

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

Acc. No. R
Dated 24/3/25

(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

324

Use by that

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Anand B. Kulkarni
Joint Secretary

Sharda Prasad
Principal Chief Editor

Kiran Sahni
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Ajit Singh Yadav
Editor

S.S. Chauhan
Manisha Tewari
Assistant Editors

ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE
§ AUTHORITY AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. III, Second Session, 2004/1926 (Saka)]

No. 12, Tuesday, July 20, 2004/Asadha 29, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question No. 202	6-10
-WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 203-221	10-51
Unstarred Question Nos. 1736-1880	51-302
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	303-319
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA	319-320
RULES COMMITTEE	
First Report	320
MOTION RE: SUSPENSION OF RULE 331	321
MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE	321
PRESENTATION OF PETITION	322
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	322-329
(i) Need to take steps to preview the programmes of private T.V. channels with a view to eliminate airing of objectionable and vulgar shows	
Shrimati D. Purandeswari	322
(ii) Need to provide financial assistance to the government of Tamil Nadu to solve the problem of scarcity of drinking water in Palani Parliamentary Constituency	
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	323
(iii) Need to grant funds from the Sagar-Mala scheme for the development of Kakinada Port and its surroundings	
Shri M.M. Pallam Raju	323-324
(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to the government of Andhra Pradesh for extending help to the FCV tobacco cultivators	
Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao	324

*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	COLUMNS
(v) Need to look into the problem of increasing incidents of desertion of girls from Punjab married to Non-Resident Indians Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	324-325
(vi) Need to declare Rajasthan as a special category State and provide funds for its development Shri Dushyant Singh	325
(vii) Need to conduct a fresh survey to identify people living below poverty line in Rajasthan Shri Ramswaroop Koli	325
(viii) Need to take steps to check the menace of Sickle Cell and Thalassemia disease in Maharashtra Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	326
(ix) Need to set up an Information Technology Development Park at Madurai, Tamil Nadu Shri P. Mohan	326-327
(x) Need to provide financial assistance to the government of Uttar Pradesh for development of tourism at Estate Charkhari in Mahoba Shri Rajnarayan Budholia	327
(xi) Need to send a Central team to Bihar to assess the damage caused by recent floods and provide relief to the affected people Shri Anirudh Prasad alias Sadhu Yadav	327
(xii) Need to set up a Rashtriya Gramin Bank in the Public Sector for the benefit of rural people Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat	327-328
(xiii) Need to increase the pension payable to the retired employees under Workers' E.P.F. Pension Scheme Shri C. Kuppusami	328
(xiv) Need to undertake construction of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line via Sonpeth in Maharashtra Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil	329
(xv) Need to ensure that the Tea estate workers and coolies of Valparai hill area in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu are paid increased daily wages at Rs. 82 per day Dr. C. Krishnan	329
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER	
Business of the House	330
GENERAL BUDGET 2004-2005—GENERAL DISCUSSION	
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) 2004-2005	
AND	
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) 2001-2002	341-430, 433-592
Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair	343-346
Shri Harin Pathak	346-358
Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	358-364

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	364-372
Shri Prasanna Acharya	372-381
Shri Brajesh Pathak	381-383
Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa	383-387
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'	387-390
Shri H.D. Devegowda	391-403
Shri P. Karunakaran	403-409
Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri	409-421
Shri Ajay Maken	422-427
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	427-433
Shri Omar Abdullah	433-438
Shri Narendra Kumar Kushawaha	438-439
Shri E.G. Sugavanam	439-442
Shri S. Bangarappa	442-446
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	446-453
Prof. M. Ramadass	453-459
Shri P.A. Sangma	459-467
Dr. M. Jagannath	468-472
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	472-476
Shri L. Ganesan	477-481
Shri Kharabela Swain	481-486
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	487-491
Shrimati Archana Nayak	491-492
Shri Shailendra Kumar	493-494
Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala	494-497
Shri Prakash Paranjpe	497-500
Shri Mitrasen Yadav	500-502
Shrimati Karuna Shukla	502-504
Shri Alok Kumar Mehta	504-507
Shri Lonappan Nambadan	507-509
Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma	509-513
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	513-514
Shri Joachim Baxla	514-515
Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma	515-518
Shri R. Prabhu	519-521
Shri Paras Nath Yadav	521-523
Ms. Mehbooba Mufti	523-529
Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas	529-533

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Jai Prakash	533-534
Shri Lal Mani Prasad	534-536
Shrimati Pratibha Singh	536-539
Shri Suresh Angadi	539-540
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	540-544
Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale	544-548
Shri Pradeep Gandhi	548-551
Shri Anwar Hussain	552-554
Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	554-558
Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil	558-560
Dr. Sebastian Paul	560
Shri Santosh Gangwar	561-564
Shri K. Francis George	564-567
Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen	567-571
Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya	571-573
Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	573-574
Prof. Chander Kumar	575-576
Shri G. Karunakara Reddy	576-578
Shri Manjunath Kunnur	578-582
Shri Manoranjan Bhakta	582-584
Dr. K.S. Manoj	584-586
Shri Harisinh Chavda	586-587
Dr. Karan Singh Yadav	587-588
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	588-590
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	590-592

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Decision taken by the Executive Committee of the NCERT on the report of the panel of eminent historians on the text books of history

Shri Arjun Singh	431-432
------------------------	---------

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	593-594
Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	594-598

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	599-600
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	599-600

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Shri Chamjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal

Shri Giridhar Gamang

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

Shri Ajay Maken

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan

Shri Arjun Sethi

Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah

Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri G.C. Malhotra

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 20, 2004/Asadha 29, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 202, Shri Adhir Choudhary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): A crucial situation has come up in the country.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, has Patna High Court sent you a letter stating that warrants have been issued against a Cabinet Minister? I have read this news in two-three newspapers
...(Interruptions). What decision you have taken on that letter?

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is the need of getting of much excited right from morning itself.

[English]

It is Question Hour. Questions are to be put to the Minister and not to the Chair. You know that very well. You are asking me questions. What can I do?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not follow the bad example of your leader.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have no objection. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is good to be a little humorous.

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I am following you.

MR. SPEAKER: You are one of the most illustrious Members of this House. I know that. I am only saying that if I had an announcement to make, I would have made it. Therefore, please allow the Question Hour.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We are asking for information. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Personally, I have not got any information.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir continuance of Shri Shibu Soren as a Minister, though arrest warrant has been issued against him, is a matter of shame for the country. ...*(Interruptions)* The image of our country is getting tarnished within the country and abroad also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It has gone on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to say. The statement of others will not be recorded. Only the observation of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief, so that the Question Hour can be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know what message will go to the people when police takes a Minister into custody and carries him from here as warrant for arrest has been issued against him and he is absconding and the police are on a look out for him whereas neither the Prime Minister nor the Leader of the House have made the position clear in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You have made your point.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The question is not of making the point. We would like to know what is happening.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir can such a person continue to be a Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is 20 years old case. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the Chair allows some hon. Member to speak, nobody's statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow this. Please do not do this. Do not show any document. It is not permitted. You cannot take this House for granted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, you have made your point. It has gone on record. I have allowed it to be recorded. I cannot compel the hon. Prime Minister to remove or appoint any Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

11.06 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you go to your seats, I will give you chance during Zero-hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the hon. Ministers are happy because they do not have to answer Questions. I am appealing to you all. They are happy that they do not have to answer Questions. Please go back to your seats. Please allow the House to run.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. I am not going to adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats, I will give you chance during Zero-Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very forcefully. Now, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I have said it already.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, I will now go to the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now go to your seats. You have made your point.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Now you go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now 15 minutes are over and time has come to raise your point. Now you go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough. Now all of you go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised your point

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am enjoying all the new slogans made by you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You have been speaking for the last half an hour. For how long you would keep speaking.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised your point and I have noted it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you go to your seat. You asked for five minutes whereas you have taken half-on-hour. Now go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, please start Question-hour.
...(Interruptions)

11.26 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Master Plan for Delhi

+

*202. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce a new master plan for Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the date by which the new master plan is likely to be introduced;

(c) the changes incorporated in the new master plan;

(d) whether the Union Government has also constituted a Committee to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan to make the capital slum free along with the terms of reference thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Master Plan for Delhi is a comprehensive document for the development of the city

which is notified in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Development Act, 1957. It regulates the development of building activity in different urban sectors of Delhi.

The first Master Plan of Delhi was notified in the year 1962, which was extensively modified by the Master Plan for Delhi-2001, notified in August, 1990. This Master Plan for Delhi 2001 is presently in operation.

The Delhi Development Authority has initiated the process of revising the Master Plan for Delhi-2001, with a perspective upto the year 2021, in consultation with the concerned experts and professionals in different fields, various service providers and representatives of the departments of Government of Delhi, non-governmental organizations and local bodies etc. The Delhi Development Authority has been advised to submit the draft of the Master Plan for Delhi 2021 for consideration of the Government, by the end of this year.

(d) and (e) The Government has separately constituted on June 24, 2004, a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, Delhi Development Authority to prepare an Action Plan for making Delhi slum free by way of relocation/rehabilitation of slum dwellers within the existing policy frame-work and within a time frame of 5 years.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, the city of Delhi which has been designated as the National Capital Territory has been widely recognised as the political capital of India. ...*(Interruptions)* It is analogous to the commercial capital Mumbai, and cultural capital Kolkata. Since Independence, fresh waves of population have been pouring into this city resulting in an inexplicable burden on the existing infrastructure. ...*(Interruptions)*

May I ask the hon. Minister whether the New Master Plan has proposed Delhi to be converted into an urban zone? If so, the villagers with no income other than their agricultural produce will not be able to contribute in terms of taxes and other user charges. ...*(Interruptions)* Part (b) of my question is—how many Industrial units have been shifted from the city's non-conforming areas and how many industrial areas from the capital region have been proposed to be reallocated? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, the whole of Delhi is not expected to be declared as an urban zone. The total area of Delhi is 148300 hectares out of which the

built up urban area in 2001 had been 70000 hectares. The proposed urban area up to 2021 is going to be an additional 27000 hectares. ...*(Interruptions)* So, a total of 97000 hectares will be urbanised by 2021. The remaining area of 51300 hectares will still remain green out of which 32300 hectares will be rural area and about 19000 hectares will be in the ridge etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Half an hour has already passed. You have made your point. Go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, insofar as the second part of the question is concerned, the total number of plots allotted is 17176; the total number of industrial units which are supposed to be shifted is 40000. According to the Supreme Court direction, the last date for shifting the industrial units is 7th of September this year. The Delhi Government is closely monitoring the shifting of industrial units. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Sir, for the last three years the New Master Plan has been a boiling controversy. A stern administrator, the former Urban Development Minister, has been removed from the post because he did not bow down to the pressures and pulls of the land sharks and the land mafia in Delhi and illegal constructions have been going on unabated in the city. ...*(Interruptions)*

May I ask the hon. Minister as to whether the existing building by-laws are enough to prevent the land mafia from constructing illegal buildings, etc.? ...*(Interruptions)*

What is the Disaster Management Plan? Has any Disaster Management Plan been prepared in the new Master Plan in view of the location of Delhi which is situated in the earthquake-prone zone?

[Translation]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: So far as the issue of land Mafia raised by hon. Member is concerned, I would like to say that the Government are not going to be under pressure of such mafia. Whatever the Government consider right in public interests viz. for re-location of slums or constructing flyovers for development of Delhi, will be done. Wherever, the need for land acquisition arises, the Government would take appropriate steps and will not bow to any boy's pressure. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Alok Kumar Mehta.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether Master Plan of Delhi and big cities like it provide for resettlement of people staying in slums, before their removal. If so, whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard and whether the facilities and alternative land to be provided to them will be adequate. For example, hon. V.P. Singh led Government had made a provision for allotting 25 or 35 feet land to such people for resettlement whereas NDA Govt. made provision of 12½ feet land which is even inadequate for constructing a toilet. Whether the Government propose to allot them more land and provide more facilities. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the alternative site likely to be provided by the Government for resettlement of such people, will have all the facilities like electricity, water and roads. The Government policy is that affected persons prior to 1990 will be allotted a plot of 18 meters and those prior to 1998 will be allotted 12½ meters land. 90 per cent expenses on it will be borne by the Central Government and State Government and allottees will have to pay only Rs. 5000 ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, only two Master Plans have been prepared since our independence. One in 1962 and the other one in 1990 and the responsibility for preparing next Master Plan has been handed over to DDA. As per an estimate, 40 per cent people in Delhi live in slums, 40 per cent in non-regularised colonies and 15-20 per cent in regularised colonies. The population of Delhi is increasing constantly. I would like to ask the hon. Minister about the average annual increase in the population of Delhi. How much pressure Delhi is going to face in the years to come and it would take how many years for the Delhi Government for making arrangements for potable water. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of increasing pressure of population in Delhi, whether any guidelines have been issued for preparing Master Plan? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, it is true that since inception we had two Master Plans. One in 1962 and the other in 2001. The hon. Member has asked as to what were our achievements and what we wanted to achieve. I would like to say that our major achievements are: shelter facilities to over one million families in the form of wider variety of housing types have been provided; integrated projects, such as Rohini with 8.5 lakhs population, Dwarka with 10 lakhs population and Narela have been developed; more than 2.8 lakh families of squatters were provided with reasonable accommodation in the form of plots and built-up houses; 21 district centres have been planned; 2592 hectares of industrial area has been developed; approximately 5050 hectares of greens were developed at various levels, that is, regional parks, district parks and neighbourhood parks; landfill sites were converted into large greens, such as millennium parks. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If there is any additional information, please supply the same to the hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Landless Tribals

*203. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project under consideration to provide land to landless tribals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of landless tribals identified in the country, State-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There is no specific project/scheme to provide land to landless tribals under this Ministry. However, the State Governments are free to utilize the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) funds and funds release to them under Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan by this Ministry for purchasing land for income generating projects.

(c) 'Land' being a State subject, its management and related aspects are the responsibility of the respective State Governments as provided under Entry No. 18 of List II (State List) to VII Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Talks with Neighbouring Countries on Terrorism

*204. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held any official level talks with the neighbouring countries to prevent the terrorists and their activities against India from their territory;

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

(c) the reaction of each of the countries in this regard;

(d) the steps taken by them to check terrorism against India; and

(e) the extent to which it has helped India in tackling terrorism?

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

(b) and (c) Government has established an institutional mechanism with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and Nepal for sharing of security related issues including cross border terrorism. Talks on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) between India and Pakistan are continuing. India has also established a dialogue mechanism with China on counter terrorism. Regular meetings with various countries are held from time to time.

(d) Most of our neighbouring countries during the meetings have assured that they will not allow any anti-India activities from their soil. Royal Bhutan Government had recently carried out operations against Indian Insurgent Groups (IIGs) based in Bhutan. In these operations, 30 camps of the IIGs were destroyed, besides a large number of insurgents were either captured or otherwise neutralised.

(e) The institutional mechanism with the neighbouring country provides a forum for sharing information on cross

border terrorism and expressing India's concerns, and has been found useful.

Uniform Policy for Small Hydro Power Projects

*205. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (e) Power is a concurrent subject and the Ministry of Power is responsible for making the General Policy in the electric power sector for the country. Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the Central Government, from time to time, is responsible for preparing the national electricity policy and tariff policy, in consultation, among others, with the State Governments for the optimal utilisation of all resources, including renewable sources of energy that cover Small Hydro Power (SHP) projects upto 25 MW station capacity. These two policies will contain the broad principle of action. Further, these policies will have to be given effect by State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) for announcing tariffs, charges for wheeling and banking etc., within the respective States. Since the conditions and risk perceptions vary considerably across States, the decisions of SERCs for tariffs etc. may not be uniform.

Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing incentive schemes for the development of SHP sector in the country. Subsidies are given for Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, Government and commercial projects, renovation and modernisation of old SHP projects, completion of languishing SHP projects and for development & upgradation of watermills. The quantum of subsidy under these schemes is given in the enclosed statement.

Different levels of subsidies are provided under the SHP incentive schemes for three distinct geographical classifications, namely special category States, notified hilly areas of other States & Islands and plain areas of all other States. These classifications and quantum of subsidy have been arrived at after taking into consideration facts such as remoteness, backwardness, size & relative cost of setting up SHP projects, financial risk perceptions and availability of funds.

Some States, notably Bihar, Sikkim, Meghalaya have requested for higher levels of subsidy for projects implemented by them. Their request could not be acceded to because of fund limitations. However, a major portion of capacity addition in SHP sector is coming through investment being made by the commercial sector, who have not raised any issue regarding upward revision of subsidy rate.

Statement

Subsidy Under MNES Schemes for SHP Projects upto 25 MW Station Capacity

Sl.No.	Schemes	Areas	Incentives/Subsidy		
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Capacity of Projects	Upto 1MW	Above 1 MW & upto 10 MW	Above 10 MW & upto 25 MW
I.	Detailed Project Report	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal (Specialty Category States)	Rs. 1.75 lakhs	Rs. 3.00 lakhs	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 1.50 lakh	Rs. 2.50 lakhs	Rs. 4.00 lakhs
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 1.25 lakhs	Rs. 2.00 lakhs	Rs. 3.00 lakhs
		Capacity of Project	Upto 100 KW	From 101 KW to 999 KW	From 1 MW to 25 KW
II.	Government sector SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	90 % of the project cost upto- Rs. 60,000 per KW	Rs. 60 lakhs plus Rs. 43,250/KW	Rs. 4.5 crores plus Rs. 75 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	60% of the project cost upto- Rs. 40,000 per KW	Rs. 40 lakhs plus Rs. 28,850/KW	Rs. 3.0 crores plus Rs. 50 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	40% of the project cost upto- Rs. 20,000 per KW	Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,425/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
III.	Private, Joint sector & Other SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	45% of the project cost upto- Rs. 30,000 per KW	Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	30% of the project cost upto- Rs. 20,000 per KW	Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	20% of the project cost upto- Rs. 10,000 per KW	Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW

1	2	3	4	5	6
IV.	Renovation & Modernisation of old SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 30,000 per KW	Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 20,000 per KW	Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 10,000 per KW	Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW
V.	Languishing SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 30,000 per KW	Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 20,000 per KW	Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 10,000 per KW	Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW
VI.	Development & up-gradation of Water Mills	All over the country	75% of project cost upto Rs. 30,000/MM for mechanical application. 75% of project cost upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs/MM for mechanical & electrical applications or electrical applications only.		

NGOs Under WCD Programmes

*206. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the details of Government agencies and NGOs engaged in the implementation of women and child development programmes;

(b) the funds allocated/released to each such agency during the last three years along with the task assigned, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has received reports of misuse, misappropriation of grants and non-performance by many of these agencies;

(d) if so, the details of such cases and action taken against these defaulting agencies;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to monitor the activities of these agencies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of voluntary organizations (NGOs) engaged in the implementation of women and child development programmes and the funds released to them agency-wise, task-wise and year-wise for the last three years, namely, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are available in the respective Annual Reports of the Department which are available in the Lok Sabha Library. The Annual Report for the year 2003-04 is being processed for laying on the Table of the House. The details of Government agencies engaged in implementing DWCD Programmes for the above-mentioned years are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) and (d) As and when specific instances of misuse/ misappropriation of grants and non-performance of organizations are brought to the notice of the Department, necessary action is taken to recover the money sanctioned to them besides blacklisting such organizations. The number of organizations blacklisted State-wise is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) and (f) A system exists to review the performance of various organizations through periodical reports from

State Governments, by monitoring agencies, review meetings and field visits by the concerned Area Officers.

