan 'A' was not feasible then plan 'B' was to be implemented. The task of interconnecting rivers could have been started. Under first phase Parvati, Chambal, Kalisindh rivers were to be covered under interconnecting scheme. If the said phase had been started, the land of those backward areas of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan could have been brought under irrigation wherefrom the labourers migrate to other states for job. It would have been a great achievement of the Government. But nothing has been done in this regard so far. The Government should pay attention to it. We can bring 35 million hectare additional land under irrigation if we inter connect rivers. Simultaneously, 30 GW power can also be generated. One Gigawatt is equal to one thousand megawatt. We know that hydel power is less expensive. Today the whole country is facing power shortage.

The hon. Minister in his Budget has stated that the Government propose to cover 9 lakh hectare additional land under irrigation through Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. But, he has not stated as to how it is proposed to be done? Perhaps, he may elaborate upon it in his speech.

China has less cultivable land than us, whereas, China cultivates 415 million hectare land in comparison to ours 208 million hectare land. It does not mean our farmers are less labourious, our farmers are very labourious but the Government has failed to frame an agriculture policy so far. There is no clear out agriculture policy. I remember when Shri Nitish Kumar was the Minister of Agriculture, he had prepared draft agriculture policy. It was debated in the House, wherein, large number

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

of Members participated. Why don't the Government frame agriculture policy which may help our farmers in increasing agriculture output. Our farmers when go abroad, produce 2-3 times more foodgrains than what they do here in India. They successfully do it, whereas we in India are not in a position to attain that level of yield.

The Government have allowed 100 per cent FDI in horticulture, floriculture and other field relating to agriculture. It is good. It has attracted foreign companies and more companies would enter into our agriculture. What shall be the fate of our Krishi Vigyan Kendras? ...*(Interruptions)* What the said Kendras opened in each district would do? The Government is allowing FDI. In place of allowing FDI, and benefiting large MNCs, the Government should ask them to finance our Krishi Vigyan Kendras. The Government should ask said Kendras to conduct research and to run their programmes. They should be trained. Now, only 1-2 days training is imparted in said Kendras. What a farmer can learn in 1-2 days? The period of training should be increased. If needed, the funds should be allocated for it. Agriculture research needs more investment.

So far as infrastructure is concerned, the Government have evolved a good scheme creating Special Economic Zones. I, both support and oppose it. The Government have formally approved 150 SEZs. One lakh 30 thousand and 625 acres land will be allotted to said SEZs. As per approval, said land is to be allotted to six large corporate houses. We can set up as large city as Mumbai on said area of land. The criteria of allotting one thousand acre land should be amended to reduce the area of land. The proposed SEZs should be set up only on non-cultivable waste land, that too in backward states, so that the jobs are created and there is no dispute on land acquisition. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, I have some more points to make. I cannot finish in one minute. I will sit down and I will speak tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude today.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: National Highway Development Programme, as reported in 'Hindu' of dated 16.12.2006.

[English]

"With almost half of the fiscal year ending in a fortnight, the National Highways Authority of India

(NHA) has not been able to award a single kilometer of highway project so far under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model."

[Translation]

means, other two-two and a half years time and a change in the policy, contract for not even a Kilometer stretch has been awarded.

The paper further reports—

[English]

"As per the CCEA decision, the NHA will have to route the BOT projects being implemented under the PPP model to the Public-Private-Partnership Appraisal Committee."

This Committee is headed by the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance and its Members are Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Secretary, Planning Commission, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs and the Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

20.00 hrs.

[Translation]

Golden quadrilateral scheme is an ambitious project, which would have changed the face, of India. The scheme was going on very well, the work was going on very well. The change of entire scheme has been handed over to a Secretary, consequently, consequently the work under said scheme is not going on at the desired pace.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue tomorrow.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Thank you. I will continue tomorrow.

20.01 hrs.