Statement I

Details of funds released to Government agencies for implementing DWCD programmes

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Name of the State	Name of the Govt. agency	Funds released			
				2000-01 (*)	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP)	Assam	Assam Apex Weaver & Artisans Cooperative Federation Ltd., Guwahati	—	153.8	216	247.1
		Chhattisgarh	Raipur Dugdha Sangh Shakari	—	40.87	49.725	24.85
		Haryana	Haryana Dairy Dev. Corporation Ltd., Chandigarh	—	—	75.41	38.083
		Himachal Pradesh	H.P. State Handloom & Handicraft Weavers Apex. Coop. Fed. Ltd., Kullu	—	72.88	5.86	36.371
		Karnataka	Karnataka Milk Producers' Fed. Ltd. (KMF), Bangalore	235.12	444.92	12.97	207.22
		Kerala	Kerala State Poultry Dev. Corp. Ltd.	4.82	—	142.84	33.75
			Kerala State Coop. Fed. for Fisheries Development Ltd.	—	—	11.8	—
			Kerala State Women's Development Corp. Ltd.	—	—	5.87	—
		Maharashtra	Maharashtra State Duddh Mahasangh, Maharashtra	100.17	40.02	82.35	—
		Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh State Coop. Dairy Fed. Ltd., Bhopal	93.54	—	—	—
		Meghalaya	Meghalaya Apex Handloom Coop. Federation	—	9.03	—	—
		Mizoram	Mizoram Multi Commodity Producers Coop. Union Ltd. Aizwal	—	—	64.56	11.855
		Nagaland	Nagaland State Dairy Coop. Fed. Ltd.	—	—	57.015	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			The Kohima District Coop. Milk Producers Union Ltd. Dimapur	21.18	—	—	2.55
		Orissa	Orissa Cooperative Milk Federation Ltd. (OMFED)	81.84	138.09	105.06	74.726
			Orissa Pisciculture Dev. Corp. Ltd.	—	—	53.94	31.2
			Orissa State Poultry Coop. Federation	—	—	126.39	—
		Punjab	Punjab Coop. Milk Producers Fed. Ltd.	—	—	183.49	—
		Rajasthan	Rajasthan Coop. Dairy Fed. Ltd.	—	—	157.77	22.101
		Sikkim	Sikkim Livestock Processing & Development Corporation	—	39.43	—	—
		Tamil Nadu	Tamil Nadu Coop. Milk Producers' Fed. Ltd.	—	132.48	—	—
		Tripura	Tripura Apex Weavers Coop. Society, Agartala	—	—	16.52	83.96
			Tripura Handloom and Handicrafts Dev. Corp. Ltd., Agartala	—	—	—	30.517
		Uttar Pradesh	Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Fed. Ltd. (PCDF), Lucknow	330.95	284.89	337.91	168.823
			UP Export Corp. Ltd.	—	41.21	—	—
		Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Coop. Dairy Fed. Ltd. (UCDF), Ltd.	—	121.44	—	10.83
		West Bengal	West Bengal Coop. Milk Producers Fed. Ltd.	—	110.08	14.27	89.38
2.	Swawlamban	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh Women Finance Dev. Corp. Ltd., Hyderabad	—	353.22	447.62	—
		Delhi	IETE, Delhi	74.55	37.27	—	8.87
		Gujarat	Gujarat Women Economic Corporation, Ahmedabad	—	—	—	30.21
		Jammu & Kashmir	J&K State WDC	4.8	—	—	—
		Karnataka	Karnataka State Electronics Dev. Corporation (KEONICS) Bangalore	43.2	36.3	107.1	69.25
		Kerala	KELTRON, Kerala	41.92	8.875	41.94	—
			Kerala State Women Dev. Corporation, Trivandrum	—	—	30.57	0.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Mahila Arthik Vikas Nigam, Bhopal	30.26	—	—	—
		Maharashtra	Maharashtra Mahila Arthik Vikas Maha Mandal, Mumbai	—	—	52.76	—
		Manipur	Manipur State WDC	—	—	0.67	—
		Uttar Pradesh	UP Industrial Consultant Ltd., Kanpur	—	—	20.89	—
		West Bengal	West Bengal Electronics Informatics Ltd., Kolkata	—	—	78.65	—
			West Bengal WDC, Kolkata	—	—	—	3.39
3.	Swashakti	Bihar	Bihar State Women's Development Corporation	—	34	130	75
		Chhattisgarh	Indira Mahila Kosh, Chhattisgarh	—	30	75	50
		Gujarat	Gujarat Women's Economic Development Corporation	—	225	200	250
		Haryana	Haryana Women's Development Corporation	—	66	200	20
		Jharkhand	Jharkhand Women's Development Society	—	100	175	75
		Karnataka	Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation	—	235	535	500
		Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Mahila Vitta Evam Vikas Nigam	—	350	425	400
		Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Bhoomi Sudhar Nigam	—	125	392	50
		Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Women & Child Development Society	—	30	105	145
			Central Project Support Unit (CPSU)	—	205	352	155
4.	World Bank assisted ICDS Projects	Uttar Pradesh	Bal Vikas Pariyojanas Parishad, Uttar Pradesh	—	2500	3256	—
5.	Swadhar	Andhra Pradesh	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	—	—	32.83	—
		Maharashtra	Govt. of Maharashtra	—	—	50	—
		Rajasthan	Govt. of Rajasthan	—	—	3.99	—
		Tamil Nadu	Deptt. of Social Defence, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	—	—	4.35	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Uttar Pradesh	UP Mahila Kalyan Nigam Ltd.	—	8.13	—	—
			Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	—	—	82.87	—
		Delhi	Deptt. of Social Welfare Govt. of NCT of Delhi	—	—	2.14	—
			CSWB, New Delhi	—	—	63.52	30.56
6.	Working Women's Hostels	Andhra Pradesh	Sri Krishna Devaraya Univ. Anantpur	—	55.35	—	—
			AP Women's Cooperative Finance Corp. Ltd.	—	30	—	—
		Kerala	Kerala State Housing Board, Trivandrum	—	67.605	—	—

(*-Information incomplete for certain organisations)

Statement II

**Number of Non-Governmental Organizations blacklisted
by DWCD**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of blacklisted NGOs
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	287
2.	Assam	151
3.	Bihar	153
4.	Gujarat	115
5.	Haryana	150
6.	Himachal Pradesh	53
7.	Karnataka	170
8.	Kerala	135
9.	Madhya Pradesh	55
10.	Maharashtra	128
11.	Manipur	197

1	2	3
12.	Meghalaya	323
13.	Nagaland	78
14.	Orissa	120
15.	Punjab	223
16.	Rajasthan	89
17.	Sikkim	2
18.	Tamil Nadu	304
19.	Tripura	69
20.	Uttar Pradesh	332
21.	West Bengal	96
22.	Chandigarh	4
23.	Delhi	15
24.	Goa	24
25.	Lakshadweep	3
26.	Pondicherry	140
Total		3416

Delayed Execution of Projects

*207. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Government agencies functioning in metro cities are facing lot of problems in the timely execution of their projects due to non-availability of steel and cement in sufficient quantity;

(b) if so, the details of the projects lagging behind schedule on account of these factors;

(c) the likely cost escalation thereby; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) Various agencies of the Ministry of Urban Development, viz. Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Building Construction Corporation Ltd. (NBCC), Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) have informed that the execution of projects has not been affected due to non-availability of cement and steel in the market in sufficient quantity. However, DDA and CPWD have reported that there have been instances where main producers of steel were not able to supply the required quantity of steel, for which orders were placed on them. To meet the situation, they have resorted to procurement of steel through secondary producers, besides liaising with the main steel producers to expedite the supply.

[Translation]

Development of Counter Magnet City

*208. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken a decision some time back to develop 'Counter Magnet City' in some parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made therein, so far?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) had identified the following cities to function as Counter Magnet Areas in the Regional Plan 2001:

(i) Kota (Rajasthan)

(ii) Hissar (Haryana)

(iii) Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)

(iv) Patiala (Punjab)

(v) Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)

The NCRPB provides loan assistance to the State Governments for development of various projects in the National Capital Region and in the Counter Magnet Areas. It has sanctioned 10 projects in the Counter Magnet Areas which includes 5 residential and 5 infrastructure projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 646.73 crores, involving a loan amount of Rs. 212.27 crores.

[English]

National Commission for Women

*209. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received by the National Commission for Women pertaining to dowry harassment and atrocities against women during each of the last two years and current year till date;

(b) the number of complaints on which the action has been taken so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect women and redress their grievances?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the National Commission for Women (NCW), it has received the following number of complaints about dowry harassment and other cases of atrocities against women during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (till 30th June, 2004).

Sl.No.	Nature of complaint	Number of complaints received during		
		1-1-2002 to 30-12-2002	1-1-2003 to 31-12-2003	1-1-2004 to 30-6-2004
1.	Dowry harassment	1074	895	453
2.	Other cases of atrocities against women	5926	4805	1933
	Total	7000	5700	2386

Details of the number of complaints disposed of by the commission from the above referred complaints is as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	Total No. of complaints received	Complaints disposed of through counselling, police reports etc.	Sent to State Governments, State Women Commissions for action by them
1.	2002	7000	2081	4325
2.	2003	5700	990	3348
3.	2004 (Upto 30-6-04)	2386	48	515

(c) The Government has taken steps in the following areas to ensure protection of women and to redress their grievances:

- setting up of helplines for women in distress.
- support services to victims of violence through schemes such as Short Stay Homes and Swadhar under which shelter, maintenance, counselling, capacity building, occupational training, medical aid and other services are provided.
- grant-in-aid schemes providing assistance for rescue and rehabilitation of trafficked victims as well as prevention through special schemes in source areas to trafficking.
- redressal of grievances through interventions of National and State Commissions for Women.
- organizing legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Camps.

- implementation of schemes for (i) awareness generation and advocacy and (ii) economic empowerment of women through the programmes of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, Swashakti project, Swayamsidha Project, Swawlamban programme and Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP).
- review of laws with a view to remove provisions which may be discriminatory to women and to enhance punishments for crimes against women.
- sensitisation of judiciary and police and civil administration or gender issues.
- follow up of reports of cases of atrocities against women received from various sources, including NCW, with concerned authorities in the Central and the State Governments.

'Public order' and 'police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and as such registration, investigation, detection and prevention

of crime are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Government of India has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to give more focused attention to improving the administration of criminal justice system and to take such measures as are necessary for the prevention of crime against women and other vulnerable sections of society. The measures suggested include:

- sensitizing of police officials charged with the responsibility of protecting the women.
- vigorously enforce the existing legislation relating to dowry violence.
- set up women police cells in police stations and exclusive women police stations.
- provide institutional support to the victims of violence.
- provide counselling to victims of rape.
- take measures to eliminate trafficking in women. States have also been advised to constitute State Advisory Committees to advise on trafficking matters
- ensure wider recruitment of women police officers.
- train police personnel in special laws dealing with atrocities against women.
- setting up of Fast Track Courts.
- setting up of Family Courts.
- appointment of Dowry Prohibition Officers and notification of Rules under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 by the State Governments.

[Translation]

NGOs Assisting Terrorist Groups in North East

*210. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Non-governmental Organizations are assisting terrorist groups in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any investigation in the matter;

(c) if so, the findings/outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken by the Government against such organizations; and

(e) the names of the organizations out of them which are getting financial assistance from the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) According to available reports, some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have links with terrorists organizations in the North East Region. These NGOs have not reportedly engaged themselves openly in supporting or promoting terrorist activities but have maintained discreet links with the terrorist organizations. A close watch is being kept on such NGOs. They are not getting any financial assistance from the Government of India.

[English]

Integrated Child Development Scheme

*211. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

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

(a) whether the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and other related schemes have performed poorly in several States;

(b) if so, the target set and achieved during the last three years, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) the funds allocated/released/utilized under the schemes during the said period so far, State-wise;

(d) the number of beneficiaries under these schemes at present, State-wise;

(e) whether ICDS and Early Childhood Care and Pre-School Education (ECCE) have not achieved the desired result;

(f) if so, whether the Government proposes to review these schemes and make them more attractive; and

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

(d) State-wise number of beneficiaries under the ICDS Scheme, as on 31.3.04, is given in the statement-III enclosed.

The steps taken to improve the impact of the Scheme include, expanding coverage of the Scheme; substantial increase in the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers with effect from 1.4.2002; introduction of "Anganwadi Karyakarti Bima Yojana" for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers; better coordination with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for further improvement in the delivery of health services under the Scheme; Common Minimum Programme of the Government also envisages universalisation of the ICDS Scheme.

Statement 1

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	121	121	113	121	121	120	121	120	120
11.	Jharkhand	204	152	152	204	152	152	204	168	152
12.	Karnataka	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185	185
13.	Kerala	163	163	163	163	163	163	163	163	163
14.	Madhya Pradesh	336	315	332	336	336	336	336	336	336
15.	Maharashtra	370	370	268	370	370	363	370	365	368
16.	Manipur	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
17.	Meghalaya	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
18.	Mizoram	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
19.	Nagaland	54	54	52	54	54	52	54	53	54
20.	Orissa	326	308	308	326	326	308	326	314	326
21.	Punjab	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
22.	Rajasthan	257	257	257	257	257	257	257	257	257
23.	Sikkim	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	431	431	434	431	431	434	432	434
25.	Tripura	40	40	31	40	40	39	40	40	39
26.	Uttar Pradesh	836	561	518	836	568	518	836	514	742
27.	Uttaranchal	99	54	54	99	54	54	99	68	96
28.	West Bengal	358	336	318	358	336	340	358	346	352
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
30.	Chandigarh	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
31.	Delhi	29	28	28	29	28	28	29	28	28
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
33.	Daman & Diu	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
35.	Pondicherry	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	All India	5652	4913	4608	5652	5087	4903	5652	5132	5267

Statement II*State-wise funds released to the States and reported expenditure under ICDS Scheme during last three years*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State/UT-wise	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04
		Released	Expenditure	Released	Expenditure	Released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12530.61	9963.65	14884.25	14957.36	11135.88
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1970.39	1782.54	2530.72	1542.43	1552.73
3.	Assam	6243.61	4593.31	8121.08	3988.72	4489.45
4.	Bihar	3145.11	4629.05	7833.94	5292.44	5354.59
5.	Goa	344.35	340.67	435.75	348.71	420.70
6.	Gujarat	8170.09	4541.43	7055.28	8015.86	9894.54
7.	Haryana	3730.50	3330.50	4349.41	3924.83	4446.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2029.42	1651.32	2194.40	1808.93	1603.66
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2824.16	2283.11	3728.75	2268.15	2415.88
10.	Karnataka	7710.68	7518.84	10699.29	9980.14	11341.87
11.	Kerala	6666.30	5534.15	6621.08	8135.28	9585.50
12.	Madhya Pradesh	10346.08	9397.33	15528.51	15994.53	16002.77
13.	Maharashtra	10643.48	11780.48	18935.09	18149.71	19598.87
14.	Manipur	961.07	1132.64	2360.06	1441.33	1453.55
15.	Meghalaya	1105.15	729.13	1181.87	755.40	881.52
16.	Mizoram	617.95	765.26	1149.44	914.30	852.63
17.	Nagaland	1957.00	1707.00	2416.47	1961.56	1509.28
18.	Orissa	7131.86	7098.23	8726.42	7211.66	11523.81
19.	Punjab	3730.77	3036.98	3777.09	4099.56	4943.21
20.	Rajasthan	9997.07	8978.51	11625.54	12057.91	11727.65
21.	Sikkim	192.35	180.26	280.97	187.19	173.69
22.	Tamil Nadu	9289.80	8770.36	13459.18	11477.34	10855.27
23.	Tripura	1521.36	786.33	1403.95	1113.93	1822.82
24.	Uttar Pradesh	15972.42	14530.85	13659.04	16269.52	19095.23

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	West Bengal	12800.02	10024.47	16629.63	15075.42	15873.69
26.	Chhattisgarh	2700.79	3924.90	7294.93	5370.05	6581.19
27.	Uttaranchal	1246.76	856.20	947.15	1272.75	1862.83
28.	Jharkhand	2381.66	4926.42	6495.63	2012.24	3081.25
Union Territories						
29.	Delhi	821.41	838.46	1014.18	1103.45	1172.42
30.	Pondicherry	159.85	183.81	241.05	232.35	205.54
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	154.85	138.11	164.32	149.08	193.18
32.	Chandigarh	97.35	97.35	121.50	123.50	142.54
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	33.85	31.19	42.00	41.61	48.50
34.	Daman & Diu	37.45	35.00	43.24	38.70	41.41
35.	Lakshadweep	33.12	27.78	30.83	30.95	39.64
Total		149298.69	136145.62	195982.03	177346.89	191924.17

Statement III

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of Supplementary Nutrition Beneficiaries*			No. of Pre-school Education Beneficiaries*		
		Children below 6 years	pregnant & lactating Women	Total	(Children 3-6 years)		
					Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2536035	642244	3178279	787440	803539	1590979
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59049	9822	68871	12559	12396	24955
3.	Assam#	1235299	170565	1405864	410160	403544	813704
4.	Bihar	1307231	824095	2131326	521109	370771	891880
5.	Chhattisgarh	1398938	335476	1734414	350040	359893	709873
6.	Goa	39986	9221	49207	9875	9481	19356
7.	Gujarat	1560731	256199	1816930	708876	672648	1381524
8.	Haryana	896907	232474	1129381	219816	193218	413034
9.	Himachal Pradesh	309590	68898	378488	59457	57947	117404
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	132206	27921	160127	56812	52045	108857

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11.	Jharkhand	458954	188670	647624	180296	200372	380668
12.	Karnataka	2587430	494029	3081459	653325	640753	1294078
13.	Kerala	939966	153137	1093103	267101	268946	536047
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2265041	623804	2888845	724255	712904	1437159
15.	Maharashtra	4055941	609237	4665178	1264261	1198306	2462567
16.	Manipur	51538	8954	60492	55312	54918	110230
17.	Meghalaya	183839	33401	217240	43177	43938	87115
18.	Mizoram	106042	26296	132338	23382	23125	46507
19.	Nagaland	229829	37918	267747	51828	41949	93777
20.	Orissa	3689078	671587	4360665	468773	451174	919947
21.	Punjab	421575	106801	528376	222975	199941	422916
22.	Rajasthan	2600195	575368	3175563	674395	647335	1321730
23.	Sikkim	34353	6091	40444	6014	5896	11910
24.	Tamil Nadu	1440075	444180	1884255	436707	421898	858605
25.	Tripura	121707	17348	139055	44028	42527	86555
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1951204	155104	2106308	1086011	978940	2064951
27.	Uttaranchal	118122	28682	146804	78198	76027	154225
28.	West Bengal	2893506	491961	3385467	952077	935759	1887836
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	23734	4817	28551	6624	6125	12749
30.	Chandigarh	31095	7184	38279	6615	6629	13244
31.	Delhi	418405	82208	500613	69204	72509	141713
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11381	1804	13185	2623	2711	5334
33.	Daman & Diu	6977	1898	8875	2083	2130	4213
34.	Lakshadweep	3877	986	4863	2023	2001	4024
35.	Pondicherry	31341	9121	40462	3999	4337	8336
All India		34151177	7357501	41508678	10461430	9976572	20438002

*Under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme as on 31.3.2004.

#As on 30.11.2003.

Note: Based on reports sent by State Government/UT Administration.

Fire Accidents In Steel Plants

*212. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a number of fire accidents in various steel plants during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted to probe repeated accidents in the Steel Plants;

(d) if so, the findings and recommendations made by the enquiry committee; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Plant-wise major fire accidents in public sector steel plants during last three years and current year are as under:

Plant	Year			
	2001	2002	2003	2004 (upto June)
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	5	—	1	2
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	1	—	—	1
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	1	3	1	2
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	—	2	1	—
Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)	1	—	—	—
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	—	—	—	—
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP)	5	3	—	—
Indian Iron & Steel Co. (IISCO)	—	1	1	—
Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP)	1	2	—	—

As per record available in this Ministry no fire accident has been reported by private sector steel plants to the Ministry during the last three years and the current year.

(c) to (e) All incidents of major fire are investigated by internal enquiry committees to find out causes of fire and suggest preventive measures. Based on recommendations of the enquiry committees, various measures have been taken by the plants, to avoid recurrence of these accidents in future, such as:

- (i) Regular inspection of fire prone areas like cable galleries, conveyor belts, coal yards, oil cellars, motor room, gas holders etc.
- (ii) Checking of electrical earthing on a regular basis.

(iii) Inspection of gas pipelines and their replacement as per requirement.

(iv) Regular inspection and maintenance of fixed fire fighting system, including pump houses.

(v) Ensuring round the clock availability of fire hydrants, fire extinguishers throughout the plant by regular check up, maintenance and refilling.

(vi) Maintain proper house keeping in fire prone areas like underground galleries, coal galleries, oil cellars etc.

(vii) Creating awareness among employees through first aid and fire fighting training on the shop floor and classroom programmes.

(viii) Fire Detection and Alarm Systems have been provided at vulnerable points.

(ix) Sprinkling and detection system are provided for all fire prone material handling conveyors.

Abolition of Death Sentence

*213. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring a legislation banning death sentence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of prisoners in various jails in the country awaiting execution of death sentence;

(d) whether the Government has received suggestions/representations from various quarters for abolition of capital punishment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International, Campaign Against Death Penalty, Peoples Union for Democratic Rights etc. and various individuals, while appealing for commutation of death sentence on behalf of condemned prisoners, represent that the death penalty may be abolished mainly on the ground that it is immoral, inhuman, irrevocable and morbid, and leads to injustice.

Setting up of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

*214. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to achieve a broad consensus on the need for reforms in power sector;

(b) whether Energy Conservation Act, 2001 was enacted to provide efficient use of energy and its conservation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has also set up the Bureau of Energy Efficiency for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Through Conferences of Chief Ministers' and of Power Ministers' as also through a Committee set up by the National Development Council (NDC), efforts were made to evolve consensus on power sector reforms.

The focus of power sector reforms is on metering of all consumers, energy audit, improvement of billing and collection efficiency, reduction of technical and commercial losses, reduction and elimination of theft of power, constitution and operationalisation of State Electricity Regulatory Commission, achievement of commercial viability in a time bound manner and on improving reliability and quality of power supply.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India has enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereafter. The Act provides the much needed legal framework, institutional arrangement and proper regulatory mechanism at the centre and state level to embark upon energy efficiency measures in the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Central Government set up the Bureau of Energy Efficiency on 1st March, 2002 as a statutory body under section 3 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

The Bureau is responsible to develop policy and strategies with the primary objective of effecting energy efficient use through various regulatory and promotional measures.

Supply of Fertilizer to Farmers

*215. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of fertilizers in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that due to delay in timely supply of fertilizers, the farmers are facing hardship; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure smooth distribution and marketing of quality fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is adequate availability of major fertilizers namely Urea and Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) in the country. However, in case of Muriate of Potash (MOP), some of the States reported inadequate supplies and additional quantities have been moved to those States.

[Translation]

Dowry Prohibition Act

*216. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether dowry-death cases pertaining to young brides are continuing unabated despite implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to amend the law on the subject with a view to making it more stringent; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, dowry deaths in the country have shown an overall decline in the last three years. The number of such incidents, as reported, was 6851 in 2001, 6822 in 2002 and 6285 in 2003 (Provisional).

(c) and (d) There is no immediate proposal to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

[English]

Madrassas Education

*217. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether a conference of educationist was held recently to discuss the issue of bringing madrassas teaching at par with mainstream educational system;

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

(c) the follow-up steps being taken by the Government in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Dialogue on Minority Welfare and Education was held on 3-4 July, 2004 in which a full range of concerns affecting education, including the running of minority institutions, promotion of minority languages and Madrasa education were discussed. Various persons associated with Minorities' welfare and education including educationists took part in the Dialogue.

Their views on all issues were heard by the Government enabling it to take necessary action.

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

*218. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include several new villages under IREP in the 10th Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the number of villages already taken up under Micro Level Energy Plan in the country under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme, State-wise; and

(d) the budget allocation for the current financial year for the Micro Level Energy Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) is an ongoing plan programme, under which one or more cluster(s) of villages are taken up in selected districts in different States to prepare micro level energy plans and to set up model integrated rural energy projects. IREP is being implemented as a Centrally sponsored Scheme on a 50:50 cost-sharing basis between the Centre and States. Selection of districts and villages is done by the States in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Ministry. States have been asked to submit their proposal for progressively covering more districts and villages under IREP during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) During 2003-04, IREP covered 867 villages in 245 clusters of villages in 253 districts for micro level energy plans. State-wise break up is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) The budgetary allocation for IREP for the current financial year is Rs. 10.00 crore. Separate State-wise allocations are not made under this programme. States are provided funds based on the proposals received, progress made in implementation of the programme and matching funds provided by the State Governments. The counterpart funds provided by the State Governments and the allocations made under other ongoing plan programmes of the Ministry complement the budget of IREP for implementation of the micro level energy plans by the States.

Statement

State-wise Number of Villages taken up for Preparing Micro Level Energy Plans under Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP), during the year 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	Number of Villages
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	71
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10

1	2	3
3.	Haryana	188
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12
5.	Jharkhand	7
6.	Kerala	14
7.	Madhya Pradesh	30
8.	Manipur	9
9.	Meghalaya	12
10.	Mizoram	6
11.	Nagaland	6
12.	Punjab	170
13.	Uttaranchal	90
14.	Uttar Pradesh	242
Total		867

Primitive Tribes

*219. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the States in the country where a large number of primitive tribes are living;

(b) whether any scheme has been sponsored by the Union Government for the integrated development of those primitive tribes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps taken for the upliftment of those primitive tribes and particularly Shaharia tribes of Rajasthan during the last three years; and

(e) the funds earmarked for the welfare of primitive tribes in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The States having large number of Primitive Tribes are Madhya Pradesh,

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Sector Scheme of "Development of Primitive Tribal Groups" has been under implementation since 1998-99 for integrated development of primitive tribes. The scheme is implemented through State Governments as well as Non-Governmental Organizations. The scheme is very flexible and it provides for financial assistance for taking up all those activities which are very crucial for the survival, protection and socio-economic and educational development of primitive tribes.

(d) The Ministry have sanctioned large number of projects to State Governments and NGOs for land development, agriculture, irrigation, housing, drinking water, promotion of education and health services and many other programmes for skill upgradation of primitive tribes. The details of expenditure under the scheme during the last three years and the amount released for the development of 'Shaharia' tribe in Rajasthan are as indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)			
Sl.No.	Year	Amount released	Amount released for development of Shaharia in Rajasthan
1.	2001-02	14.18	—
2.	2002-03	13.75	1.14
3.	2003-04	16.13	0.10

(e) The approved allocation under the Scheme of Development of Primitive Tribal Groups during the Tenth Five Year Plan is Rs. 111.87 crores. The year-wise breakup of approved outlay and actual estimates are given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Approved Outlay (Tenth plan)	Actual Allocation
2002-03	20.00	13.75 (RE)
2003-04	21.00	16.13 (RE)
2004-05	22.41	21.50 (BE)
2005-06	23.90	—
2006-07	23.90	—

Foreign Funds to Militants

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that certain countries are indulging in funding terrorist activities in India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to strengthen the existing Foreign Contribution Regulation Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has intercepted any communication from terrorist groups or the funding agency;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available reports, Pakistan has not so far dismantled the infrastructure of support to terrorism, including the funding of terrorist activities in India.

(c) and (d) The Government has initiated action to streamline and strengthen the present law governing the receipt and utilization of foreign contributions by voluntary organizations.

(e) to (g) On the basis of intelligence inputs, a number of terrorist financing modules have been busted in many parts of the country.

Acquisition of Land

*221. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed all the States whose parts constitute the NCR to acquire land for easing the habitation problem in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether some of the States have issued notifications to this effect;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has made any efforts to ensure that farmers are paid compensation for their lands at the market value or at the rate at which the compensation is being given in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (f) The acquisition of land for habitation purposes, as well as payment of compensation for land, is the subject matter of the concerned State Governments. Union Government does not intervene or give any direction in the matter.

[Translation]

Closure of Units of Kota Thermal Power Plant

1736. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the period of which each unit of Kota Thermal Power Plant remained closed during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government has spent huge amount for revival of these closed units; and

(c) if so, the total amount spent for the purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The details of Kota Thermal Power Station units that remained under shutdown/closure (other than annual shutdowns) due to force majeure during the last five years are as under:

S.No.	Unit No.	Period
1.	II	23.1.2000 to 31.01.2000
2.	I	23.12.2003 to 03.01.2004
3.	IV	13.12.2001 to 16.01.2002
4.	VI	25.09.2003 to 31.12.2003

(b) No major expenditure was incurred on these shutdowns except for Unit No. 6.

(c) A sum of Rs. 891.00 lakhs has been spent for shutdown of these units for the period.

Funds for Preparing the ST Youths for Competitive Examinations

1737. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Union Government worth Rs. 45.00 lacs sharing 50 percent each by the Union Government and the State Government for the year 2003-04 for preparing the youths of Scheduled Tribes for competitive examinations in State level Civil Services;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government are making delay in providing the amount of Rs. 22.50 lakhs to the State; and

(c) if not, the time by which this amount is likely to be provided to the Government of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No Sir. However, a proposal of the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh involving Rs. 48.12 lakhs for imparting coaching to 600 students for medical and another 600 students for engineering in 19 coaching centers to be set up in 17 tribal dominated districts has been received in April, 2004 i.e. financial year 2004-05.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The proposal received under the scheme are placed before the Committee constituted for the purpose which meets every year. The proposal of the State Govt. would be considered in the next meeting of the Committee, on merit.

[English]

Implementation of NSLRS

1738. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after a decade of implementation of the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents (NSLRS), more than 40% of the estimated beneficiaries remain unrehabilitated;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of loan applications under this scheme were rejected by banks for the reasons of non-viability;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard and corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) the funds allocated for liberation and rehabilitation of conservancy workers under the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers during the current financial year, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government is considering to enhance the amount paid as stipend to rehabilitated scavengers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) As per the information provided by the States/UTs, upto 2002-03, out of 6.76 lakhs estimated scavengers, 4.28 lakhs of them or 63.3% have been rehabilitated.

(b) The liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers is a continuing process, the Government has prepared a National Action Plan for Total Eradication of Manual Scavenging by 2007.

(c) No such instances have been brought to the notice of the Ministry.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is a provision of Rs. 20.00 crore during the current financial year under the NSLRS. There is no State-wise allocation of funds made under the scheme.

(f) There is no proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

Inmate in Tihar Jail

1739. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases in which the high court had granted bail but the inmate in Tihar Jail could not be freed within the stipulated time due to non furnishing of the surety money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) On 15th July, 2004, there were 118 convicts/under trials lodged in the Central Jail, Tihar who had been granted bail by the High Court of Delhi but could not be released because of their inability to furnish requisite surety bonds. However, the Hon'ble High Court normally does not stipulate any time limit for release of such prisoners.

(c) The cases of such prisoners, on their request, are taken up for waiving or reducing the amount of surety attached with the bail orders. The Delhi Legal Services Authority has also constituted a panel of advocates to represent the cases of such prisoners as cannot afford to hire their own lawyers.

Fake Silver Coin

1740. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Crime Branch has unearthed a fake silver coin manufacturing unit in Delhi;

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

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to curb such anti social activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Crime Branch of Delhi Police on 23rd October, 2003 conducted a search at a premises located in village Ghondli under Police Station, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi and seized 1082 spurious/fake silver coins alongwith dyes, chemicals and other accessories. The owner of the premises, who was engaged in manufacture of these fake silver coins, was arrested.

(c) The steps taken by Delhi Police to check such anti-social activities include keeping a watch on the persons suspected to be involved in manufacture of fake coins or those who have been previously involved in such activities; deployment of police personnel in plain clothes for collecting intelligence; and sensitizing the beat staff to keep a watch on such activities.

Discrimination Against Women at Workplace

1741. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of growing complaints of women harassment at working place;

(b) whether National Commission for Women has complained that a majority of women especially journalists experience gender discrimination at their work place;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the dignity of women at working places;

(d) whether the National Commission for Women has drafted a Bill on the subject; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government does not receive complaints directly. Under the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in its judgement of 1997 for prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace, the Complaints are to be dealt with by Complaints Committees constituted by the employers in the respective workplaces.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Press Institute of India has carried out a study for the National Commission for Women on the subject 'Status of Women Journalists in India'. The study notes the increasing opportunities available to women in the print media in recent years, and also mentions the handicap they suffer in their career progression, the sexual harassment and discrimination that adversely affect women journalists in their work and the non-availability of certain facilities required by women employees at the workplace.

(c) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to give effect to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court relating to prevention of sexual harassment at workplace. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) and (e) The National Commission for Women is in the process of drafting a Bill on prevention of sexual harassment at workplace.

Statement

The steps taken by the Government to give effect to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court in Vishaka case

- The Government has requested all the Central Ministries/Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory

Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education, All India Council of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and to ensure that the guidelines are implemented.

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) formulated a Code of Conduct for Workplace; putting down the Supreme Court's guidelines in a simple manner. This has been circulated to State Commissions for Women, Non-Governmental Organisations, the apex bodies of the Corporate Sector, Media and all Ministries/Departments.
- The NCW has instituted a series of interactive meetings with Public Sector Undertakings/Banks/Universities/Educational Institutions/Hostels/Media etc. to assess the extent of implementation of the guidelines.
- A Central Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development has been constituted in the Department of Women and Child Development to review the implementation of the guidelines.
- The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules have been amended to include sexual harassment as a misconduct.
- Amendments have been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that the sexual harassment of women at workplace in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.

Security of VVIP

1742. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of police, security personnel engaged for the security of VVIP in Delhi during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is considering to reduce the force and give much stress for the security of Delhi citizens since there is a spate of incident of robberies and murders ever since the large chunk of police force was diverted for the security of VVIPs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) The security arrangements for VVIPs in Delhi are made on the basis of the existing threat perception assessed by central security agencies from time to time. As the threat perception keeps on changing, the security arrangements for the VVIPs in Delhi including deployment of man power also continue to vary as per local threat perception.

The Delhi Police has been taking necessary measures required for ensuring the security of Delhi citizens. Services to Central Police Forces have also been made available to Delhi Police to augment their resources.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Hindi Language

1743. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided to various States for the teaching and promotion of Hindi language in each year during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the future action plan of the Government for spreading and popularising Hindi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Assistance is provided to States for the teaching and promotion of Hindi language under the Central Scheme of Financial Assistance for "Appointment of Language Teachers" and through "Central Hindi Directorate" and "Commission for Scientific & Technical Terminology". A statement showing the details of funds released in the last three years, State-wise is enclosed.

(b) Some of the steps includes training of Hindi Language Teachers by Kendriya Hindi Sansthan through its centres all over the country, release of grants to voluntary Hindi organisations by Central Hindi Directorate and evolution of technical terminology by Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology. The Government intends to enhance the budget allocation in these spheres to strengthen these efforts further.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Funds Released for Appointment of Hindi Teachers, Central Hindi Directorate & Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology		
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	151.86	172.14	128.93
2.	Assam	57.28	344.38	42.22
3.	Manipur	145.91	146.75	89.15
4.	Meghalaya	2.09	2.78	2.88
5.	Mizoram	338.68	285.58	395.37
6.	Nagaland	2.37	3.15	165.42
7.	Andhra Pradesh	35.80	60.50	146.48
8.	Karnataka	474.47	268.97	391.15

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Kerala	35.19	128.40	38.37
10.	Tamilnadu	67.63	101.46	88.89
11.	West Bengal	8.03	8.78	13.92
12.	Orissa	5.55	4.40	11.52
13.	Maharashtra	32.41	32.46	49.76
14.	Goa	4.99	5.40	5.71
15.	Gujarat	3.37	2.91	6.04
16.	Punjab	0.34	—	0.43
17.	Delhi	18.47	26.25	30.25
18.	Uttar Pradesh	10.18	20.06	10.25
19.	Bihar/Jharkhand	14.66	19.66	21.77
20.	Rajasthan	6.34	6.30	11.49
21.	Madhya Pradesh	6.40	15.40	14.00
22.	Tripura	0.40	0.52	—
23.	Pondicherry	0.99	1.43	1.43
24.	Lakshadweep	—	0.46	0.78
25.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	1.22
26.	Haryana	—	8.00	8.00
Total		1423.41	1666.14	1675.79

Housing Scheme for Public Sector Steel Plants

1744. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector steel plants have introduced any "own your house" scheme for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of employees of each steel plant benefited under the scheme so far; and

(c) the time by which rest of the employees are likely to be provided with the houses?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not rise.

Generation of Power Through Mini Hydro Power Projects

1745. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of power generation in the country from various non-conventional sources, source-wise and State-wise;

(b) the measures taken by the Government to set up small hydro power projects in the country during the current financial year; and

(c) the quantum of power likely to be generated therefrom during 2004-2005, river-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) State-wise installed capacity of non-conventional grid interactive power generating projects, source-wise is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes for the development of Small Hydro Power (SHP) projects (upto 25 MW) in the country, details of which are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) State-wise estimated power generation from SHP projects during 2004-05 is given in the Statement-III enclosed.