## SPECIAL MENTIONS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I will take 'Zero Hour' mentions. Please be brief so that a number of Members can get chance to speak. There are so many Members who had left the House and they have come back for making mentions in the 'Zero Hour'. Though they were not present when the discussion was going on, they were required to come back for 'Zero Hour'. Very good.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many many thanks. All of us may be aware of recent newspaper reports on the incidents of fratricide in Indian Army, CISF, Navy and other organs of armed forces. Security personnel of our country "resort to fratricide, then who will ensure security of the country? Therefore, my submission is that we should try to find out the basic reason behind it. The present salary being paid to a soldier is inadequate for his sustenance and that is why he remains in tension. He is not able to perform his duties properly he remains in tension. In view of gravity of this matter I would urge the Government to announce a special package for para-military forces as well as armed forces personnel. Simultaneously, their salaries, too, should be hiked. If necessary the salary of Members of Parliament and officers may be reduced to hike the salaries of soldiers who sacrifice their lives to protect us. We must take care of them. Further, armed forces or police personnel deployed in forests in any kind of operation should also be given special package.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. Heavy hailstorms lashed many parts of the country yesterday and today destroying the crops of farmers totally. Recently, 31 districts in my state MP were lashed by hailstorms recently affecting over 500 villages. Yesterday and today, at least 400-500 villages again faced fury of hailstorm causing great damage to farmers. As per the reports received so far, crops in about two-and-a-half lakh hectare area have been destroyed. The State Government has distributed Rs.12 crore among the farmers till date after conducting the survey. Similarly, the situation of drought is prevailing in Madhya Pradesh. 39 Tehsils in nine districts are in the grip of drought. My Lok Sabha Constituency, Satna and Katni are also in the grip of severe drought. Due to this, the problem of potable water has also already emerged over there. In my district, the limit of 100 days has been imposed on employment guarantee scheme. I want that the Union Government should remove the limit of 100 days on Employment Guarantee Scheme. This should not be imposed in districts affected by drought and hailstorm ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not make a lengthy speech.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: My second submission is that natural calamities occur repeatedly and the farmers are distressed due to it. The Union Government is considering 'Tehsil' as unit under Crop Insurance Scheme. I would like to demand that the farmer's field should be considered as unit and loans of farmers should be waived off.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is making a speech. Shri Mahto, you can continue; you can make your submission. Whatever he is saying is not going on record. You need not stop for him.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Sir, while drawing the attention of the House towards the matter of urgent public importance, I would like to state that Progressive Construction Limited (PCL) located in Topchanchi Maddih has been given contract for construction of NH-2 in Dhanbad district in Jharkhand state. The said company has hired services like transportation, diesel and mobile supply from many low-capital local companies, like Shakti Enterprises and Ganesh Automobile etc. but till now PCL has not paid outstanding dues of lakhs of rupees to these companies. As a result of it, the financial condition of these small companies of Jharkhand has crumbled and workers employed in these companies has reached on the verge of starvation. The PCL has committed irregularities worth crores of rupees with other companies beside these companies.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Surface Transport to order probe into irregularities committed by PCL company and payment of outstanding dues should be made without any delay.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kharventhan, where were you? You mention about the language issue only. The only point is that the Madras High Court will transact business in Tamil.

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\*Not recorded.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Hon. Chairman, Sir, Tamil has been declared as one of the classical languages by the Government of India, but till date it has not been given due recognition by the Union Government. There is a long-pending demand for conducting the deliberations of Madras High Court and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court in Tamil. However, the genuine demand of the State is not being given proper heed. Whereas in other States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, U.P., and Rajasthan, the deliberations of the High Courts concerned are being conducted in the regional language, that is, Hindi.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government that the discrimination meted out to the Tamil people should be removed and proceedings of the Madras High Court and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court should be allowed to be conducted in Tamil as in the case of some of the Northern States.

I would request the Government to take necessary steps to implement Tamil as the language of the Madras High Court and Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you not want to change the name of the Court? Now, it is 'Madras High Court'. Do you not want to change the name to 'Chennai High Court'? You only want that the proceedings should be conducted in Tamil. What about the name?

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is still Madras High Court. You do not want to change it as 'Tamil Nadu High Court', and you only want the proceedings in Tamil language.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, heavy rainfall in recent times in different parts of our country caused serious damage to the standing crops of potatoes, vegetables, and so on. The paddy growers of West Bengal are facing serious crisis over huge crop losses. This year, before harvesting, the paddy in thousands and thousands of acres of paddy growing lands got destroyed by *dosha* disease. Heavy rainfall again added more losses.

I urge upon the Agriculture Ministry of the Union Government to extend necessary financial assistance to the State Government in this regard and come out with

a proposal to waive off all the interest on the agricultural loans given to the affected paddy growers and to convert short-term loan into long-term loan at the earliest.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): I would request my Tamil Nadu brethren not to agitate when I raise this issue. Sir, the condition of the Mullaperiyar Dam is critically unsafe. It was built 110 years ago with *sukthri* and lime. There are major cracks in the Mullaperiyar Dam. The other day, the newspapers have published a photograph...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the level has come down.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: When the level has come down, there are major cracks in the Mullaperiyar Dam. This is the photograph published in the newspapers regarding cracks in the Dam. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not worry; let him say what he wants to say.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: When the water level has gone down to 110 feet, the cracks are seen, and the condition below the level, we assume, is more grave.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter was discussed so many times.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: At that time, the water level was very high.

At that time the water level was high. Even though the hon. Minister of Science and Technology had stated that Mullaperiyar dam is in 'Seismic Zone-2, scientists are of the opinion that Mullaperiyar area is in Seismic Zone-3 which is more prone to earthquakes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a provision in the Kerala Budget for that. You should mention that also.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Yes, Sir. In this area, earthquakes up to the intensity of 6.5 on the Richter Scale can take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have mentioned about the photograph and all that. You should mention the provision made in Kerala Budget. That is important.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: An earthquake of 6.5 on the Richter Scale can cause breakdown of the dam which endangers human habitations in the neighbourhood.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to constitute an expert team to look into the various safety aspects of the dam and alleviate the feeling of insecurity and fear among the people.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I associate myself with this issue and request the Government to take serious note of it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we would like the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to inform the concerned Minister about this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record except Shri Francis George.