Statement I

State-wise and Source-wise Installed Capacity of Non-Conventional Grid Interactive Power Generating Projects as on 31.03.2004

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Cumulative Installed Capacity						Total Installed Capacity (MW)
		Solar Power	Wind Power	Small Hydro Power	Biomass Power	Biomass Gasifier	Energy from Wastes	
		(kWp)	(MW)	(MW)	(MW)	(kW)	(MW)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275	98.80	164.26	197.75	15384	22.10	498.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	32.50	0.00	180	—	32.68
3.	Assam	0	0.00	2.11	0.00	123	—	2.23
4.	Bihar	0	0.00	45.90	0.00	20	—	45.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	6.00	11.00	500	—	17.50
6.	Goa	0	0.00	0.05	0.00	22	—	0.07
7.	Gujarat	0	202.00	7.00	0.50	11361	2.95	223.81
8.	Haryana	0	0.00	72.70	4.00	964	—	77.66
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	102.04	0.00	7	—	102.05
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0.00	102.24	0.00	120	—	102.36
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	4.05	0.00	0	—	4.05
12.	Karnataka	30	209.18	203.38	135.38	4499	1.00	553.47
13.	Kerala	25	2.00	84.62	1.00	725	—	88.37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	339	22.60	38.96	0.00	4529	2.73	69.16
15.	Maharashtra	185	407.55	207.08	24.50	3823	1.90	645.04
16.	Manipur	0	0.00	5.45	0.00	0	—	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	30.71	0.00	0	—	30.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	Mizoram	0	0.00	14.76	0.00	200	—	14.96
19.	Nagaland	0	0.00	20.47	0.00	0	—	20.47
20.	Orissa	0	0.00	7.30	0.00	72	0.03	7.40
21.	Punjab	250	0.00	108.40	22.00	700	0.75	132.10
22.	Rajasthan	50	178.48	23.85	7.80	218	—	210.40
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	35.60	0.00	0	—	35.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	211	1361.49	76.40	150.50	2653	1.98	1593.23
25.	Tripura	0	0.00	16.01	0.00	1000	—	17.01
26.	Uttar Pradesh	325	0.00	21.50	59.00	2746	8.00	91.57
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	72.45	0.00	0	—	72.45
28.	West Bengal	50	1.10	92.28	0.00	2965	—	96.39
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	50	0.00	5.25	0.00	167	—	5.47
30.	Chandigarh	50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	—	0.05
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	—	0.00
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	—	0.00
33.	Delhi	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	74	—	0.07
34.	Lakshadweep	650	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	—	0.65
35.	Pondicherry	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	—	0.00
Total		2540	2483.20	1603.31	613.43	60200	41.44	4802.22

KWp=Kilo watt peak

MW=Mega Watt

kW=kilo watt

100kW=1 MW

Statement II*Schemes for Development of SHP Projects upto 25 MW Station Capacity*

Sl.No.	Schemes	Areas	Incentives/Subsidy		
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Capacity of Projects	Upto 1MW	Above 1 MW & upto 10 MW	Above 10 MW & upto 25 MW
I.	Detailed Project Report	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal (Specialty Category States)	Rs. 1.75 lakhs	Rs. 3.00 lakhs	Rs. 5.00 lakhs
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 1.50 lakh	Rs. 2.50 lakhs	Rs. 4.00 lakhs

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 1.25 lakhs	Rs. 2.00 lakhs	Rs. 3.00 lakhs
		Capacity of Project	Upto 100 KW	From 101 KW to 999 KW	From 1 MW to 25 KW
II.	Government sector SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	Rs. 60,000 per KW	90 % of the project cost upto- Rs. 60 lakhs plus Rs. 43,250/KW	Rs. 4.5 crores plus Rs. 75 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 40,000 per KW	60% of the project cost upto- Rs. 40 lakhs plus Rs. 28,850/KW	Rs. 3.0 crores plus Rs. 50 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 20,000 per KW	40% of the project cost upto- Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,425/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
III.	Private, Joint sector & Other SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	Rs. 30,000 per KW	45% of the project cost upto- Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 20,000 per KW	30% of the project cost upto- Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 10,000 per KW	20% of the project cost upto- Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW
IV.	Renovation & Modernisation of old SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	Rs. 30,000 per KW	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 20,000 per KW	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 10,000 per KW	75% of the R&M cost upto- Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW
V.	Languishing SHP projects	NE Region, Sikkim, J&K, H.P. & Uttaranchal	Rs. 30,000 per KW	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 30 lakhs plus Rs. 21,625/KW	Rs. 2.25 crores plus Rs. 37.5 lakhs/MW
		Notified hilly regions of all other States & Islands	Rs. 20,000 per KW	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 20 lakhs plus Rs. 14,400/KW	Rs. 1.5 crores plus Rs. 25 lakhs/MW

1	2	3	4	5	6
		Plain & other regions of all other States	Rs. 10,000 per KW	75% of the balance project cost upto- Rs. 10 lakhs plus Rs. 7,200/KW	Rs. 0.75 crores plus Rs. 12.5 lakhs/MW
VI.	Development & up-gradation of Water Mills	All over the country	75% of project cost upto Rs. 30,000/WM for mechanical application. 75% of project cost upto Rs. 1.00 lakhs/WM for mechanical & electrical applications or electrical applications only.		

Statement-III**State-wise Estimated Power Generation from SHP Projects (Upto 25 MW) During 2004-05**

Sl.No.	State/UT	Estimated power generation During 2004-05 (in million units)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	328
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	65
3.	Assam	4
4.	Bihar	91
5.	Chhattisgarh	12
6.	Goa	0.1
7.	Gujarat	14
8.	Haryana	125
9.	Himachal Pradesh	204
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	204
11.	Jharkhand	8
12.	Karnataka	426
13.	Kerala	169
14.	Madhya Pradesh	78
15.	Maharashtra	414
16.	Manipur	10
17.	Meghalaya	61
18.	Mizoram	29

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	40
20.	Orissa	14
21.	Punjab	216
22.	Rajasthan	47
23.	Sikkim	71
24.	Tamil Nadu	152
25.	Tripura	32
26.	Uttar Pradesh	43
27.	Uttaranchal	144
28.	West Bengal	184
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	10
Total		3195.1

1 unit=1 kilowatt hour.

*[English]***Illegal Constructions**

1746. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2040 dated December 16, 2003 and state:

(a) the details of the illegal constructions identified so far for removal; and

(b) the number of illegal structures removed till date?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Special Police Officers Working with Delhi Police

1747. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of special police officers working in various police stations in Delhi at present and since when they have been working; and

(b) the terms and conditions for appointing Special Police Officers in the police stations along with the amount of honorarium, conveyance allowance and emoluments they are drawing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The requisite information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The terms and conditions for appointment of a person as Special Police Officer are indicated below:

(i) He should be an able bodied person not below the age of 18;

(ii) He should have good reputation to assist police in maintaining law and order in the Capital;

(iii) He should not have any criminal record/background;

(iv) The person who volunteers for appointment as Special Police Officer should be subjected to mandatory police verification;

(v) Every Special Police Officer will be given a certificate on appointment;

(vi) He will have the same powers, privileges and immunities and perform the same duties as envisaged in Section 43 of Cr.P.C.;

(vii) No honorarium, conveyance allowance or any other remuneration will be admissible to him; and

(viii) The duration of appointment of Special Police Officer will be one year which can be curtailed or extended depending on his performance.

Statement

Period for which working as special police officer

Sl.No.	No. of Police Station	No. of SPOs	Less than one year	Less than two years	Less than three years	Less than four years	Less than Five years	Less than ten years	Less than twenty years
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

EAST DISTRICT

1.	Kalyan Puri	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
2.	New Ashok Nagar	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
3.	Pandav Nagar	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
4.	Mayur Vihar	7	0	3	1	1	0	2	0
5.	Mandawali	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
6.	Vivek Vihar	11	0	2	2	3	3	1	0
7.	Farsh Bazar	21	5	7	5	0	2	2	0
8.	Anand Vihar	6	0	2	1	1	1	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Preet Vihar	5	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
10.	Shakar Pur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Gandhi Nagar	4	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
12.	Krishna Nagar	18	0	3	2	2	3	8	0
13.	Geeta Colony	7	0	1	0	0	3	3	0
Total		90	7	23	15	11	13	20	1

NEW DELHI DISTRICT

14.	Parliament Street	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
15.	Mandir Marg	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
16.	Chanakya Puri	4	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
17.	Tughlak Road	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Connaught Place	11	0	5	2	2	0	2	0
19.	Tilak Marg	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		23	3	9	3	3	0	5	0

NORTH EAST DISTRICT

20.	Seelam Pur	6	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
21.	New Usmanpur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Bhajan Pura	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
23.	Gokal Puri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Khajuri Khas	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Shahdara	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
26.	Welcome	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27.	M.S. Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Seema Puri	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Nand Nagri	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Dilehad Garden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		10	4	2	1	1	1	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CENTRAL DISTRICT									
31.	Darya Ganj	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
32.	Ch. Mahal	7	0	1	0	0	5	1	0
33.	Jama Masjid	16	0	0	0	4	1	5	6
34.	Kamla Market	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
35.	Hauz Qazi	19	1	0	0	0	3	9	6
36.	I.P. Estate	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
37.	Pahar Ganj	7	0	0	3	4	0	0	0
38.	Nabi Karim	12	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
39.	D.B.G. Road	9	0	1	0	2	2	0	4
40.	Karol Bagh	11	0	2	0	1	0	5	3
41.	Parsad Nagar	6	0	0	1	1	0	3	1
42.	Rajinder Nagar	10	1	0	1	0	1	2	5
Total		105	2	5	5	12	12	32	37
NORTH DISTRICT									
43.	Civil Lines	02	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
44.	Timar Pur	03	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
45.	Roop Nagar	13	1	0	1	1	3	3	4
46.	Maurice Nagar	03	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
47.	Subzi Mandi	09	1	2	0	1	1	2	2
48.	Gulabi Bagh	05	0	0	0	1	1	1	2
49.	Sarai Rohilla	07	0	1	1	0	0	3	2
50.	Sadar Bazar	05	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
51.	Bara Hindu Rao	03	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
52.	Kashmere Gate	01	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
53.	Kotwali	16	0	0	2	4	3	2	5
54.	Lahori Gate	27	2	2	6	1	1	6	9
55.	Chandni Chowk	40	1	6	2	7	8	8	8
Total		134	7	12	14	15	21	26	39

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NORTH WEST DISTRICT									
56.	Ashok Vihar	11	0	1	1	1	3	0	5
57.	Keshav Puram	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	5
58.	Saraswati Vihar	13	0	1	6	1	0	5	0
59.	Model Town	4	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
60.	Adarsh Nagar	7	0	1	0	0	1	1	4
61.	Mukherjee Nagar	9	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
62.	Narela Ind. Area	13	0	2	6	2	1	2	0
63.	Ali Pur	11	0	2	0	0	8	0	1
64.	S.P. Badli	6	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
65.	Bawan	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
66.	Jahangir Puri	7	0	2	1	0	1	3	0
67.	Shalimar Bagh	16	10	0	3	1	1	0	1
68.	Rohini	10	0	6	1	1	1	1	0
69.	Prashant Vihar	13	0	1	12	0	0	0	0
70.	Sultan Puri	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
71.	Mangol Puri	5	2	2	0	0	1	0	0
72.	Kanjhawla	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		137	13	32	35	6	19	15	17

SOUTH DISTRICT

73.	Hauz Khas	57	6	7	8	10	20	4	2
74.	Malviya Nagar	74	14	11	13	9	18	6	3
75.	Mehrauli	18	4	5	3	3	3	0	0
76.	Defence Colony	55	10	6	10	9	5	14	1
77.	Lodhi Colony	14	2	3	1	0	8	0	0
78.	Kotla Mubarak Pur	21	2	2	5	3	3	6	0
79.	Lajpat Nagar	73	12	16	12	10	6	17	0
80.	Sri Niwas Puri	7	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
81.	Hazrat Nizamuddin	39	5	6	8	6	3	9	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
82.	New Friends Colony	30	3	7	5	5	4	6	0
83.	Greater Kailash	26	4	7	7	5	1	2	0
84.	Chittranjan Park	43	5	8	6	6	4	13	1
85.	Ambedkar Nagar	36	3	4	6	6	5	11	1
86.	Sangam Vihar	21	2	4	3	5	5	2	0
87.	Kalkaji	19	3	1	2	4	3	6	0
88.	Badar Pur	14	2	4	2	1	4	1	0
89.	Okhla	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
90.	Sarita Vihar	23	5	4	8	2	2	2	0
Total		574	84	96	100	85	95	104	10

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

91.	Vasant Vihar	13	3	7	3	0	0	0	0
92.	R.K. Puram	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
93.	Sarojini Nagar	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
94.	Delhi Cantt.	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
95.	Vasant Kunj	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	0
96.	Naraina	9	0	2	0	0	7	0	0
97.	Maya Puri	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
98.	Inder Puri	9	4	5	0	0	0	0	0
99.	Najafgarh	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
100.	Kapas Hera	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
101.	Dabri	17	0	16	0	0	1	0	0
102.	Jaffarpur Kalan	5	0	0	3	0	2	0	0
103.	Dwarka	4	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total		85	20	41	10	0	13	1	0

WEST DISTRICT

104.	Patel Nagar	10	2	0	0	2	2	3	1
105.	Anand Parbat	5	0	1	0	0	3	1	0
106.	Moti Nagar	18	1	3	0	0	9	3	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
107.	Tilak Nagar	21	1	4	0	1	12	3	0
108.	Janak Puri	11	0	2	1	0	3	5	0
109.	Vikas Puri	8	2	1	0	0	2	3	0
110.	Uttam Nagar	9	0	3	0	1	4	1	0
111.	Punjabi Bagh	30	2	5	7	4	2	10	0
112.	Paschim Vihar	21	0	5	1	2	10	2	1
113.	Nangloi	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
114.	Rajouri Garden	16	0	7	7	0	2	0	0
115.	Hari Nagar	25	0	5	7	4	5	4	0
116.	Kirti Nagar	19	0	7	2	0	5	5	0
Total		197	8	43	25	14	59	42	6
Grand Total		1355	148	283	208	147	233	246	110

*[English]***Use of Basements for Commercial Activities**

1748. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that basements in residential colonies in Delhi are being used illegally for commercial activities on large scale causing problems of congestion, parking, security and cleanliness of the area;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the use of a basement can be put to as per the Master Plan of Delhi 2001, MCD Act, etc.; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Local Bodies have reported that complaints have been received in this regard from time to time. As and when any such misuse of the basement is noticed, action is taken under the respective laws.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of Master Plan for Delhi—2001 read with unified Building Byelaws for Delhi

1983, basement can be used (i) for household storage and other goods of non-flammable material and parking in residential buildings and (ii) for storage of non-flammable material, dark rooms, strong rooms, bank cellars etc., air conditioning equipment and other machines used for services and utilities of the buildings, parking places and garages, stacking rooms of libraries and offices of commercial purpose provided it is air conditioned, in commercial/Institutional Buildings.

*[Translation]***Rural Electrification**

1749. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to supply electricity through non-conventional sources to the people living in villages surrounded by forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated by the Government to each State during the current financial year for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a Scheme for electrification through Non-Conventional Energy Sources of remote villages, including forest villages, which cannot be electrified by the conventional grid. About 1700 remote villages in 10 States have so far been electrified and projects are under implementation in about 1400 villages in 17 States.

(c) State-wise allocation of funds is not made. Projects are sanctioned in terms of the provisions of the Scheme on the basis of proposals received from the States.

[*English*]

Durgawati Mini Hydel Power Project

1750. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Durgawati mini hydel power project proposed to be set up in West Bengal;

(b) the estimated cost and the amount of subsidy proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the State Government for the purpose; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) So far no proposal has been received to setup the Durgawati mini hydel power project in West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Integrated Child Development Services Scheme

1751. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) number of Integrated Child Development Services Scheme Projects sanctioned and operational as on April 30, 2004, State-wise;

(b) number of Anganwadi centers in each project alongwith the number of beneficiaries under these centers, State-wise and Group-wise at present;

(c) number of post of CDPOs, ACDPOs, Supervisors, workers and helpers sanctioned and vacant as on date; and

(d) steps being taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As on 30.4.2004, out of 5652 sanctioned ICDS projects and 744673 Anganwadi Centres, 5267 projects and 649725 Anganwadi Centres become operational. Services under the scheme were provided to about 4.39 crore beneficiaries. State-wise details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The information is given in the statement-II enclosed.

(d) Responsibility for filling up the post of ICDS functionaries lies with the State Governments. The vacancy position is regularly monitored by the Department also through reports received from the States/UTs and review meetings. The States/UTs are reminded, from time to time, to fill up all vacant posts of ICDS functionaries.

Statement I

State-wise number of sanctioned & operational ICDS Projects/Anganwadi Centres and group-wise number of beneficiaries for supplementary nutrition as on 30th April 2004

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of ICDS Projects		No. of Anganwadis		Number of supplementary nutrition beneficiaries				
		Sanctioned by GOI	Operational	Sanctioned by GOI	Operational	Children <3 years	Children 3-6 years	Total Children	Pregnant & Lactating Women	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	363	351	54312	53635	977240	1501061	2478301	648395	3126696
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	58	57	2359	2286	48513	45276	93789	16486	110275

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3.	Assam#	196	195	25416	25302	638352	596947	1235299	170565	1405884
4.	Bihar	394	183	60813	24965	966325	800143	1766468	916791	2683259
5.	Chhattisgarh	152	152	20289	20279	760879	600178	1361057	325793	1686850
6.	Goa	11	11	1012	1012	20545	18015	38560	8935	47495
7.	Gujarat	227	227	37961	35490	788517	832584	1621101	270239	1891340
8.	Haryana	116	116	13546	13546	481886	407682	889568	229923	1119491
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	72	7354	7354	163690	130280	293970	66351	360321
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	121	120	11821	10227	72940	59266	132206	27921	160127
11.	Jharkhand	204	152	15505	14967	177418	185494	362912	160389	523301
12.	Karnataka	185	185	40301	40301	1163999	1251917	2415916	455589	2871505
13.	Kerala	163	163	25393	24417	375821	521201	897022	147035	1044057
14.	Madhya Pradesh	336	336	49784	49016	1318535	1183013	2501548	581703	3083251
15.	Maharashtra	370	368	62716	58109	1799612	2373594	4173206	624732	4797938
16.	Manipur	34	34	4501	4499	21896	29642	51538	8954	60492
17.	Meghalaya	32	32	2218	2218	83482	99512	182994	33433	216427
18.	Mizoram	21	21	1361	1341	61596	44446	106042	26296	132338
19.	Nagaland	54	54	2770	2770	137785	102208	239993	38164	278157
20.	Orissa	326	326	34201	34201	1817463	1841339	3658802	655392	4314194
21.	Punjab	142	142	15829	14016	26249	383837	410086	105311	515397
22.	Rajasthan	257	257	35821	35686	1291441	1253210	2544651	564130	3108781
23.	Sikkim	5	5	500	500	19589	13051	32640	5856	38496
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	434	42377	30059	616043	890729	1506772	471297	1978069
25.	Tripura	40	39	3786	3692	62369	81046	143415	20388	163803
26.	Uttar Pradesh	836	742	103104	75005	1870638	1430500	3301138	589384	3890522
27.	Uttaranchal	99								
			96							
				6378						
					5924					
						65754				
							52368			
								118122	28682	146804
28.	West Bengal	358	352	57540	53361	1408435	1805517	3213952	341875	3555827

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	138	138	5883	5498	11381	1804	13185
33.	Daman & Diu	2	2	87	87	3400	3577	6977	1898	8875
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	74	74	2023	1854	3877	986	4863
35.	Pondicherry	5	5	677	677	23436	8624	32060	9219	41279
	All India	5652	5267	744673	649725	17544796	18753455	36298251	7647934	43946185

#As on 30.11.2003.

Statement II*State-wise number of post of CDPOs, ACDPOs, Supervisors, anganwadi workers and helpers as on 30th April 2004*

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of CDPOs/ACDPOs			Supervisors			Anganwadi Workers			Anganwadi Helpers		
		Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant	Sanctioned	In-position	Vacant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	622	466	156	2664	1587	1077	54312	53360	952	54312	53526	786
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	58	46	12	120	117	3	2359	2286	73	2359	1806	553
3.	Assam#	279	235	44	1143	775	368	25416	24905	511	25416	21329	4087
4.	Bihar	394	155	239	2492	211	2281	60813	27745	33068	60813	26431	34382
5.	Chhattisgarh	255	150	105	1031	699	332	20289	20110	179	20289	20043	246
6.	Goa	14	10	4	57	41	16	1012	1006	6	1012	992	20
7.	Gujarat	466	273	193	1893	1031	862	37961	34044	3917	37961	34352	3609
8.	Haryana	121	87	34	673	499	174	13546	13446	100	13546	13526	20
9.	Himachal Pradesh	103	77	26	372	93	279	7354	7315	39	7354	7323	31
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	140	115	25	510	300	210	11821	10227	1594	11821	10292	1529
11.	Jharkhand	188	93	95	797	310	487	15505	14130	1375	15505	13801	1704
12.	Karnataka	404	359	45	1876	1726	150	40301	39631	670	40301	40246	55
13.	Kerala	243	203	40	1158	1008	150	25393	24363	1030	25393	24149	1244
14.	Madhya Pradesh	462	340	122	2063	1680	383	49784	47624	2160	49784	47093	2691
15.	Maharashtra	654	501	153	2825	2484	341	62716	57233	5483	62716	56452	6264
16.	Manipur	44	41	3	173	164	9	4501	4496	5	4501	4495	6
17.	Meghalaya	36	32	4	124	122	2	2218	2218	0	2218	2218	0
18.	Mizoram	21	21	0	77	77	0	1361	1341	20	1361	1341	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
19.	Nagaland	54	50	4	117	91	26	2770	2437	333	2770	2437	333
20.	Orissa	326	274	52	1742	1064	678	34201	32604	1597	34201	33439	762
21.	Punjab	151	139	12	723	670	53	15829	13177	2652	15829	13724	2105
22.	Rajasthan	395	164	231	1735	1357	378	35821	35525	296	35821	35475	346
23.	Sikkim	5	5	0	25	24	1	500	497	3	500	491	9
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	373	61	1534	1060	474	42377	30016	12361	42377	13044	29333
25.	Tripura	39	31	8	166	98	68	3786	3687	99	3786	3684	102
26.	Uttar Pradesh	815	539	276	4773	2707	2066	103104	72875	30229	103104	69381	33723
27.	Uttaranchal	99	69	30	300	198	102	6378	5674	704	6378	5507	871
28.	West Bengal	582	395	187	2672	2549	123	58540	52357	5183	57540	51804	5736
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	5	0	25	25	0	527	429	98	527	429	98
30.	Chandigarh	3	3	0	12	12	0	300	297	3	300	300	0
31.	Delhi	28	24	4	147	141	6	3902	3842	60	3902	3842	60
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	0	8	5	3	138	138	0	138	138	0
33.	Daman & Diu	2	2	0	5	5	0	87	87	0	87	87	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	4	4	0	74	74	0	74	74	0
35.	Pondicherry	5	4	1	32	32	0	677	677	0	677	677	0
	All India	7448	5282	2166	34068	22966	11102	744673	639873	104800	744673	613948	130725

#As on 30.11.2003.

*[Translation]***Computer Education**

1752. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 11th Finance Commission has recommended huge sum for development of computer education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Union Government have not released even half of the amount sanctioned by the

Finance Commission to the States during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to release the amount without further delay to promote computer education at school level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (e) As per information received from Finance Commission Division, Ministry of Finance, the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 245.53 crores for all the States during 2000-01 to 2004-05 for Computer Training for

school children. A Statement indicating grants recommended by EFC, grants released during 2000-2005 (till 15.7.2004) and utilization reported by States is enclosed.

For implementation of the grant scheme recommended by EFC the Government has issued guidelines to States. In terms of the guidelines the States are required to submit (i) action plan duly approved by State level empowered Committee, (ii) copies of the

administrative approvals issued by State for execution of the scheme and (iii) utilization reports in respect of grants released earlier by the Union Government.

Several States have not reported any utilization of computer training grant. The balance grants is to be released to States on receipt of utilization certificates. The grants recommended by EFC has to be utilized by the States upto 31st March, 2005.

Statement

Position as on 15.07.2004
(Amount in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Grants recommended by 11th FC	Grants released during 2000-05	Utilization reported by States
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	989.00	890.10	890.10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	559.00	503.10	203.01
3.	Assam	989.00	890.10	494.50
4.	Bihar	1591.00	873.17	460.76
5.	Chhattisgarh	688.00	619.20	68.80
6.	Goa	86.00	34.59	45.54
7.	Gujarat	1075.00	432.36	0.00
8.	Haryana	817.00	500.60	328.60
9.	Himachal Pradesh	516.00	207.54	0.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	602.00	121.06	0.00
11.	Jharkhand	774.00	77.83	0.00
12.	Karnataka	1161.00	870.75	223.51
13.	Kerala	602.00	451.50	121.06
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1935.00	1741.50	1403.00
15.	Maharashtra	1505.00	605.31	0.00
16.	Manipur	387.00	348.30	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	301.00	30.27	0.00
18.	Mizoram	344.00	138.36	48.00
19.	Nagaland	344.00	309.60	344.00

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	1290.00	518.84	9.90
21.	Punjab	731.00	147.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	1376.00	553.43	178.53
23.	Sikkim	172.00	154.80	43.93
24.	Tamil Nadu	1247.00	1247.00	1247.00
25.	Tripura	172.00	154.80	172.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3010.00	1210.62	413.84
27.	Uttaranchal	559.00	237.63	0.00
28.	West Bengal	731.00	294.01	137.47
Total		24553.00	14163.37	6833.57

[English]

Funds for the Expansion of Thermal Power Plants in Bihar

1753. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned Rs. 350 crores to Bihar for the expansion of Kahalgaon and Kanmti Thermal Power Stations, for rural electrification and strengthening the transmission and distribution of power system in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) to (c) Planning Commission under Rastriya Samvikas Yojana has sanctioned Rs. 365 crores to implement a scheme for improvement of Sub-transmission and Distribution system in Bihar. POWERGRID, a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under Ministry of Power, is executing this scheme on behalf of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). POWERGRID is expected to complete the work within 18 months depending on the releases made and on the availability of land by State Government.

Under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP), the Government has sanctioned

Rs. 768.25 crore out of which APDRP component is Rs. 384.13 crore to improve the sub-transmission and Distribution System in Bihar. This scheme is executed by State Government. The usual period of completion is two years, however, the utilization of funds depends on the State Governments and the ability of the State Electricity Boards to initiate action to float tenders, evaluate and award the same.

National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has taken up the expansion of Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station in two stages namely Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Station Stage-II, Phase-I (2x500 MW) and Phase-II (1x500 MW) with an approved outlay of Rs. 4002.28 crores (as of 4th Quarter 2002 price level) and Rs. 1866.10 crores (as of 1st Quarter 2003 price level) respectively. Anticipated completion of the project is scheduled in 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

Expansion of another Thermal Power Project at Kanmti, Muzaffarpur (2x250 MW) in Bihar, to be developed by Bihar State Electricity Board, was sanctioned in 1995 by Planning Commission, which however, was not taken up, as financial tie-up could not be finalized. Requisite tie-ups will facilitate implementation of this project.

Approved outlays for Rural Electrification works in Bihar under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) are Rs. 68 Crores and Rs. 24.17 Crores respectively during the year 2003-04. The utilization of funds by the State Government depends on ability of the State Electricity Board to identify

the villages, prepare detailed project reports, procure material and award contracts.

Posting of Officials to Daman and Diu

1754. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the officials posted in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu in class I, II and III category who have been posted at the same station for more than 5 years;

(b) the reasons for not effecting the transfer of such officials by the Union Territory administration;

(c) the details of the guidelines issued by the Union Government to the Union Territory administration in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to transfer all such officials with a view to streamline the administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There were as on 30th June, 2004, 42 Group 'A' Officers; 24 Group 'B' Officers; and 548 Group 'C' Officers who were holding the same posts for the last more than five years under the Daman & Diu Administration.

(b) The various reasons because of which these officers have not been transferred include the disproportionately large number of posts sanctioned for Daman District as compared to those sanctioned for Diu District; the large distance between the two districts which adversely impacts especially the low paid employees if transferred from one district to the other; the absence of similar posts in other departments; and the need to retain those who have acquired specialized technical qualification.

(c) There are standing instructions of the Central Government for periodic rotation of staff. The Daman and Diu Administration has also issued suitable guidelines for such periodic transfers.

(d) The Daman and Diu Administration has undertaken an exercise to consider transfer of all such employees as have remained in the same post for more than three years subject to the aforesaid constraints.

Encroachments in Connivance with Officials in Delhi

1755. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale encroachments taking place along road side in Delhi in connivance with officials thereby causing inconvenience to the smooth flow of traffic particularly in Tilak Nagar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken against such erring officials along with steps taken to remove such encroachments;

(d) whether it is also a fact that illegal cycle-rickshaws plying on roads in Delhi are causing hurdles in the smooth flow of traffic;

(e) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to impose ban on plying of such cycle-rickshaws; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Police Authorities have informed that while it is true that encroachment takes place alongside the road causing inconvenience to the traffic and pedestrians, no connivance on the part of MCD or Delhi Police Traffic officials has come to notice. The Enforcement Department of MCD has been taking actions regularly for removal of encroachments. During the last one year about 20 such actions were carried out in and around Tilak Nagar by MCD. Delhi Traffic Police have intimated that they have registered about 200 cases against encroachers in Tilak Nagar area alone during the last three years.

(d) to (f) The MCD has reported that while it is true that large of illegal cycle rickshaw are plying on the roads in Delhi including the West Zone of MCD which are causing hurdles in the smooth flow of traffic, action is taken by MCD by impounding such unlicensed cycle rickshaws on a regular basis. About 720 unlicensed cycle rickshaws have been impounded in West Zone during the month of June, 2004.

The MCD has fixed a ceiling of 99,000 licences to be granted for cycle-rickshaws in the jurisdiction of MCD and fixed Zone-wise quota of licences to be granted and

different colour scheme for each of the municipal zone. A total of 73,072 licences have already been granted and for the remaining 25,928 licences, public notice has been published inviting applications at the zonal level.

Plying of unlicensed cycle-rickshaws are not allowed and raids are regularly conducted for impounding illegal cycle-rickshaws. During the last three years more than 58,000 unlicensed cycle rickshaws were impounded by MCD.

Overstay of BSF/CRPF/CISF/ITBP in NCR

1756. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that officers of BSF/CRPF/CISF/ITBP are staying in National Capital Region for more than three years tenure;

(b) if so, the reasons for their long stay in NCR areas;

(c) the policy adopted by BSF/CRPF/CISF/ITBP for transfer in case of officers of the rank of Deputy SP and above and the plan of the Government to rectify the faulty transfer policy adopted by these organizations;

(d) whether the officers are enjoying patronage of higher officers at the cost of other officers; and

(e) if so, the reasons of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Only a few officers in BSF, CRPF, CISF and ITBP have been allowed to continue beyond the prescribed tenure owing to the following reasons:

- (i) Operational and administrative exigencies.
- (ii) Medical grounds.
- (iii) Compassionate grounds.
- (iv) Terminal posting (approaching superannuation).

(c) Each Force has its own well defined, transparent and time tested transfer policy. No change is contemplated at this juncture.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Inclusion of Mandi Caste in STs List

1757. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mandi caste in Madhya Pradesh is included in the List of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if not, whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for including Mandi caste in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the percentage of tribal families in the country who have improved their social and educational condition?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such data is maintained in this Ministry. However, under 11(b) 20 points programme, 7.66 lakhs and 8.27 lakhs families were economically assisted under different sector during the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively in order to improved their economic condition. Ministry has also been implementing different educational schemes to improve the literacy rate of the Scheduled Tribe families in the country.

The percentage of Scheduled Tribes population living below poverty line out of the total population of Scheduled Tribes has come down from 50.8% in 1993-94 to 44.6% in 1999-2000. The literacy rate has also improved from 16.35% in 1981 to 46.48% in 2001.

[English]

Setting up of Technical Institutions

1758. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Technical Institutions set up by the Government in Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up any new technical institutions in the State during the current year;

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

(d) the time by which the above institutions in the State are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. ASHRAF FATMI): (a) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), one Polytechnic was set up in the State of Arunachal Pradesh in 2002.

(b) to (d) During the current year, no application has been received by AICTE either from private or government agencies for establishment of new technical institute in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. Also, at present, there is no proposal in this Ministry to set up any new centrally funded technical institute in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

1759. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan was made by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan in 2003-04 to raise Rs. 120 crore from the parents on account of the school development fund and to use that amount of opening new schools in order to improve the overall condition of Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the names of places in Jharkhand and Bihar where Kendriya Vidyalayas are proposed to be opened with the said amount;

(c) whether the State Government has made proper and adequate land available for this purpose;

(d) if so, the time by which the said Vidyalayas are likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.

FATMI): (a) No, Sir. The School Development fund was merged with other Kendriya Vidyalaya level funds to form Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi (VVN) w.e.f. 01.04.2000. Vidyalaya Vikas Nidhi is collected in each Kendriya Vidyalaya over a financial year in quarterly instalments. It is to be used for expenditure at Vidyalaya level for meeting expenditure on account of various academic activities, maintenance of Vidyalayas, horticulture, payment of contractual teachers, purchase of furniture, lab. Equipments, payment of water/electricity bills etc. over a period of one financial year. In some of the Kendriya Vidyalayas, this fund could not be fully used during particular financial year for which it was collected and the unspent balance got accumulated in VVN. Keeping in view the demands from various quarters, a plan for expansion of Kendriya Vidyalayas was made by K.V.S. from the year 2003-04 by utilizing its own internal savings. For financing one time expenditure on land/temporary buildings/furniture etc. for the new schools, the unspent balance of V.V.N. amounting to Rs. 52.82 crores for the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 was initially transferred to Regional Offices in January, 2003 and then to K.V.S. (HQ) in November, 2003.

(b) to (e) Under the above scheme of expansion of K.V.S. new Kendriya Vidyalayas were opened in Bihar and Jharkhand in 2003-04 and 2004-05. The details of these Kendriya Vidyalayas and status in respect of allotment of land for these KVs etc. are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of New KVs Opened During 2003-04 and 2004-05 in the State of Bihar and Jharkhand and Status in Respect of Land

State	Name of Kendriya Vidyalaya	Status of Land
1	2	3
Bihar	1. Buxar	Concerned D.M. has taken up the matter with the State Revenue Department for transfer of land.
	2. Bettiah	-do-
	3. Hazipur	do-
	4. Mashrakh	do-

1	2	3
	5. Motihari	do-
	6. Nawada	do-
	7. Chhapra	do-
	8. Gopal Ganj	do-
	9. Dharbhanga	do-
	10. Barauni	Land & building made available.
Jharkhand	1. Dhanbad No. 2	Land not acquired from State Govt. and Vidyalaya is running in State Govt. Bungalow.
	2. HEC Ranchi	The matter is under process with the HEC authorities.
	3. Surda Ghatshila	MOU is in process between HCL and KVS.
	4. Bhurkunda	Land & building is available.

[English]

Development of New Satellite Cities Around Metropolitan Cities

1760. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any plan to develop new satellite cities around the metropolitan cities during the current plan period;

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

(c) the details of funds allocated and disbursed for the purpose during the said period and progress made in various States, State-wise;

(d) whether the said plan was also implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the targets and achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No such plan was implemented during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Setting up of Economic Growth Clusters

1761. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up economic growth clusters for making improvement in the growth of urban areas for the next five years;

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

(c) whether poor quality of infrastructure is acting as impediment to growth of urban areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the growth of urban areas with good quality infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No specific scheme to set up economic growth clusters for making improvement in the growth of urban areas exist. However, Planning Commission has reported following schemes which promote industrial/economic growth clusters development:

1. Growth Centres Scheme being implemented by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.
2. Industry Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme being implemented by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.
3. Assistance to States for Infrastructure Development for Exports (ASIDE) being implemented by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

4. Special Economic Zones Scheme being implemented by Department of Commerce.
5. Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme being implemented by Ministry of Textiles.
6. Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme being implemented by Ministry of Textiles.

(c) The urban infrastructure is continuously being upgraded by improving water supply, power supply, solid waste management, housing, poor transport network etc.

(d) The development of infrastructure in urban areas comes within the purview of State Government. However, in order to provide good quality infrastructure the centrally sponsored scheme of Integrated Development of Small and Medium Town (IDSMT) is in operation since 1979-80 with one of the objectives to improve and provide infrastructure facilities and services as well as create employment opportunities in towns with a population upto 5 lakhs. In 1993-94, Centrally sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities was launched in 5 cities viz. Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai. Under the Scheme sharing between Central & State Governments is in the ratio of 25:25 and balance 50% is mobilized by nodal/implementing agencies. Internal resources of implementing agencies could substitute institutional finance. Funds from Central & State Governments flow as grant to nodal agencies. Nodal agencies sanction loan at variable rate of interest for urban infrastructures including water supply, sewerage, drainage, sanitation, city transport networks, land development, slum improvement, solid waste management etc. Moreover, to provide safe & adequate water supply facilities scheme of AUWSP (Augmented Urban Water Supply Programme) was launched in 1993-94.

It is also proposed to expand the coverage of the above mentioned Schemes by including larger expanse of Urban population.

[Translation]

Neglect of Hindi Language

1762. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that Hindi language is being neglected due to the increasing influence of public school and the increasing

tendency of mental slavery as a result of which talented students remain deprived of higher education and research etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of the concrete steps 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) Study of Hindi is not being neglected in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) affiliated schools. Facility for teaching Hindi at all levels is available in all affiliated schools and large number of students are offering Hindi as a subject both at class X as well as class XII level.

Rehabilitation Package for Tribals

1763. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the benefit of the rehabilitation package to the tribals in the forest areas of Chhattisgarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The rehabilitation package to the tribals, including those living in forest areas, is available as per the provisions of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation, as brought out by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Killing of Women

1764. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women killed during each of the last four years after branding them as witches; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to do away with the said evil practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The National Crime Records Bureau under Ministry of Home Affairs has furnished information maintained by it relating to incidence of murder due to

witchcraft, according to which the number of murders during 2000 to 2003 are as follows:

Sl.No.	Year	No. of cases
1.	2000	126
2.	2001	126
3.	2002	151
4.	2003	129*

*Figure for 2003 is provisional.

(b) Combating this evil practice is mainly an aspect of maintenance of law and order and prevention of crime, which is the responsibility of the States. Some of the States, namely Bihar and Jharkhand, where this practice has been prevalent have adopted their own laws to deal with it. The State of Chhattisgarh which has not adopted any special law in this regard is of the view that the menace has to be dealt with through awareness generation and spread of education.

[English]

Infiltration of Insurgent to Bangladesh

1765. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of wanted insurgent activities from India's restive North-Eastern States are being infiltrated to Bangladesh and are carrying on their operations from the soil of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent such infiltration of insurgents to Bangladesh and to convince the Bangladesh Government of their presence in that country and need to check such operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The porous Indo-Bangladesh border provides easy access and safe routes for infiltration/exfiltration to the North Eastern militants for their trans-border movements for conducting subversive activities from the soil of Bangladesh.

(b) The Government has taken various measures to check such infiltration/movements, which includes raising of additional Battalions of Border Security Force; reduction of gaps between the border outposts; intensification of

patrolling, both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing; increase in the number of outposts, towers, provision of surveillance equipments, etc.

The Government has also taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh on several fora at the highest level. The Bangladesh Government have reiterated that they do not provide sanctuary to elements prejudicial to the interest of India and have denied the existence of Indian Insurgents or their camps in Bangladesh.

[Translation]

Attack on Parliament House

1766. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of militant organisations and separatists involved in the attack on the Parliament House; and

(b) the action taken by the Government against those organisations and militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Two militant organisations, namely, Lashker-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed were involved in the attack on the Parliament House on 13th December, 2001.

(b) The Central Government has consistently a strategy to counter terrorism which, besides giving primacy to dialogue, democratic processes and the rule of law, includes measures like strengthening of border management to check infiltration, gearing up of intelligence machinery, providing improved technology, weaponry and equipment for security forces, action as per law against terrorists and bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat global terrorism.

Import of Iron and Steel

1767. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron and steel imported during the last three years and the current year, separately;

(b) the countries from which these are imported and amount of foreign exchange spent by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make the country self-sufficient in production of Iron and Steel?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The quantum of Finished (Carbon) Steel imported by India during the last three years and the current year is given below:

(in million tonnes)

Imports	2001-02	2002-03	2003-2004 (Provisional)	April-June 2004 (Provisional)
Finished (Carbon) Steel	1.271	1.510	1.650	.350

(Source: JPC)

(b) Major countries from where steel has been imported during the last three years include Commonwealth of Independent States, Japan, Korea, South Africa, United Kingdom, Germany, United Arab Emirates and Australia. The country wise details of value of imports of iron and steel during the last year is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The country is self sufficient in the production of iron and steel except for certain special grades of steel required in small quantities. The small requirements do not justify setting up of domestic capacity for such grades through heavy investments.

In a deregulated and liberalised environment, the Government plays the role of a facilitator and provides an enabling environment through policy initiatives to foster growth of the steel industry. The Government through its policy initiatives has taken several steps to increase production of iron and steel in the country which inter-alia include the following:

- (i) allowing private entrepreneurs to setup steel plants.
- (ii) allowing foreign collaborations in steel projects.
- (iii) modernization and expansion of public sector steel plants and adoption of various policy measures to encourage creation of additional steel production capacity in the private sector. Indian steel producers have also taken steps to meet the domestic requirement of steel including upgradation of technology, improvement in productivity, improvement in quality of products and adoption of an appropriate product mix to meet the requirement of the consumers.