*(Interruptions)\* ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That paper is not on record.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, last year when the price of pepper came down drastically, the Ministry of Commerce in the Government of India introduced WTO compatible freight subsidy on pepper and pepper products of Indian origin. The amount sanctioned was Rs.14 crore for exporting 20,000 tonnes of pepper. Per kilogram of pepper Rs.7 of subsidy was declared, that is, Rs.5 for freight and Rs.2 for transport of this product. What happened was, by February of this year, 20,000 tonne-target was achieved but from the corpus fund only an amount of Rs.9.4 crore was utilized. So, there is a balance of Rs.4.6 crore in this particular fund that was allotted. Now what is going to happen? By April this year, I mean by next month, import of pepper from Sri Lanka will start under the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement. Also, the season in Vietnam is just beginning by June. So, there is going to be tremendous competition in the international market for our exporters and internal price of pepper is going to come down again drastically. Now it is up to Rs.120. Formerly, it had come down to Rs.65 and it is again going to crash. So, what I would request the Commerce Minister is that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not come to the demand. The demand is for giving subsidy.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I have already come to my demand. My demand is that this balance amount

of Rs.4.6 crore should be utilized and exports should be allowed to continue. The Government is not going to incur any additional financial burden because already there is this money which is lying unutilized. So, the Government should allow exporters to further export pepper and continue to grant this subsidy up to Rs. 4.6 crore that is still there in the corpus fund. I would earnestly request the Government to do this. I would request the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to kindly convey this matter to the Commerce Minister.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN (Adoor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Kerala had recommended inclusion of Thachar (other than Carpenter) community in the list of SC and Vetar community in the list of ST. The members of these communities have been agitating for their inclusion in SC and ST Lists for the last few years. I have already brought this matter to the notice of the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment twice. In answer to Question No. 1226 dated 15th July, 2004, the hon. Minister had stated that the recommendation of Kerala Government for inclusion of Thachar in the list of SC was received. The Vetar community members under the auspices of Girivarga Vetar Maha Sabha organized Satyagraha in front of Parliament on 5th May, 2003 and 19th December, 2005.

They submitted a memorandum to the President and the Prime Minister of India but still the issue is pending. The demands of these communities are very genuine and their grievances should be redressed.

It is, therefore, requested that the Thachar community should be included in the Scheduled Caste and I would also request the Government that the Vetar community should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

I would request the Government to bring forward necessary constitutional amendment in this regard.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of HRD to the following matter:

The Govt. of India has now proposed to establish three Greenfield IITs under the Eleventh Five Year Plan in three States. Earlier, Orissa was included in this proposal which was also announced by hon. Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development, Shri M.A.A. Fatmi on 28 August, 2006 at Patna. However,

\*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Archana Nayak]

recent news reports states that the Greenfield IITs will be set up in other three States. Surprisingly, Orissa has been excluded.

Previously, the Governing Body of IIT Kharagpur had approved a full fledged campus in Bhubaneswar by upgrading its existing extension center, by spending Rs. 800 to Rs. 900 crore. The proposal is awaiting the clearance of the Ministry of HRD. The State Government has offered 300 acres of land free of cost for this project.

Hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik had written to the hon. Prime Minister for considering Orissa as the location of one of the Greenfield IITs and for expediting the Ministry of HRD's sanction to branch campus of IIT Kharagpur.

At present, rapid industrial growth and boom of Foreign Direct Investment are taking place in Orissa. In this context it is needless to mention that many of the existing and upcoming industries would be able to take the benefit of the presence of an IIT to boost Research and Development activities.

Sir, Orissa lies at the bottom of per capita funding through the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is not at all justified. The establishment of a Greenfield IIT in Orissa along with full branch of IIT Kharagpur shall help in improving this unbalanced position.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government, to take urgent necessary action in the matter.

[Translation]

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Pariyakulam): Akamalai, Melmalai, Highway mists, Kodaikanal Keelmalai are some of the places in my constituency where greatly deprived sections of the society, the poorest of poor tribal people live in pitiable conditions. These tribes living in the forest area are not having a fixed occupation to carry on their livelihood. Non-availability of employment opportunities result in deprivation and their children go without education even primary education. Children, especially girl child are exploited. Scheduled Tribe people living in the interior forests must have protection. Tamil Nadu Government has provided them with TV sets. Union Government must help the State Government to provide these hopeless people job opportunities. Government of Tamil Nadu is giving

them rice at a reduced price. But they need buying power. Under the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' their children must get facilities for primary education. Such meek, simple, dozzle people must get protection and education. They must have education at least upto eighth class and even single teacher schools would suffice for now. They gather the forest products and they must be allowed to sell them under the supervision of forest officials. They are illiterate and are exploited. Providing them with social security is the responsibility of the Centre as they live in Central forests. They do not have electricity. Single point electricity connections can be provided to their dwelling units and Centre must allow the State authorities to carry on this. Their children must have hostel facilities and protection. They must have access to modern society and must be aware of social happenings elsewhere. They must have vocational education training and must get job opportunities in police force by way of giving them education upto plus two level so that they may be helped to become socially useful and really protected. I urge upon the Union Government to protect the interests of tribal people living in my constituency by way of extending further social security measures.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, it needs no mention that terrorist activities along the Indo-Bangladesh border area are on the increase. Considering the graveness of the situations, the Government of India has decided to provide flood lighting along the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal sector for a length of 838 km. in three-priority basis. The Union Government has approved the priority proposal of a length of 277 km. with a target date of completion by 31st December, 2006.