Statement

Country-wise Import of Iron & Steel Through Major Indian Ports During Apr'03-March'04

(Rs. Crores)

Country	Carbon Steel (including secondary/defective)																							
	Semis (inc. for scrap)	Bars & Rods	Struct.	Ply. Mats	Plates	HR Slabs	HR Coils/ CR Coils/ Sheets	CR Coils/ Sheets	GPHC Coils	Elec. Sheets	TMSP	Tin Plates	Tin Plate WW	Tin Free Steel	Total	Alloy/ Stainless	Pipes & Fittings	Making Scrap	Pig Iron	Spangir Iron	HB Iron	Ferro Alloys	Misc. Items	Grand Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Argentina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
Australia	3.10	0.52	—	—	56.00	0.05	0.45	3.46	16.86	0.75	—	7.58	6.82	0.23	95.82	0.44	—	18.00	—	—	—	1.26	1.82	116.94
Austria	—	0.15	—	—	0.50	—	0.23	0.28	—	0.06	—	—	0.10	0.12	1.44	3.51	—	1.81	—	—	—	6.88	0.45	12.59
Belgium	7.21	1.08	1.52	—	70.00	6.35	2.17	6.32	0.90	5.41	—	2.39	1.96	1.51	108.83	30.33	0.34	7.47	—	—	—	0.21	11.00	158.18
Brazil	—	—	—	—	0.14	—	0.57	2.10	—	—	—	17.61	0.13	3.51	24.08	6.82	—	0.40	—	—	—	10.42	—	41.40
Canada	0.33	9.03	0.34	—	—	2.24	4.38	8.82	8.00	0.86	—	0.50	0.28	0.91	35.29	1.38	0.19	11.88	—	—	—	0.39	2.13	51.28
China	—	1.53	—	—	66.00	1.11	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.33	—	0.28	—	—	69.65	6.61	2.91	0.90	—	—	—	18.20	2.82	100.89
CIS	20.52	8.39	0.32	—	235.00	1.72	263.90	14.50	6.57	47.04	—	—	—	—	506.96	0.40	—	14.65	—	—	—	16.12	3.90	632.03
Denmark	—	—	—	2.29	—	—	—	—	—	0.31	—	—	—	—	2.80	—	—	50.67	—	—	—	—	—	53.27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Czech	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10	—	—	—	—	0.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.10
E.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
Finland	—	—	—	—	0.27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.27	5.67	0.08	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6.02
France	—	3.31	0.13	—	5.64	0.03	5.10	11.58	1.40	4.02	—	0.49	0.81	0.30	32.81	40.39	0.22	1.84	—	—	—	2.48	2.89	80.63	
Germany	6.20	25.83	6.95	—	20.87	31.07	28.90	31.21	9.14	21.92	—	2.67	6.65	14.75	206.16	25.32	0.92	36.48	—	—	—	0.18	6.17	277.23	
Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
Iran	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	1.67	0.37	27.48	—	—	—	—	—	—	29.52
Italy	—	6.39	0.15	—	0.25	0.18	3.89	2.44	0.19	3.26	0.25	0.46	0.99	0.36	13.31	3.01	1.71	2.49	—	—	—	0.10	4.26	24.88	
Japan	7.20	8.32	—	—	3.95	3.85	25.80	65.31	105.28	99.68	—	9.90	2.60	21.01	352.50	61.92	9.12	0.18	—	—	—	—	—	5.13	428.85
Korea	0.06	3.98	3.24	—	0.40	4.08	28.00	172.79	45.28	8.25	—	18.82	—	0.41	283.29	55.00	28.95	1.53	—	—	—	0.02	7.50	374.29	
Kuwait	3.12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.12	—	0.14	43.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	48.36
Malaysia	0.60	0.13	—	—	—	0.96	0.54	4.00	1.55	0.48	—	0.74	0.33	0.05	9.38	0.49	0.07	16.18	—	—	—	—	—	1.04	27.16
Romania	5.66	—	—	—	14.40	5.98	16.75	42.00	1.41	0.33	—	—	—	—	86.53	3.14	0.07	3.93	—	—	—	—	—	0.08	93.75
Singapore	6.14	1.50	1.01	—	1.08	0.88	1.42	14.00	0.51	0.92	—	0.19	0.04	—	27.49	4.78	0.31	110.85	—	—	—	0.84	1.78	146.85	
Slovak Rep.	0.03	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.11	—	—	—	—	0.14	—	—	2.40	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.54
South Africa	0.05	2.84	2.84	—	—	—	6.0	2.10	—	0.11	—	0.24	—	—	13.88	18.58	0.95	38.14	3.14	—	—	—	8.48	0.87	85.12
Spain	—	0.55	0.24	—	—	—	0.21	1.53	0.12	—	—	0.10	0.20	0.13	3.08	31.12	2.99	1.80	—	—	—	0.16	1.15	40.10	
Sri Lanka	0.85	—	0.19	—	—	0.01	—	0.70	1.03	0.16	—	0.21	1.29	—	4.54	—	—	9.61	—	—	—	—	—	0.07	14.22
Sweden	0.19	0.03	—	—	1.94	0.79	1.05	0.70	3.00	1.01	—	0.47	—	—	9.18	21.88	0.43	37.50	—	—	—	—	—	2.09	70.88
Switzerland	—	0.11	—	—	—	—	—	1.18	0.52	—	—	0.18	—	—	1.99	0.04	—	0.15	—	—	—	0.09	—	—	2.27
U.A.E.	47.78	29.36	0.13	—	29.14	12.83	3.20	5.70	4.24	1.48	0.02	1.88	0.46	1.03	137.01	3.45	3.85	151.75	—	—	—	0.79	0.38	297.23	
U.K.	5.48	1.17	6.76	—	230.00	1.11	1.71	7.63	8.04	10.91	—	0.96	3.39	1.38	278.54	44.32	0.93	205.31	—	—	—	0.76	6.37	538.23	
U.S.A.	0.58	4.03	0.04	—	0.47	0.88	0.30	9.69	5.09	33.95	—	4.72	7.74	6.16	73.85	27.10	1.91	85.73	—	—	—	0.28	2.39	121.06	
Venezuela	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
Others	35.67	38.46	12.96	—	152.41	9.17	228.05	92.74	19.81	51.71	—	13.00	—	6.54	660.52	401.15	195.94	585.89	—	—	—	80.10	199.70	2123.30	
Total	150.77	140.52	36.82	2.29	888.46	82.87	622.52	500.65	238.16	290.94	0.27	83.18	33.69	58.90	3130.04	798.02	250.40	1470.52	3.14	0.00	0.00	146.24	263.50	8081.85	

Circulation of Fake Currency Notes

1768. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the denomination of fake currency notes which are in circulation in the country at present;

(b) the number of cases registered and value of fake currency recovered during each of the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to check the circulation of fake currency notes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):

(a) and (b) As per available information, the denomination of Rs. 1000, 500, 100, 50, 20 and 10 of fake currency notes are in circulation in the country at present. The State-wise details of the cases registered and value of fake currency recovered during the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to check circulation of FICN in the country which include stepping up of vigilance by BSF/Customs

authorities to prevent smuggling of fake currency, setting up of a Special Unit in the CBI exclusively for investigation of counterfeit currency notes, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes, dissemination of information on security features through print and electronic media for the benefit of the public. A High Level Committee has also recommended addition security features for incorporation in the Indian bank notes which would make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

Statement

(State/UT-wise, Value & No. of Cases)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001 Value in Rs.			No. of Cases	2002 Value in Rs.			No. of Cases	2003 Value in Rs.			No. of Cases
		(R)	(S)	(R+S)		(R)	(S)	(R+S)		(R)	(S)	(R+S)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
States:													
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1721200	2468235	4189435	134	2367720	3399950	5767670	120	1729120	3785485	5514605	243
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	9540	9540	4	0	13450	13450	6	0	13000	13000	7
3.	Assam	292660	611150	903810	45	871460	585990	1457450	52	1265200	1736400	3001600	67
4.	Bihar	1539010	0	1539010	0	2493030	0	2493030	1	3580770	231540	3812310	44
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	169600	170100	12
6.	Goa	0	6000	6000	3	0	2200	2200	3	11250	18900	30150	3
7.	Gujarat	3116270	2142170	5258440	51	3122430	3869460	6991890	39	2131810	4320810	6452620	237
8.	Haryana	0	334351	334351	51	5500	277507	283007	29	0	383000	383000	29
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	60100	60100	3	0	0	0	0	0	11600	11600	2
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	124450	1189950	1324400	17	246300	3735700	3982000	18	278130	611800	889930	24
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33550	33550	14
12.	Karnataka	1052990	979830	2032820	110	263060	2851150	4914210	121	991200	1181085	2172285	107
13.	Kerala	568020	385900	953920	69	586810	1368740	1955550	68	401300	959225	1360525	59
14.	Madhya Pradesh	142510	20000	162510	2	77890	328920	406810	45	345080	99110	444170	19
15.	Maharashtra	6530490	3920230	10450720	98	4307010	3831830	8138840	92	4191570	2803505	6795075	183
16.	Manipur	0	258720	258720	18	0	418300	418300	11	0	211500	211500	7
17.	Meghalaya	1	17400	17401	2	0	40900	40900	6	0	30800	30800	6
18.	Mizoram	0	159200	159200	11	0	118500	118500	15	1400	288400	289800	12
19.	Nagaland	0	209150	209150	9	0	7400	7400	5	0	127300	127300	5
20.	Orissa	412291	36850	449141	4	207411	51875	259286	10	346720	130310	477030	9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
21.	Punjab	0	1262650	1262650	46	0	2302100	2302100	18	200	4038650	4038650	38
22.	Rajasthan	1685580	3603080	5288680	47	1908820	12120	1920940	11	1787710	532370	2320080	22
23.	Sikkim	0	600	600	1	0	0	0	0	0	342000	342000	4
24.	Tamil Nadu	1329650	802951	2132801	65	1421800	2802245	4224045	87	1503710	1741560	3245270	47
25.	Tripura	0	67200	67200	5	0	46450	46450	4	0	113100	113100	10
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2428875	6638430	9067305	116	6560620	560120	7120740	69	3179450	3114980	6294430	157
27.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7200	7200	7
28.	West Bengal	1849660	23050	1872710	13	2844124	16000	2860124	5	3229010	695150	3924160	57
Total (States)		22793657	25216737	48010394	924	29083985	26640907	55724892	817	24974110	27511730	52465840	1431

Union Territories

29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	750	750	2	0	0	0	0	4550	200	4750	1
30.	Chandigarh	1464050	1500	1465550	2	687250	392120	1079370	6	771450	1600	773050	2
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9900	9900	1
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1800	1800	3
33.	Delhi	3284830	244000	3528830	2	9456670	4600	9461270	3	3586690	299950	3886640	11
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	3850	3850	3	0	2800	2800	3	0	200	200	1
Total (UTs)		4748880	250100	4998980	10	10143920	399520	10543440	12	4362690	313650	4876340	19
Total (All-India)		27542537	25466837	53009374	934	39227905	27040427	66268332	829	29336800	27825380	57162180	1450

1. (R) Recovered (No. of Pieces Detected at Banks)

2. (S) Seized (No. of pieces seized by police)

3. Figures are provisional.

2001

Rs. 10090/-denomination: Recovered 11, seized 97

Total Value in Rupees=53009374+108000

2003

Chhattisgarh—October & November Not Available

Madhya Pradesh—October & December Not Available

Recognition of Chemical Fertilizer Plants

1769. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fertilizer plants which have been recognised by the Government in Maharashtra, location-wise;

(b) whether chemical fertilizers are being produced even in those factories which have not been recognised;

(c) whether any complaints have been received by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether air pollution caused by these private chemical factories have made the agricultural lands of farmers barren in the course of three years;

(e) whether advance subsidy has been given to these factories during the last three years to four years;

(f) if so, the amount of subsidy given during the said period, year-wise;

(g) whether any inquiry has been conducted or is proposed to be conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if not, other corrective measures likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) The chemical fertilizers fall in the category of de-licensed items and therefore no licence for manufacture thereof is required. However, for manufacture of chemical fertilizers, including manufacture of fertilizer mixtures, there is a requirement of obtaining registration from the concerned State Government for carrying out manufacture and sale of chemical fertilizers under the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO). The information on units registered under FCO is not maintained by the Government and is available with the concerned State Government only. The Government of India has no information on chemical fertilizers being

produced even in those factories in Maharashtra, which have not obtained the required registration under FCO.

(d) A manufacturer, before the commencement of production of chemical fertilizer, has to obtain clearance from pollution control angle from the Ministry of Environment as also site clearance from the concerned State Government. The concerned State Pollution Control Board monitors implementation of pollution control measures. The Government of India has not received any complaint from pollution angle in respect of chemical fertilizer units operating in Maharashtra.

(e) and (f) There is no provision for payment of advance subsidy on fertilizers. The details of subsidy paid to manufacturers of chemical fertilizers located in the State of Maharashtra for last three years beginning 2001-02 onwards is given in the Statement enclosed.

(g) and (h) The Government of India does not propose to conduct any inquiry on non-implementation of pollution control measures against any chemical fertilizer unit located in the State of Maharashtra.

Statement

*Subsidy paid to chemical fertilizer manufacturing units during the last three years
(except for urea, subsidy paid on P&K fertilizers is subject to variation on account of
adjustment on receipt of sales verification from States)*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Company	Product	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers (Thal & Trombay)	15:15:15:	85.940	47.200	50.780
		20:20:00	57.830	21.260	29.060
		Urea	598.440	415.760	670.990
2.	Deepak Fertilizers (Taloja)	23:23:00	43.830	16.970	19.420
3.	Dharamsi Morarji Chemicals* (Ambemath)	SSP	7.710	6.480	4.420
4.	Bhillai Engg. Corpn. (Pulgaon)	SSP	1.010	2.530	3.210
5.	Jairam Phosphate (Gadchiroli)	SSP	0.980	2.320	2.950
6.	Rama Krishi Rasayan Ltd. (Pune)	SSP	6.040	4.300	5.060
7.	Shiva Fertilizers Ltd. (Nanded)	SSP	3.550	3.980	3.390
8.	Shri Bhawani Mishra Fertilizer (Nanded)	SSP	0.120	0.690	0.650
9.	Bharat Fertilizers (Thane)	SSP	1.110	1.340	0.740

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Basant Agro (Akola)	SSP	3.690	3.120	3.480
11.	Rajlaxmi (Jalna)	SSP	0.600	0.140	0.000
12.	Balaji Fertilizers (Nanded)	SSP	0.000	0.000	0.340
13.	Raashi Fertilizers (Nasik)	SSP	0.860	0.110	0.000
14.	Maharashtra Agro Ind. Dev. Corpn. (Raigarh)	SSP	0.000	0.000	0.000
15.	Ganga Fertilizers Pvt. Ltd. (Yavatmal)	SSP	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total			811.690	526.200	794.490

*For the company as a whole, unit-wise break up not available.

[English]

Delhi Fire Services

1770. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Connaught Place and other major markets do not come under the purview of the Delhi Fire Service and that no fire safety norms are adhered to by these markets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has considered the desirability of bringing the city markets under the purview of a regulatory body to stipulate fire safety norms and also to ensure implementation with a view to avoid any tragedy that might be caused due to fire;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In so far as responding to fire calls and extinguishing fire is concerned, all markets, buildings and other structures in the Union Territory of Delhi come under the purview of the Delhi Fire Service. The fire safety norms are enforced by Delhi Fire Service under the provisions of the Delhi Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the Delhi Fire Safety and Prevention Rules, 1987 which provide for installation of fire safety measures in buildings the

minimum height of which is 15 metres. However, the Building By-Laws laid down in 1983 provide for fire safety measures in the buildings even less than 15 metres in height provided they belong to specified categories (e.g. assembly buildings, educational institutions, etc.) and have been constructed after the said bye-laws were also prescribed. These provisions are also enforced by Delhi Fire Service.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal to exclusively bring the market complexes in Delhi under the regime of fire safety norms under the consideration of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi at present. However, the buildings of a height of 15 metres or more in any area including markets are already covered.

Appointments in Delhi University

1771. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI D.P. SAROJ:

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

(a) the total number of appointments post-wise made by Delhi University and UGC during each of the last three years and current year till date and the number out of them belonging to SC/ST and Physically Handicapped category;

(b) the details of backlog of posts recorded as on date and efforts being made to fill up the same;

(c) the number of posts exchanged from SC to ST and *vice-versa* during each of the last three years; and

(d) the time by which the backlog of vacancies is likely to be filled-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Funds Provided to Chhattisgarh

1772. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided to Chhattisgarh after its creation, Scheme-wise; and

(b) the number of proposals lying pending for want

of approval and the time by which approval is likely to be accorded to pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) A statement showing the details of the funds released to the Government of Chhattisgarh for development of tribals after its creation, scheme-wise, is enclosed.

(b) The receipt and sanction of the proposals for the welfare of the tribals is an on-going process. The proposals submitted by the State Governments under the various schemes of this ministry are processed and sanctioned when they fulfil the eligibility condition of the relevant schemes and subject to the availability of funds. For the last three years, the Ministry has been utilizing almost all the funds made available to it for implementation of the various schemes.

Statement

Details of funds released to the Government of Chhattisgarh under the Schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Scheme	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	3695.36	4626.18	4626.18	4405.13
2.	Grant Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	1530.62	2086.77	2689.50	2089.00
3.	Boys and Girls Hostel	—	10.00	—	—
4.	Educational Complex in low literacy pockets	11.39	9.95	9.73	9.20
5.	Vocational Training Centre	—	7.22	120.35	—
6.	Ashram Schools	—	400.00	—	—
7.	Development of PTGs	36.81	54.02	198.29	121.46
8.	Assistance to Voluntary Organisations	—	12.71	13.62	19.85
9.	Post Matric Scholarship, Book Bank & Upgradation of Merit	—	—	61.28	28.29
Total		5274.18	7206.85	7718.95	6672.93

Generation of Power from Weeds

1773. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to generate power from weeds under non-conventional energy sources programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the annual estimated quantum of power likely to be generated through this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources is implementing schemes for encouraging commercial power generation using various biomass materials which may also include all types of weeds. Use of specific biomass materials including

weeds for this purpose is project specific and depends upon their local availability and techno-economic feasibility. The schemes being implemented provide for Central Financial Assistance for biomass based power generation projects. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) A biomass based power generation capacity of 234 MW has been installed so far in the country. The potential for power generation using biomass materials has been estimated at 16,000 MW.

Statement

Levels of Central Financial Assistance Available for Biomass Based Power Generation through Different Technologies

A. Biomass Combustion Based Power Projects

Biomass Power	Pressure Configuration	Rate of Interest Subsidy
Direct Combustion,	i. 60 bar & above	2%
Cogeneration including captive power projects	ii. 80 bar & above	3%

B. Biomass Gasification Based Power Projects

Type of Application	Capital Subsidy
i. Electrical application with dual fuel engines, including captive power, with provision for surplus power to grid (upto 1 Mwe)	i. Rs. 1.50 lakhs/100 Kwe, or in multiples thereof.
ii. Electricity generation with 100% producer gas based engines, upto 100 projects	ii. Rs. 15 lakhs per 100 kwe on pro rata basis or in multiples thereof, or Rs. 10 lakhs per 100 KW for engines alone

[English]

Riots in Gujarat

1774. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India or any other authorized agency has enquired about the Godhra train attack incidents and the riots in Gujarat;

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

(c) the number of persons died/injured in Godhra incident and Gujarat riots;

(d) the amount of loss incurred to Government/private properties in such incidents/riots; and

(e) the details of relief measures taken by the Government for the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat has appointed a Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice G.T. Nanavati, retired Judge of Supreme Court under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to enquire into the incident of fire in some coaches of the Sabarmati Express train near Godhra Railway Station in 27th February, 2002 and subsequent incidents of large scale violence in the State. The work of the Commission is continuing and the present term of the Commission is upto 1.11.2004.