The CPWD created the Indo-Bangladesh Border Flood Lighting Zone at Siliguri. The CPWD had completed the job six months before the targeted date. But I am sorry to say that this Zone is going to be closed on 31st March 2007. While opposing the decision to close the Siliguri Zone, I demand that the entire stretch of 838 kms. of Indo-Bangladesh border be electrified according to the original decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chaudhary Lal Singh. Please be brief—you may only speak about the rain and then stop.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might be aware that at this time my State is

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

reeling under incessant rains and snowfall. Due to which 5 pilgrims on their way to Mata Vaishno Devi shrine have been killed and a ponneywallah alongwith pilgrims has also been killed. Besides that, one person in Kashmir and one person in Kahara has also been killed. I mean to say that at present, total road connectivity, by local road and national highway to my region has been totally lost. National Highway in Panthal is closed. The connectivity to Kashmir has been lost. Last time, when roads were closed, the Government of India provided a great help, the Defence Minister deployed some choppers to supply ration. I would like to suggest that choppers should be deployed at places where connectivity has been lost, particularly on national highways, because around one thousand visitors have been stranded there, three days have elapsed and the food supply has been exhausted. The situation will deteriorate further. Through you, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister should pay serious consideration to it. Alongwith it, attention is also required to be paid towards loss of crops and houses which have been devastated.

*[English]*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): I would like to bring to the notice of the House, a very important matter. Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited, KMML and Travancore Titanium Products, TTP, fully owned public sector undertakings of Kerala Government are together producing about 66,000 metric tonnes of rutile grade Titanium Dioxide pigment annually. The two companies are adversely affected due to import of low priced rutile grade pigment from countries where MNCs are having manufacturing facilities. Due to this import, domestic price has come to a level lower than the domestic production cost which has adversely affected the marketing of Titanium Dioxide pigment by Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited. In the Budget, the import duty has been reduced to ten per cent which will further aggravate the position and the above said Kerala State Government undertakings will find it difficult to survive. I, therefore, urge the Government to reconsider the import duty reduction on rutile grade Titanium Dioxide pigments.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): I was deeply pained to read a news item that the big corporate chain of hospitals like MAX Health Care Hospitals, have taken a decision to recruit foreign doctors, nurses and technicians. Their team would go to England, Australia and other developed countries to recruit doctors and

nurses. World over, there is a tremendous respect for the efficiency and skill of Indian doctors. Indian nurses are respected all over the world for their hard work, skill, dedication and devotion, especially our sisters from your State of Kerala, Sir. People from other countries come to India to get their by-pass surgeries, transplantation and other complicated surgeries done here in this country because Indian doctors are very skilled and the cost is very low. We do not understand, when we have a large number of doctors, Indian nurses and other personnel who are unemployed or under-employed on a meager salary, how can these corporate hospitals, where the Government has allowed FDI to pour in, take a decision to recruit the white-coloured doctors and white-coloured nurses?

So, I would request the Government, through you, to kindly see that our technicians, even if the corporate hospitals think that they are not up to the mark, are employed and trained for a year or so, so that they can come at par with any of the foreign technician. I would request you to kindly intervene in the matter.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, yesterday, several hundreds of freedom fighters from the erstwhile Hyderabad State, known as Telangana Freedom Fighters, had come to Delhi and organized a *dharna* demanding that their pensions should immediately be sanctioned. It is a matter of serious concern for the entire nation and a matter of shame to the Government that our freedom fighters, who have fought for the liberation of our country, are coming after several years requesting for their pensions. Sir, about 10 years back, the previous Government had appointed a Hyderabad State Freedom Fighters Special Screening Committee, which recommended 13,500 cases 27,000 applications were rejected. But unfortunately, even though the UPA Government has taken a political decision to sanction these freedom fighters' pension, the bureaucratic officers are withholding it. Several hundreds of them have died in between. It is a very unfortunate situation. I demand that the Government of India should immediately intervene and see to it that pension of those freedom fighters, whose names have been recommended earlier by the Screening Committee, should immediately be sanctioned.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, yesterday, thousands of bank officers and employees from

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

all over the country had staged a demonstration before the Parliament on their demand for providing one more option of pension in banking industry. The warning of bringing the banking industry to a halt for 7 days from March 28 has been issued. If the Government do not relent, more than 10 lakh bank employees will go on indefinite strike from May 3. the economy of the entire country is likely to crumble by the said strike. Earlier, the Government has given the option of pension, but at the time, the provision was made to deprive the employees of pension in the event of their going on strike, but later on this provision was withdrawn. In view of the said amendment, more than 52 per cent employees of commercial banks have been deprived of the option of pension. The newly recruited officers and employees in banking industry are getting benefit of option of pension. A large amount was deposited in pension fund after the seventh and eighth wage agreement in banking industry, the share was of those employees who have not opted for pension. The Government has been in a state of indecisiveness on the demand of option for pension due to the said decision. The Reserve Bank of India had given many opportunities of choosing the option after implementation of pension scheme, but commercial banks denied it, and the Government is following British policy of divide and rule. The employees and officers had also staged a nationwide token strike on 28th October, 2006 in this regard, but the Government did not give any positive response due to its adamant attitude.

Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Finance to give sympathetic consideration to their demand so that the people of country may not face any kind of interruption in banking services, because some employees are getting pension and some employees who could not avail this option due to participation in strike, this option should be made available to them. Therefore, all bank employees of the country should be given option of pension.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): I associate myself with this matter.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to say one thing. The very same point which you are going to raise, namely, the need to conduct the work of Madras High Court in Tamil. You can associate with him. There is no need of making a long submission.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, millions of Tamils have been yearning that Tamil should also become the language of the Madras High Court. The Resolution moved by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi for introduction of Tamil in orders, decrees and other proceedings of the Madras High Court was passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly. The Government of Tamil Nadu sent a proposal to the Government of India for its consent authorizing use of Tamil in Madras High Court.

The Official Languages Act, 1963 permits use of official language of the State, in addition to the English language, for the purpose of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for the State. In the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the use of official language of those States has been authorized in all the proceedings of the High Courts of those States. In regard to Tamil Nadu, a discrimination is being made.

The use of Tamil as the language of the Madras High Court is not exclusive, but in addition to English language.

Introduction of Tamil language will not, in any way, prohibit use of English language, in proceedings and/or orders. Also, any order passed in Tamil shall always be accompanied by an official English translation. There will, thus, be no difficulty in hearing or passing of orders by the Judges of Tamil Nadu High Court. It would be unconstitutional to say that in the High Courts, only the English language shall be used.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak the whole thing.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): The people of Tamil Nadu expect that Tamil Nadu should be treated on an equal footing with Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in so far as the application of Article 348(2) of the Constitution of India read with Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 is concerned. I urge upon the Union Government to permit use of Tamil language in proceedings and orders of Madras High Court.

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): I would like to raise the following matter of urgent public importance under zero hour submission.

While thanking the hon. Railway Minister for creating a new Salem Division, I would request him to kindly make it functional immediately by providing allocation of more funds for this Division. I request him to kindly pay attention to the following projects also:

- Salem-Karur gauge conversion work may be expedited and an announcement regarding the likely date of completion may be announced.
- 'Garib Rath' to Chennai which departs New Delhi on Mondays may be re-scheduled to depart from New Delhi either on Friday or on Saturday; and its frequency may also be increased to at least twice a week.
- POET machine may be provided at Namakkal Railway Station.
- Extend the EQ ticket release facility to North-bound trains also.
- Connecting bridge may be constructed in Salem-Karur section, especially at Namakkal.
- Mobile hospital facility may be provided on all trains by nominating a Doctor in all trains.
- Lift facilities for senior citizens and disabled persons at Coimbatore, Erode and Salem Railway Stations.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, thousands of blind and handicapped people are now getting jobs in the Indian Railways by operating the public telephone booths. But recently, it appears that the Government has taken a different view to tender all these booths so that only big corporate and big people will come. All the small people like the handicapped persons will not get the benefit of reservation.

So, I would urge upon the Government to review this policy and continue with the old policy of giving telephone booths in the premises of the Railway Stations, platforms as well as in the nearby areas to the physically handicapped persons including the blind. Otherwise, all these people and their families will be doomed. Many of them have taken loans from banks. So, it will be completely washed away unless the Government takes an immediate decision to rehabilitate them by giving them further extension and also to see that the big corporate are not allowed to compete with such poor people.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I associate myself with this demand.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): In a recent study conducted by the HRD Ministry revealed the alarming situation prevailing in the entire country related to the drop out rate of girl students. The drop out rate of girls at 10th standard is 63.88 per cent. Various factors contribute to this serious situation. Even after 60 years of our Independence vast number of villages are not having facilities for high school education compelling parents to send their children to far flung areas for schools. Parents are reluctant to send the girl children to far away places. Lack of infrastructure facilities is also the reason for the drop out. It is a fact that most of the schools do not even have urinals.