The Minister of Railways has also recently ordered a Departmental inquiry into the Godhra fire incident on 27.2.2002.

(c) to (e) As per available information, 963 persons were killed in the Godhra incident and subsequent riots that followed in the State including 59 persons who were killed in the Godhra train carnage on 27.2.2002. Around 2500 persons are reported to have been injured. It is estimated that property worth Rs. 687 crore was destroyed/damaged in the violence. The Prime Minister sanctioned a Rs. 150 crore Package for the rehabilitation of the riot victims in Gujarat for reconstruction and repair of damaged houses and shops, to provide assistance to the self-employed categories who lost their earning assets, financial support for recommencing business, commercial and industrial activities, revival of educational, medical and other institutions in the affected areas and specific programmes and the State Government to benefit widows and children etc. A sum of Rs. 149.22 crores has been released to the State Government and the State Government has informed that an amount of Rs. 131.94 crores has been spent so far.

Recruitment in Para Military Forces

1775. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recruitment of various categories in Para Military Forces are conducted annually throughout the country;

(b) if so, the number of recruitment made for various categories during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the minimum physical and educational qualification laid down for the each category and the method of recruitment prescribed therefor;

(d) whether the Government give some relaxation for recruitment in para military forces as given by Indian Army; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Recruitment in Central Police Forces (CPFs) for General Duty (GD) stream is done in the ranks of Constable, Sub-Inspector (SI) and Assistant Commandant (AC). Recruitment of Constables (GD) is done by the forces themselves by allocating vacancies to the States/UTs as per guidelines issued by the Ministry. Recruitment for ACs (GD) and SIs (GD) is carried out by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Staff Selection Commission (SSC) respectively at all India level through competitive examinations. Assam Rifles does not recruit personnel in the ranks of SI and AC.

The details of recruitment made by CPFs in the ranks of Constable, SI and AC of GD stream during the last three years are given in Statement-I enclosed.

There are a large number of other posts in different streams, for e.g. Medical, Para-medical, Ministerial, Technical etc. for which recruitment is made by each force as per provisions in the Recruitment Rules. Since the question has not been raised about specific posts, the details have been restricted to the major streams i.e. GD posts in CPFs.

(c) to (e) The requisite details regarding physical and educational qualifications and allowed relaxations for recruitment in the ranks of Constable, SI and AC of GD stream in CPFs are given in statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

A. State-wise details of recruitment of Constable (GD) made by Central Police Forces in last Three years

Name of the State	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2045	1307	2518
Arunachal Pradesh	234	204	240

1	2	3	4
Assam	1197	2303	2877
Bihar	1566	3179	2969
Chhattisgarh	392	239	238
Goa	22	20	34
Gujarat	576	834	1399
Haryana	779	1420	759
Himachal Pradesh	342	876	465
Jammu & Kashmir	968	1344	1960
Jharkhand	1080	1006	1238
Karnataka	1422	1406	1600
Kerala	1037	880	1079
Madhya Pradesh	1689	2456	1724
Maharashtra	1931	1908	2930
Manipur	779	554	564
Meghalaya	134	283	362
Mizoram	121	205	306
Nagaland	609	357	315
Orissa	1358	1466	1343
Punjab	1281	1031	847
Rajasthan	2163	2594	2068
Sikkim	109	8	72
Tamil Nadu	1795	1765	1947
Tripura	617	445	567
Uttar Pradesh	5674	7188	5200
Uttaranchal	740	1098	679
West Bengal	2737	2615	2740
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	50	5	7
Chandigarh	57	31	64
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	5
Daman & Diu	0	0	5
Delhi	856	602	490

1	2	3	4
Lakshadweep	0	0	4
Pondicherry	7	14	25
Total	34367	39643	39640

B. Details of recruitments of SI(GD) and AC (GD) made by CPFs in last three years

Rank	2001	2002	2003
SI(GD)	1355	925	1738
AC (GD)	286	237	116

Statement II

Details of physical and educational qualifications and allowed relaxations for recruitment in the ranks of Constable, SI and AC of GD stream in Central Police Forces

Name of the post	Physical & educational qualifications
1	2

Constable (GD)

Eligibility for Recruitment

For appointment to the posts of Constables/Rifleman in Central Police forces, candidates must meet the following eligibility conditions:

- (1) Age : Between 18 to 23 years.
(cut off date for age will be 1st August every year).
- (2) Educational Qualification: Matriculation of Xth class pass.
- (3) Physical Standards
 - (a) Height: For males: 17 cms.
For Females: 157 cms.
 - (b) Chest: For males:
Unexpanded: 80 cms.
Expanded: Minimum expansion 5 cms.
 - (c) Weight: For males and females:
proportionate to height and age as per medical standards.
 - (4) Medical Standards
 - (a) Eye Sight: The minimum distant vision should be 6/6 & 6/9 of 2 eyes without correction i.e. without wearing of glasses.
 - (b) The candidates must not have knock knee, flat foot, varicose vein or squint in eyes and they should possess high colour vision. They must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of the duties.

Relaxations

There is relaxation in age for SC/ST/OBC, Ex-Servicemen and other categories of persons in accordance with the Government orders on the subject.

Relaxation is permissible in height and chest to the tribal and hill people as follows:

Height Minimum height for men belonging to hill areas of Garwal, Kumaon, Himachal Pradesh, Gorkhas, Dogras, Marathas, Sikkimies, Leh & Ladakh, Kashmir Valley & North Eastern States will be 165 cms. For females, the minimum height will be 155 cms. The minimum height for Tribals will be 162.5 cms for males and 150 cms for females.

Chest Relaxation in chest is applicable to only tribals and hill people. The minimum chest for this category of personnel is as under:

- | | | |
|------|---|------------|
| (i) | Men belonging to hill areas
Specified and para 5 above | 78-83 cms. |
| (ii) | Tribals of all States/UTs | 76-81 cms. |

Eligibility for Recruitment**(A) Age limit**

Candidates should be between 20 and 25 years on the crucial date, which will be closing date for receipt of applications from candidates in India.

(B) Qualifications

1. The minimum qualifications is a degree of a recognised university or equivalent.
2. Possession of NCC 'B' or NCC 'C' certificate of outstanding sports or athletic certificates will be an added qualifications.

(C) Physical and Medical Standards**Physical Standards:**

The candidates must meet the following requirements:

Height	Men 170 cms.	Women 157 cms.
Chest:	General	Tribal/adivasis
(Unexpanded)	80 cms.	77 Cms.
(Expanded)	85 Cms.	82 Cms.
Weight:	Corresponding to height.	

Medical standards:

- (a) **Eye sight:** The minimum distant vision should be 6/6 & 6/9 of 2 eyes without correction i.e without wearing of glasses.

Sub-Inspector
(GD)

1

2

- (b) The candidates must not have knock knee, varicose vein, flat foot, or squint in eyes and they should possess high colour vision. They must be in good mental and bodily health and free from and physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of the duties.

Relaxations:

- There is relaxation in age for SC/ST/OBC, Ex-Servicemen and other categories of persons in accordance with the Government orders on the subject.

Relaxation in physical standards:	Men	Women
Candidates belonging to Hill areas of Garwal, Kumaon, Himachal Pradesh, Gorkhas, Dogras, Marathas, Sikkimies, Leh & Ladakh, Kashmir Valley and North Eastern States	165 cms	155 cms
Tribals/Adivasis including Mizos & Nagas.	162.5 cms	154 cms
Chest:	General	Tribals/adivasis
(Unexpanded)	80 cms.	77 Cms.
(Expanded)	85 Cms.	82 Cms.
Weight:	Corresponding to height.	

Assistant
Commandant
(GD)

Eligibility for Recruitment

Qualifications

- A candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree of a University incorporated by an Act of the Central or State legislature in India or other educational institutions established by an Act of Parliament or declared to be deemed as a University under Section-3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 or possess an equivalent qualification.
- Possession of NCC 'B' or 'C' Certificate will be a desirable qualification. These desirable qualifications will be given consideration at the time of Interview/ Personality Test only.

Physical and Medical Standards

- Physical Standards: The candidates should meet the following requirements:

	Men	Women
Height	165 Cms.	157 Cms.
Chest (unexpanded)	81 Cms.	
	(with 5 cms minimum expansion)	

Weight 50 Kgs. According to height but not less than 46 Kgs.

Medical Standards:**(a) Eye Sight**

Distant Vision	Near Vision
----------------	-------------

Better Eye (Corrected Vision)

Worse Eye. (Corrected Vision)

6/6

6/12

or

6/9

6/9

J.I

J.II

- (b)** The candidates must not have knock knees, flat foot or squint in eyes and they should possess high colour vision. The candidates will be tested for colour vision by Ishahar's test as well as Edrighy-Green Lantern test. They must be in good mental and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the efficient performance of the duties.

Relaxation in age

- (i)** Upto a maximum of five years if a candidate belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe;
- (ii)** Upto a maximum of three years in the case of candidates belonging to Other Backward Classes who are eligible to avail of reservation applicable to such candidates;
- (iii)** Upto a maximum of five years of Government Servants. Ex-servicemen will also be eligible for this relaxation. However the total relaxation claimed on account of Government Service will be limited to 5 years.
- (iv)** Upto a maximum of five years if a candidate had ordinarily been domiciled in the State of Jammu & Kashmir during the period from 1st January, 1980 to the 31st day of December, 1989.

Note-I: Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes who are also covered under any other category of Para 2.2 above, viz. those coming under the category of Government Servants/Ex-servicemen and persons domiciled in the State of Jammu & Kashmir will be eligible for grant of cumulative age-relaxation under both the categories.

Note-II: The term ex-servicemen will apply to the persons who are defined as ex-servicemen in the Ex-servicemen (Re-employment in Civil Service and Posts) Rules, 1979, as amended from time to time.

Indian Iron and Steel Company

1776. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) has started making profits since 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is in favour of providing the benefits of N.G.C.S. Mohan-Pay-Commission and National Coal Wage Agreement 6th/7th to employees of the company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) has earned a net profit of Rs. 27.09 crore during 2003-04. However, the profits are after accounting for one-time benefit of waiver of interest (Rs. 47.35 crore) on term loans and waiver of Joint Plant Committee (JPC) dues (Rs. 18.49 crore) pursuant to sanctioned revival package of IISCO.

(c) No Sir.

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

Salem Steel Plant

1777. SHRI M. APPADURAI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to retain the Salem Steel Plant as a public sector undertaking as it has started registering profit; and

(b) if so, the facts and details there-about?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir, as on date Salem Steel Plant continues to be a Public Sector Undertaking.

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

Integrated Child Development Services

1778. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) the percentage of under nourished children covered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) as on date;

(b) whether one of the important programmes of Integrated Child Development meant for children below the age of six, adolescent girls and pregnant women have not been implemented by the Government;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court in order of November 2003 has directed the Central and State Government to furnish the reasons for non-implementation of the Scheme; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, launched in 1975-76, is a nationwide Early Childhood Care Programme which aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and pregnant & lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education. The number of operational ICDS Projects has increased from 3946 at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 5267 as on 30.4.2004. Similarly, the number of the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has increased from 3.47 lakhs at the end of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 6.49 lakh as on 30.4.2004. During this period the number of supplementary nutrition beneficiaries including pregnant and lactating mothers, has also increased from 2.27 crore to 4.39 crore. The Government is committed to universalize the ICDS Scheme, subject to availability of resources, as early as possible.

Out of about 3.62 crore children in the 0-6 age group covered under the ICDS Scheme, as on 30.4.2004, about 53% are reported to be undernourished.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court has, vide its order dated 28.11.2001 (not 28.11.2003), directed the States/UTs to provide supplementary nutrition to all eligible beneficiaries as per nutritional norms of the Scheme and have a disbursement center in every settlement. As per the scheme and have a disbursement center in every settlement. As per the scheme, providing supplementary nutrition and programme implementation is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government has requested the States, from time to time, to ensure compliance of the Supreme Court's order and effectively implement the programme.

Distribution of Power by Private Sector in Delhi

1779. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the alleged financial irregularities of thousands of crores of rupees on the transfer of power distribution to the private companies by Delhi Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) As per information made available by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi no such loss has been estimated.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

North Eastern Council Plan

1780. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether two schemes namely strengthening of Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science under AAU and construction of bridges over Lohit and Khaboli river along with strengthening of connecting NLK road were included in the Ninth Five Year Plan of NEC;

(b) if so, the funds allocated/utilized and achievement made so far;

(c) the target set up for completion of the said projects during subsequent plans;

(d) whether any flood control measures to channelise Jiadhal river of Dhimaji district, Assam has been taken recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No flood control measures to channelise Jiadhal river of Dhimaji district, Assam have been taken by NEC recently.

(e) Does not arise.

Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission

1781. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has constituted a Commission to report on the administration of the Scheduled areas and Welfare of Scheduled Tribes in States with an initial tenure of 1 year w.e.f. July 18, 2002;

(b) if so, the composition of the Commission, powers and other terms of reference of the Commission;

(c) the reasons for appointing the Commission at present;

(d) the number of extensions the Commission has already been granted;

(e) the expenditure incurred so far on salaries and travel expenditure of Chairman/members and officials;

(f) the status of the report; and

(g) the steps the Government proposes to take to review the Constitution of Commission in order to have secularistic recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The composition of the Commission, powers and other terms of reference of the Commission are contained in the Ministry's order No. 17014/8/93-TD(R) dated July 18, 2002 [vide Gazette Notification No. 1032 dated December 9, 2002 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, part-II, Section-3, Sub-Section-(ii)].

(c) Article 339 (1) of the Constitution provides that the President may at any time appoint a Commission to report on the administration of Scheduled Areas and the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

(d) The Commission has been granted two extensions. First extension was granted for a period of 8½ months upto 31st March, 2004, and the second extension of the tenure was granted for a further period of 3½ months upto 16th July, 2004, with another two months period for winding up of its office, with limited Staff.

(e) As on 12.7.2004 a sum of Rs. 190.21 lakhs for salaries and Rs. 51.06 lakhs on travel expenses have been booked on Chairman/Members and officials.

(f) Preparation of the Report is in progress.

(g) The recommendations pertaining to administration and welfare of Scheduled Tribes are yet to be received.

Purchase of A.K. 47 Assault Rifles

1782. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently purchased A.K. 47 assault rifles from a Bulgarian firm, which procures arms from international gunners and has links with agencies behind the Purulia arms drop case, by overlooking the tender offer which was 25% cheaper;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for ignoring the cheapest offer?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Activities of Madrasas

1783. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of registered and unregistered madrasas in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has received any report that illusory education to the youths in the name of religion is being imparted in some of the madrasas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the concrete steps being taken to check and ban such madrasas and their activities which are being run without Government's permission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (d) The day to day administration, policy formulation etc. in respect of Educational Institutions, including Madrasa, is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Madrasas do not require permission of the Union Government to carry on their activities. The data regarding registered and unregistered Madrasas in the country is not maintained at the Central Government level. Some States have Madrasa Boards to regulate and control these Institutions.

In order to bring the Madrasas into the Mainstream with the benefits of modern education system, the Union Government gives grants to the State Governments under the modernization programme for teaching modern education subjects viz Mathematics, Social Science, etc. to purchase Science and Mathematics kits and creating book Banks etc.

Education to Children by NGOs

1784. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the children are not being provided proper education by the non-governmental organisations;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide justice to these children by holding an enquiry into the working of these organisations;

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Assam	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
4.	Bihar	5	230	22	1	2	0	13	0	276	271	820
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	26	363	28	15	8	23	17	9	415	877	1781
7.	Haryana	5	33	26	8	1	0	1	0	18	29	121
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2	4	0	0	0	0	6	21	19	54
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	13
10.	Karnataka	11	27	6	0	0	0	8	85	1131	9	1277
11.	Kerala	5	177	54	0	0	0	4	3	194	77	514
12.	Madhya Pradesh	55	751	305	36	2	16	56	26	433	2987	4667
13.	Maharashtra	7	67	40	6	1	4	10	135	160	175	605
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
16.	Mizoram	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	10	145	8	4	0	3	3	3	263	333	772
19.	Punjab	5	9	7	2	0	0	0	1	6	9	39
20.	Rajasthan	49	154	146	10	0	3	67	19	887	4288	5623
21.	Sikkim	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	12
22.	Tamil Nadu	20	165	12	11	0	3	1	109	366	196	883
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	279	672	276	133	19	50	145	1	2597	1950	6122
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (States)	506	3241	1000	228	36	109	337	665	7289	11651	25062
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	5	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1	13
	Total (UTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	12	6	31
	Total (All India)	506	3241	1000	228	36	109	337	678	7301	11657	25093

Source: Monthly Crime Statistics.

Incidence of Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Castes During 2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Murder	Hurt	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dacoity	Robbery	Arson	PCR Act	SC/ST (Prev) of atrocities Act	Other Offences	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29	323	53	9	2	0	8	284	529	345	1582
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	4	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	11
4.	Bihar	4	244	17	5	2	3	12	6	220	228	741
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
6.	Gujarat	22	184	15	15	2	16	8	7	334	729	1332
7.	Haryana	2	37	20	6	0	0	2	1	21	28	117
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	7	6	0	0	1	3	10	16	9	52
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	9
10.	Karnataka	11	13	16	2	0	0	1	100	1176	10	1329
11.	Kerala	7	126	65	0	1	0	4	0	146	118	467
12.	Madhya Pradesh	45	798	289	26	5	8	27	27	539	2867	4631
13.	Maharashtra	2	16	49	4	1	2	5	98	128	184	489
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	16	89	17	0	0	0	5	1	349	316	793

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
19.	Punjab	0	4	8	2	0	0	0	0	17	3	34
20.	Rajasthan	48	153	128	13	1	3	49	0	454	4341	5190
21.	Sikkim	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15
22.	Tamil Nadu	12	654	17	1	0	1	0	103	418	90	1296
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Uttar Pradesh	328	845	379	185	24	73	165	18	3018	2295	7330
26.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (States)		526	3497	1083	268	38	108	290	656	7368	11585	25419
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
31.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1	13
32.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	4	1	21
Total (UTs)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	18	2	36
Total (All India)		526	3497	1083	268	38	108	290	672	7386	11587	25455

Source: Monthly Crime Statistics

Incidence of Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Castes During 2001

Sl.No.	State/UT	Murder	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dacoity	Robbery	Arson	Hurt	PCR Act	SC/ST (Prev) of atrocities Act	Other Offences	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	45	69	22	3	2	6	518	312	950	1006	2933
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	6
4.	Bihar	28	35	8	2	1	17	378	81	513	240	1303

[illegible]

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
18.	Orissa	3	105	10	1	0	1	0	7	94	114	335
19.	Punjab	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	5
20.	Rajasthan	14	61	40	4	0	1	13	0	175	913	1221
21.	Sikkim	0	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	18
22.	Tamil Nadu	1	70	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	13	105
23.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	36	58
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (States)	80	646	383	59	3	8	43	45	574	2608	4449
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (UTs)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total (All India)	80	646	384	59	3	8	43	45	574	2608	4450

Source: Monthly Crime Statistics.