The Government must take measures to develop infrastructure and increase public spending on education. Although the Common Minimum Programme assures of increase in the public spending in the education sector to 6 per cent of the GDP, this target could not be achieved so far. Therefore the Government should seriously consider increasing the public spending and develop infrastructure particularly in the rural areas.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Under Article 348(2) of our Constitution and also under Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, the High Courts in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been permitted to have proceedings conducted and pronouncements delivered in the official another language of their High Court. A Resolution on 6th of December last was unanimously passed in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly to introduce Tamil language also in the proceedings of Madras High Court. His Excellency, the Governor of Tamil Nadu has given his accord to this and has forwarded this to His Excellency, the President of India for his approval. The High Court of Madras has also notionally accepted this. Madras High Court has indicated that Tamil will also be a court language after its being assented to by the President of India. At this juncture, the Union Government has sent a letter to Tamil Nadu denying permission to have Tamil also as a language of the High Court of Madras thereby rejecting the unanimous Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]

Tamil Nadu. This is highly improper and inappropriate. I would like to point out that the Tamil Nadu Assembly Resolution clearly points out that English will continue to be the court language in addition to Tamil, the classical and national language. The sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu to have High Court judgements in Tamil must be respected. The accused and the litigants connected in the cases and the ordinary citizens have a right to listen to the proceedings and have access to the judgements concerning their lives. In order to uphold the rights of those people of India living in Tamil Nadu, the Union Government may initiate suitable steps to obtain the Presidential nod making Tamil also a court language of Madras High Court.

[English]

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (Katwa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

The problems of erosion in the river basin areas have become a serious concern in our country. Every year, there are incidents of flooding by rivers like the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, Damodar and other major rivers and cause havoc. In the last few years we witnessed incidents of unprecedented floods which rendered innumerable people homeless and swallowed villages after villages. The conditions of the people affected by flood are deplorable and they suffer from a great deal of distress. The places like Katwa, Kalna, Tamaghata, Dangapara, Kalinagar, Mayapur, Nabadwip, Balagarh in the State of West Bengal are the worst affected areas. Owing to erosion due to floods, every year, geographical location of the Samudragarh railway station is dangerously getting shifted. Thousands of people in the area living in an atmosphere of uncertainty. Keeping in view the enormity and seriousness of the problem of erosion of the banks of the rivers like the Ganges, the Brahmaputra, the Government should treat this as a national problem and take immediate steps to redress the issue.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government especially the Railway Ministry. My Parliamentary constituency, Bellary has been totally neglected by the Railways. Though the Railways are getting a revenue of about Rs. 1500 crore from Bellary, the interests of the people of the area have been neglected and they are facing a lot of difficulty. There is a train, namely the Amti Express, running between Hubli and Bangalore. I would

like to request the Ministry of Railways for giving two more general compartments, five more sleeper coaches and two three-tier coaches.

Sir, I would also like to request that the Guntukkul-Gadak Passenger train which passes through Bellary, the timing of the train before gauge conversion was 7.35 a.m, but now the train departs Bellary at 5.20 a.m thus causing a great deal of inconvenience to the passengers. Everyday almost 300 people travel by that train.

Sir, I would also like to request the hon. Minister to run a train between Chennai to Mumbai *via* Bellary and from Mumbai to Chennai *via* Bellary.

I would also like to mention one important thing here. The LC-110 passes through the National Highway 63. Now, 90 per cent of the schools are located in that area and most of the times, the gates of the railway crossing are closed which is causing a great deal of inconvenience for the school children in particular. So, I would like to request the Government to construct a road over bridge in the area.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways that there has been a demand for the construction of two major bridges across river Godavari which would help connect the missing gaps on the National Highways in the area. Actually these projects were initiated in the year 1977 during the regime of the Janata Government. One of them is the construction of a major bridge across the river Godavari and realignment of NH-202 from Eturnagaram to Andhra Pradesh border at a cost of Rs. 150 crore. The second one is the construction of a major bridge across Godavari at KM. 135/2-8 of Nizamabad-Jagdalpur Road of NH-16 at a cost of Rs. 25 crore.

As this is a backward area, this will create communication and transport facilities and hence, I demand the Government to sanction these two bridges across River Godavari.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through this august House, I would like to raise a very important matter before you. The Anganwadi workers

from the entire country had staged 'dharna' and demonstration at Jantar-Mantar. Their main demand was that they should be given the status of a Government servant. Their second demand was that the workers should not be given honorarium, but salary of Rs. 5000, and AMN should be given salary of Rs. 3000. Beside that, ASHA is recruited from outside, but these people are demanding that the post of ASHA should be filled by promoting these people. All employees in Government service get benefit of PF. Now, while taking part in the discussion on budget, Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan has also made a mention of it. These AMNs work with full dedication. They teach SC/ST children living in slums. Therefore, through you I would like to demand from the Government that while accepting the demands of Anganwadi workers who have staged dharna' and demonstration at Jantar Manar, they should be given status of Government employee in this budget or supplementary budget and should be given salary at par with Government employees.

*[English]*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I would like to associate with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those who are present and those who could not be present can also associate with him. But you should leave slips at the Table that you are associating with him on this issue.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajnagar): Hon. Speaker, Sir, today I would like to raise a very important burning

issue, that is, the acute scarcity of LPG and kerosene oil in my constituency Chamarajnagar.

My home district and also my Parliamentary constituency Chamaraj Nagar is the most backward district in the country in respect of health, literacy and employment. 36 per cent of the total population is living below the poverty line. Going by the Human Development Index Chamaraj Nagar ranks 25th out of 28 districts in Karnataka. Now-a-days, people of my constituency are facing difficulties due to non-availability of LPG cylinder and kerosene oil in Chamaraj Nagar town and surrounding villages respectively. There are 1 lakh 20 thousand people living in Chamaraj Nagar town itself, but there has been only one Bharat Gas Agency in the town for the last 20 years. That single gas agency is not able to meet the demands of the increasing population. So, I request the Government to provide four more gas agencies to Chamaraj Nagar town and also take necessary steps to supply adequate quantity of kerosene to villages in Chamaraj Nagar district. With this, I conclude my speech. Thank you, Sir.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 14th of March, 2007.

20.44 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Wednesday, March 14, 2007/  
Phalgun 23, 1928 (Saka)*

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

## ANNEXURE I

*Member-wise Index to Starred Questions*

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	206
2.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	207
3.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	205
4.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	212
5.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	213
6.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	220
7.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	201
8.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	212
9.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	209
10.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	216
11.	Shri Dhindsa, Sukhdev Singh	208
12.	Smt. Dutt, Priya	219
13.	Smt. Jayaprada	204
14.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	205
15.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	213
16.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	203
17.	Shri Nandy, Amitava	217
18.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	201
19.	Shri Pannian Ravindran	210
20.	Smt. Patil, Rupatai Dillprao Nilangakar	215
21.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	218
22.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	220
23.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	204
24.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	203
25.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	218
26.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	214
27.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	202
28.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	202
29.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	219
30.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	211
31.	Shri Yadav, Girdhari	216

*Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions*

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	1917
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao, V.	1898, 1956, 1967, 1982, 2007
3.	Dr. Agarwal, Dharendra	1895, 1965
4.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	1837, 1927, 1986, 2008, 2017
5.	Shri Argal, Ashok	1985
6.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	1864, 1977, 2044
7.	Shri Baitha, Kailash	1850, 1937
8.	Shri Barad, Jasubhai Dhanabhai	1873, 1892, 1925, 2038
9.	Shri Barman, Hiten	1911, 1974, 2034
10.	Shri Barman, Ranen	1900, 1992
11.	Shri Basu, Anil	1891
12.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	1842, 1931, 2011
13.	Shri Bellarmin, A.V.	1905
14.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	1896
15.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	1860, 1969, 2000, 2015
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	1915, 1978, 2005, 2016, 2038
17.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	1947
18.	Shri Bose, Subrata	1839, 1928
19.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	2021
20.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	1940

1	2	3
21.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	1950
22.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	1895, 1965
23.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	1899
24.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	1879, 1883, 2025
25.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	1940, 1990, 2042
26.	Shri Deora, Milind	1849, 1873, 1939
27.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	1944, 1999, 2014, 2044
28.	Shri Dhotre, Sanjay	1844, 1945
29.	Shri Dubey Chandra Sekhar	1921
30.	Smt. Dutt, Priya	1943
31.	Shri Fanthome, Francis	1919
32.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	2018
33.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	2000
34.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	1953, 2013
35.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	1863, 1892, 1981, 1994
36.	Smt. Gawali, Bhavana P.	1844, 1945
37.	Shri Gupta, Shyama Charan	1916
38.	Ch. Hassan, Munawar	1871, 1972, 2002
39.	Shri Hooda, Deepender Singh	2038, 2044
40.	Shri Hussain, Anwar	1861, 1941
41.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	1913
42.	Smt. Jayaprada	1929, 1993, 2011
43.	Shri Jha, Ragunath	2013, 2023
44.	Shri Jindal, Naveen	1840

1	2	3
45.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	1846, 1968
46.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	1923, 1983
47.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	1865, 2026
48.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	1841, 1935
49.	Shri Khaventhana, S.K.	1833, 1936, 1972
50.	Shri Koshal, Raghuvveer Singh	1930
51.	Dr. Koya, P.P.	2020
52.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	1924
53.	Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	1884, 1958
54.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	1879, 2025
55.	Shri Kumar, Sajjan	1964
56.	Shri Kumar, Shalendra	1873, 1892, 1925, 2029, 2038
57.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	1856
58.	Shri Kuppasami, C.	1855
59.	Adv. Kurup, Suresh	1907
60.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	1872
61.	Shri Mahato, Narahari	1906
62.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	1854, 1980, 2046
63.	Shri Mahto, Tek Lal	1904
64.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	1916
65.	Prof. Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	1863, 1960, 1971
66.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	1836, 2030
67.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	1875, 1953, 2013, 2039
68.	Dr. Manoj, K.S.	1922, 2013

1	2	3
69.	Shri Marandi, Sudam	1859
70.	Shri Masood, Rasheed	1866, 1964, 2036
71.	Shri Meghwal, Kallash	1878, 1955, 1994, 2012
72.	Shri Mehta Bhubheshwar Prasad	1857
73.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	1872, 2027
74.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	1889
75.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	1949
76.	Shri Mondal, Abu Ayes Mondal	1862
77.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	1843, 1933
78.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	1886
79.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	1894, 1963
80.	Shri Nandy, Amitava	1948, 2037
81.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	1914, 1978, 1984
82.	Shri Oram, Jual	1851, 1938
83.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	1869, 1970, 2040, 2045
84.	Shri Pallani Shamy, K.C.	1835, 1918, 1926, 1989, 2010
85.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	1856, 1976, 2004, 2030
86.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	1971
87.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	1899
88.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	1867, 1881, 1956, 1995, 2013
89.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	1949
90.	Shri Patle, Shishupal N.	1949, 1991
91.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	1882, 1957, 1996

1	2	3
92.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	1873, 1892, 1925, 2029, 2038
93.	Shri Prakash, Jai	1856
94.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	1888, 2022
95.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	1910, 2032
96.	Shri Rai, Nakul Das	2019, 2041
97.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	1856, 1874, 1896, 1966, 2033
98.	Prof. Ramadass, M.	2038
99.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	1838, 1962
100.	Shri Rao, K.S.	1870, 2001, 1971
101.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	1874, 1952
102.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	1845, 1993
103.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	1880
104.	Shri Rawat, Asok Kumar	1876
105.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	1834, 1914, 1942
106.	Shri Reddy, K.J.S.P.	1877, 1954
107.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	1912, 1975
108.	Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	1909
109.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	1950
110.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	1888
111.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	1860
112.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	1848, 1932, 1987, 2048
113.	Adv. Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	1856, 1918
114.	Shri Sathyanarayana, Sarvey	1890
115.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	1946

1	2	3
116.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	1886
117.	Shri Sivajirao, Adhairao Patil	1898, 1956, 1967, 1982, 2007
118.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	1949, 1991
119.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	1893
120.	Smt. Sikdar, Jyotirmoyee	2024
121.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	1897, 1979, 2006, 2047
122.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2028
123.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	1953, 2013
124.	Shri Singh, Mohan	1903
125.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	1858
126.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	1920, 2031
127.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	1867, 1881, 1956, 1985, 1995
128.	Shri Singh, Uday	1883
129.	Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	1872
130.	Shri Subba, M.K.	1941, 1975
131.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	1852

1	2	3
132.	Shri Surendan, Chengara	2006
133.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	1901, 1951, 2035
134.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	1887
135.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	1960, 1971
136.	Shri Tripathy Braja Kishore	1853, 1961, 1998, 2043, 2049
137.	Shri Vallabhaneni, Balashowry	1860, 1885, 1959, 1997, 2038
138.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kaidas	1872, 2000
139.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	1868, 1899, 1982, 2007, 2041
140.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	1934, 1988, 2009, 2030
141.	Shri Yadav, Mitrasen	1902
142.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	1847
143.	Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud	1908, 1973, 2003
144.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	2024

## ANNEXURE II

*Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions*

<i>Agro and Rural Industries</i>	212
<i>Commerce and Industry</i>	213
<i>Home Affairs</i>	201, 205, 207, 208
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	202, 204, 210, 211, 215, 217, 218, 219, 220
<i>Mines</i>	206, 209
<i>Small Scale Industries</i>	
<i>Tetiles</i>	216
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>	203, 214
<i>Women and Child Development</i>	

*Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions*

<i>Agro and Rural Industries</i>	1833, 1842, 1846, 1847, 1866, 1900, 1906, 1924, 1928, 1931, 1937, 1952
<i>Commerce and Industry</i>	1835, 1838, 1840, 1841, 1848, 1852, 1854, 1861, 1862, 1865, 1867, 1870, 1872, 1875, 1878, 1882, 1885, 1890, 1894, 1895, 1897, 1901, 1903, 1907, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1930, 1938, 1939, 1947, 1954, 1955, 1958, 1961, 1965, 1968, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1983, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1996, 1998, 2015, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2034, 2037, 2039, 2042, 2047
<i>Home Affairs</i>	1844, 1849, 1850, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1863, 1864, 1871, 1873, 1879, 1881, 1883, 1886, 1889, 1892, 1908, 1917, 1925, 1929, 1934, 1935, 1941, 1943, 1948, 1951, 1960, 1963, 1964, 1969, 1971, 1977, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1994, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2016, 2019, 2025, 2036, 2041
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	1837, 1843, 1845, 1853, 1876, 1899, 1902, 1927, 1936, 1944, 1950, 1953, 1956, 1957, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1995, 2003, 2012, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2026, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2035, 2038, 2040, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2048

<i>Mines</i>	1851, 1904, 1905, 1909, 1921, 1978, 1990, 1999, 2001, 2017
<i>Small Scale Industries</i>	2005, 2014
<i>Textiles</i>	1834, 1836, 1839, 1855, 1869, 1887, 1888, 1891, 1893, 1898, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1919, 1926, 1932, 1933, 1940, 1945, 1946, 1949, 1959, 1962, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1979, 1980, 1991, 1997, 2009
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>	1874, 1877, 1880, 1884
<i>Women and Child Development</i>	1856, 1860, 1868, 1896, 1910, 1942, 1972, 1973, 1982, 2007, 2011, 2013, 2024, 2049

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