Incidence of Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Tribes During 2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Murder	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Dacoity	Robbery	Arson	Hurt	PCR Act	SC/ST (Prev) of atrocities Act	Other Offences	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	45	17	2	0	0	1	6	83	44	202
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	5	13
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	6	10	1	0	0	0	0	15	28	61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Gujarat	9	48	24	5	0	0	4	0	24	201	315
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	11
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
10.	Karnataka	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	1	50	2	64
11.	Kerala	2	7	28	1	0	0	2	0	7	16	63
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22	217	244	26	0	1	12	9	146	1168	1845
13.	Maharashtra	0	14	26	1	1	0	3	0	13	84	142
14.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
16.	Mizoram	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
17.	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Orissa	1	40	6	1	0	0	0	7	90	83	228
19.	Punjab	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
20.	Rajasthan	9	39	38	2	0	0	10	0	54	978	1130
21.	Sikkim	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8
22.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	0	9
23.	Tripura	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3	13	3	3	1	0	0	0	11	44	78
25.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (States)		59	447	403	48	5	2	32	31	498	2680	4185
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
27.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
29.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
32.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (UTs)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Total (All India)		59	447	403	48	5	2	32	31	502	2661	4190

Source: Monthly Crime Statistics.

Incidence of Crimes Committed Against Scheduled Tribes During 2000

Sl.No.	State/UT	Murder	Rape	Kidnapping & Abduction	Decoy	Robbery	Arson	Hurt	PCR Act	SC/ST (Prev) of atrocities Act	Other Offences	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	21	5	0	0	1	106	26	129	220	512
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	5	7	0	0	1	18	0	0	37	72
3.	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.	Bihar	1	4	1	0	0	0	5	8	10	18	47
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	87	5	1	7	1	63	2	6	296	486
6.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	7	23	6	12	33	5	47	3	90	83	309
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	20	22	6	0	4	64	28	0	20	118	282
12.	Karnataka	1	2	0	0	0	1	21	13	204	34	276
13.	Kerala	4	23	0	0	0	0	20	0	14	22	83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	28	238	14	0	3	7	195	2	243	805	1535
15.	Maharashtra	6	60	4	0	0	3	14	0	41	110	238
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	2	1	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	10
19.	Nagaland	46	6	5	2	24	0	17	0	0	210	310
20.	Orissa	4	28	6	0	2	4	124	4	153	409	734
21.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	14	45	7	0	0	14	88	0	665	190	1023
23.	Sikkim	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	0	9
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	95	168	254

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
27.	Uttaranchal	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	9	6	18
28.	West Bengal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
	Total (States)	167	573	67	16	73	108	756	58	1664	2728	6210
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total (UTs)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	7
	Total (All India)	167	573	67	16	73	108	756	58	1667	2732	6217

Source: Crime in India.

Foreign Language Teaching Institutes

1787. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign languages teaching institutes in the country under the Ministry, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the source of their funding;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up new foreign language institutes in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for setting up of one such institute in the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is the only Institution teaching foreign languages under the administrative control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It has two regional centres; at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh and Shillong in Meghalaya.

(b) CIEFL is funded entirely by UGC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) No such request has been received by the UGC.

(f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Renewal of Licences of Swimming Pools

1788. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Licensing Department of Delhi Police has renewed all the licences of swimming pools by ignoring all the rules;

(b) if so, the number of such swimming pools;

(c) whether the Licensing Department has granted licence to certain swimming pools having no water;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against guilty officers;

(e) the number of cases where the owners of the swimming pools have misled the Licensing Department by producing false documents and got the licences renewed; and

(f) the action proposed to be taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There is no case in which Delhi Police has renewed such a licence without observing the prescribed procedures.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No such case has come to the notice of Delhi Police.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Inspection of Engineering Colleges

1789. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Council for Technical Education has constituted inspection teams to visit existing engineering colleges or which are being set up in the country;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether the Government is monitoring the visits of such inspection teams;

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure that the inspection teams do not misuse their powers;

(e) whether there is any existing college in Andhra Pradesh functioning without permanent buildings and structure;

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(g) the 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) Yes, Sir. However, the number of such teams depends upon the volume of inspections to be carried out.

(c) Inspection of technical institutes is one of the functions of AICTE. Accordingly, the inspections are monitored by the AICTE Headquarters and its Regional Offices.

(d) Do's and Don'ts expected to be followed by the members of Expert Committees are in place. A Malpractice Prevention Cell has also been functioning in AICTE to look into any complaints including those in respect of experts.

(e) to (g) As per information furnished by AICTE, a complaint was received by them against Nizam Institute of Engineering & Technology and Nizam Institute of Computer Science, Hyderabad regarding non-availability of permanent building. Based on further investigation of the complaint and recommendation of the High Powered Committee on Prevention of Malpractices, the AICTE will take an appropriate view in the matter.

[Translation]

Opening of Border

1790. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:
SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when Ferozepur Border is lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government propose to re-open the said border;

(c) whether land of farmers is located on the other side of the wired fence on the Ferozepur Border;

(d) if so, the number of hours for which the border is opened for facilitating the farming activity by the farmers; and

(e) the details of compensation provided to farmers whose land have been affected due to fencing of Indo-Pak Border, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ferozepur Border is lying closed since the Indo-Pak conflict of 1971.

(b) No decision has been taken to re-open this border.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Gates have been provided on the fencing and are being opened thrice a day i.e. from 0600 to 0800 hours, 1130 to 1230 hours and from 1700 to 1900 hours regularly for facilitating easy movement of Indian farmers.

(e) The Government of India has released Rs. 7.00 crores to the Government of Punjab and Rs. 3.91 crores to the Government of Rajasthan for paying compensation to farmers whose land has been acquired for fencing purposes on Indo-Pak border.

[English]

Hospitals of SAIL

1791. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals set up by the Steel Authority of India in its steel plants townships, location-wise;

(b) the details of the medical treatment facilities available in these hospitals;

(c) whether SAIL has any plan to expand its hospitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Plant/Unit-wise number of hospitals under SAIL and location thereof are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) Hospitals of SAIL provide primary, secondary as well as tertiary level patient care. Essentially the basic services are provided through its various Departments like Medicine, Pediatrics, Surgery, Ophthalmology, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Dermatology, Physiotherapy, Pathology, Biochemistry, Radiology and Occupational Health Services. The specialised and super specialised services are also provided in the areas of Paediatric surgery, Neurology, Cardiology, Gastro-Enterology, Nuclear Medicine, Neonatology, Urology, Nephrology, Oncology etc.

(c) There is no plan for expansion of the existing hospitals.

(d) Does not arise in view of above.

Statement

Details of Hospitals under SAIL

Plant	Name & Address of Hospital	No. of Hospitals
1	2	3
Bhilai Steel Plant	Located at Plant—	1
	— JLN Hospital & Research Centre, Bhilai (Chhattisgarh)	
	Located at Mines—	3
	— Rajhara] (Chhattisgarh)
	— Nandini	
	— Hirri	

1	2	3
Bokaro Steel Plant	Bokaro General Hospital, Bokaro (Jharkhand)	1
Durgapur Steel Plant	Durgapur Hospital, Durgapur (West Bengal)	1
Rourkela Steel Plant	Ispat General Hospital, Rourkela (Orissa)	1
Salem Steel Plant	SSP Hospital, Salem (Tamilnadu)	1
Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant	VISL Hospital, Bhadravati (Karnataka)	
Raw Materials Division	Located at Mines—	
	— Kiriburu Iron Ore Mines, Kiriburu (Jharkhand)	
	— Bolani Ores Mines, Bolani (Orissa)	
	— Barsua Iron Mines, Barsua (Orissa)	7
	— Kalta Iron Mines, Kalta (Orissa)	
	— Purnapani Limestone & Dolomite Quarry, Purnapani (Orissa)	
	— Kuteshwar Limestone Mines, Kuteshwar (Madhya Pradesh)	
	— Bhawanathpur Limestone Mines, Bhawanathpur (Jharkhand)	

Power Grid Corporation

1792. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India has recently warned of dark days ahead;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken or proposed to be taken to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to the delayed monsoon, the demand of power in the Northern Region has increased. The States in the Northern Region started over drawals causing the Northern Region Grid to operate at dangerously low frequency levels. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) cautioned all the States in the Region on 1.7.2004 advising them to curtail their over drawals and operate within the parameters of the Indian Grid Code for ensuring system security and reliability.

(c) The constituent States of Northern Region responded positively in maintaining grid discipline while

availing the maximum possible power from other Regions. The Northern Grid is presently operating within the parameters specified in the Indian Grid Code.

Rights of Tribal Population

1793. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to resolve the issues relating to the rights of tribal population;

(b) if so, the date of the meeting; and

(c) the main issues discussed and decisions taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No such meeting of Chief Ministers has been convened by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Criminal Training to Children

1794. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that children between the age group of 8 to 15 years are being employed by criminals for small time thefts and snatchings in various parts of the capital as reported in the *Asian Age* dated June 28, 2004; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken to liquidate the racket involved in the training of children for petty crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) There have been some incidents in which the criminals used children in committing crimes. However, no organized training school as claimed in the news item concerned has come to the notice of Delhi Police.

(b) The steps taken by Delhi Police to prevent such crimes include designating two officers of the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police in each Police Station as Juvenile Welfare Officer to deal exclusively with juveniles; imparting suitable sensitization training to Juvenile Welfare Officers at the Police Training College; keeping surveillance on the activities of persons suspected to be involved in such illegal activities; deployment of plain-clothes staff at intersections and busy markets to develop information about such gangs; and sensitizing Beat and Division staff.

Mega City Status to Surat and Ahmedabad

1795. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for a city to gain the status of a mega city;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal requesting the Union Government to grant mega city status to Surat and Ahmedabad;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has accorded approval to the said proposal;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities a town having a population of 40 lakhs and above as per 1991 census is categorized as a Mega City. The said scheme does not include Delhi.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, in respect of Ahmedabad, issue was raised by Government of Gujarat. No such issue was raised in respect of Surat.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. There has been a proposal to extend the scope of the scheme to cover cities, excepting Delhi, with million plus population as per 2001 census. There are 35 million plus cities including 4 cities in Gujarat namely Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara and Rajkot.

Change of Land Use in Delhi

1796. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether change of land use is permissible in Delhi;

(b) if so, the detailed procedure thereof; and

(c) the number and details of cases in which change of land use was permitted during the last three years in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Change of land use in Delhi requires modification of the Master Plan which is prepared as per the provisions of the Delhi Development Act (DD Act), 1957. Modification to the Master Plan, including change of land use, is done after following detailed procedure as given under section 11A of the said Act.

(c) During the last three years i.e. from July, 2001 to June, 2004 change of land use has been permitted on 11 occasions covering 25 cases after following the procedure laid down in Section 11-A of DD Act. This has been done for various purposes like resettlement of jhuggi jhopri clusters, setting up of metro stations, carrying out development for providing residential, commercial and other public and semi public facilities, implementation of court's order etc.

Recognition to Certain Tribal Communities in Pondicherry

1797. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the fact that five tribal communities, namely Irular, Kaattunaickan, Malaikkuravar, Kurumans, Yerkula, which are recognized as Scheduled Tribes elsewhere in the country are not recognized as so in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to recognize them as STs in Pondicherry in the light of a scientific study forwarded by the Government of Pondicherry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. five communities namely Irular, Kaattunaickan, Malaikkuravar, Kurumans, Yerkula are included in the list of STs in different States. The detail positions are given below:

Name of the Communities	Name of the State
Irular	Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu
Kaattunaickan	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu
Malaikkuravar	Kerala and Tamilnadu
Kurumans	Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu
Yerkula	Andhra Pradesh

(b) The list of Scheduled Tribes is state specific. Communities are included in or excluded from the list of Scheduled Tribes based on their socio-economic and educational conditions, which vary from State to State.

(c) and (d) Government in June 1999 have approved a procedure for modification in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. All representations on revision of the list of the Scheduled Tribes are processed in accordance with the approval modalities.

Association of Pharmaceuticals

1798. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of associations of Pharmaceuticals representing the small scale sector in the country;

(b) whether the Government is aware that such associations are in fact worked for elimination of small scale units; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that interest of small scale sector in Pharmaceuticals industry is protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) The Pharmaceutical Small Scale Sector in the country is represented by various associations. This Ministry has interacted with some of them namely, The Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association of Tamilnadu, PHD Chambers for Commerce and Industry and All India Small Scale Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Elimination of Manual Scavenging

1799. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission has asked the Union Government and State Governments to end the degrading practice of manual scavenging and to take immediate steps to eliminate it because it is still continuing even after 56 years of Independence and 10 years after employment of manual scavengers and construction of Dry-Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993 came into force; and

(b) if so, the efforts being proposed both by the Centre and the State Governments for its complete elimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Planning Commission has formulated a National Action Plan for total eradication of manual scavenging by 2007. For effective implementation and monitoring of the National Action Plan, a Central Monitoring Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been constituted.

[*Translation*]

Utilization of Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes

1800. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are certain States which have not fully utilized the allocation made for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and have utilized the funds elsewhere; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Union Government to ensure proper use of this fund?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No such case of diversion of funds has come to the notice of this Ministry during the last years.

(b) To prevent misappropriation of funds and to ensure their proper utilization, the Government has taken several measures, which include:

- (i) Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;
- (ii) Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained;
- (iii) Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the States/UTs for ascertaining the progress of implementation of schemes;
- (iv) Meetings/conferences are convened at the Central level with State Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals, speed up implementation of schemes, and review physical and financial progress;
- (v) At the State/field level, the agencies, like, Tribal Advisory Council, project Implementation Committees of ITDP's and Panchayat Samitis also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes;

(vi) To avoid delays in disbursement of funds by the State/Plant/Finance and Tribal Welfare Departments to the line departments/ implementing agencies, the guidelines for allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP have since been revised with the provision of ITDA/ ITDP-wise earmarking of SCA funds. It has been provided in the guidelines that all States/UTs should ensure that assessment of actual programmes/schemes implemented under TSP on socio-economic condition of the tribals covered under ITDPs, MADAs, Clusters, PGTs, as the case may be, should specifically be undertaken;

(vii) In the case of the schemes implemented through the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), funds are released after an assessment of the standing of the NGO, past performance etc. Apart from the periodic progress reports, the NGOs are required to furnish annual accounts and audited reports and utilization certificates on the basis of which further release of funds are made. Inspection of NGOs is also undertaken through State Governments/U.T. officials and other authorities, and also by the Central Government officers.

Militancy in North-Eastern States

1801. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing militant activities in some North-Eastern States particularly in Manipur;

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb such activities and to restore peace and harmony in those States; and

(c) the details of the militant activities reported in various States of the region during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Government is aware of the militancy situation in the North Eastern States, including Manipur.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to curb such activities which *inter alia* include deployment of Army and Central Paramilitary Forces, coordinated action by security forces for counter insurgency operations,

modernization/upgradation of State Police forces, reimbursement of security related expenditure and declaration of militant organizations as 'unlawful associations'. Government has also extended invitation to all militant outfits to give up the path of violence and to come forward for talks within the framework of the Constitution.

(c) As per reports, details of militant activities in the North Eastern States during the last three years, are as follows:

Head	Year		
	2002	2003	2004 (upto June)
No. of incidents	1319	1332	556
Extremist killed	571	523	216
Security Forces Personnel killed	142	90	53
Civilians killed	459	494	185
No. of persons kidnapped	417	651	130

Use of Solar Energy in Government Offices

1802. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to boost the use of solar energy particularly in government offices;

(b) the quantum of solar energy being generated in the country at present, State-wise; and

(c) the incentives being given to States to tap solar energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) The Government is encouraging use of solar passive features in Government buildings by sharing the cost of construction of such buildings. The States are also being requested to make installation of solar water heaters compulsory in Government functional buildings. Installation of solar photovoltaic power plants on Government buildings for meeting partial or full electricity requirement is also being promoted by sharing about 2/3rd cost of such plants.

(b) The arrays of the photovoltaic systems installed under the programme of Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources are likely to generate about 41 million units of electricity per annum. State-wise details are given in the Statement enclosed. In addition to this, over 8 lakh square meters of collector area installed and over 5.5 lakh solar cookers sold in the country are likely to generate about 725 billion Kilo Calories of heat per annum. State-wise details of solar collectors and solar cookers are not available.

(c) The Government is providing capital subsidy to the users for the purchase of solar photovoltaic lighting systems, solar pumps and solar power plants through the State Nodal Agencies and other implementing agencies. These agencies are being given service charges for implementing the programme. Grants are also provided to the States for publicity and awareness, and organizing seminars, workshops, business meets and training programmes.

Statement

State-wise Quantum of Electricity Likely to be Generated Through the Panels Installed with Various Solar Photovoltaic Systems

(In million kWhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	As on 30th June 2004
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.135
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.22
3.	Assam	0.25
4.	Bihar	0.98
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.5612
6.	Goa	0.34
7.	Gujarat	1.006
8.	Haryana	1.5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.8
11.	Jharkhand	0.27
12.	Karnataka	1.124

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	2.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1.38
15.	Maharashtra	1.088
16.	Manipur	0.17
17.	Meghalaya	0.23
18.	Mizoram	0.26
19.	Nagaland	0.06
20.	Orissa	1.0064
21.	Punjab	3.16
22.	Rajasthan	3.926
23.	Sikkim	0.05
24.	Tamilnadu	1.84
25.	Tripura	0.57
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4.9
27.	Uttaranchal	2.900
28.	West Bengal	3.45
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.31
30.	Chandigarh	0.093
31.	Delhi	0.254
32.	Lakshadweep	1.36
33.	Pondicherry	0.04
Total		41.6536

[English]

Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana

1803. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Anganwadi workers and helpers joined Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government consider to extend the period of joining the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The "Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana" was introduced in April 2004. The State-wise number of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers who have joined the Scheme as per information received so far, is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The period for joining the Scheme has already been extended upto 31.7.2004.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	No. of AWWs who have opted the Scheme	No. of AWWs who have opted the Scheme
1.	Andhra Pradesh	48555	48446
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	4721	4311
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	200	52
4.	Manipur	3917	3850
5.	Chandigarh	256	249
6.	Sikkim	494	456
7.	West Bengal	11283	10721
8.	Karnataka	38108	36722
9.	Delhi	3682	3433
10.	Pondicherry	461	421

Setting up of Power Projects in Uttaranchal

1804. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC propose to set up two hydro power projects in the State of Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the location thereof along with the expenditure involved therein; and

(d) the time schedule for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) NTPC has identified two hydroelectric power projects namely Loharinag-Pala (4x150 MW) with an estimated cost of Rs. 2985.07 crore (as of 1st Quarter 2004 price level) and Tapovan-Vishnugad (4x130 MW) with an estimated cost of Rs. 3052.88 crore (as of 1st Quarter 2004 price level).

Loharinag-Pala project is a run off the river scheme on river Bhagirathi with the Barrage at village Loharinag and the powerhouse near village Pala in Uttarkashi district. Tapovan-Vishnugad is also a run off the river scheme on river Dhauliganga, the barrage located in village Tapovan and the powerhouse is located in village Helong in Chamoli district of Uttaranchal. The implementation agreements for these projects have been signed on 23.06.2004 between NTPC and Government of Uttaranchal.

(d) Both the projects are scheduled for completion during 11th Plan.

IIT Mumbai

1805. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.I.T. Mumbai has started a Post graduate course in M. Tech. from the micro-electronics stream;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified 100 engineering colleges where this programme is likely to be introduced;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it would cater to the requirement of micro-electronic engineers in the country; and

(e) if so, the amount required annually for the land purpose and the number of graduates available at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The IIT Bombay offers post graduate courses in Electrical Engineering with 'Microelectronics' specialization as two year M. Tech. Programme and five-year Dual Degree Programme.

(b) to (e) A process has been initiated by drawing a National Programme for HRD in Information Technology. Under one of the sub-programmes, one hundred (100)

engineering colleges will be identified to offer two courses on Microelectronics System packaging in their undergraduate programmes. Courses will be developed for Post Graduate Programmes also. These courses will be able to create the technical manpower for catering to the demand for new products in large volumes, increasing levels of integration and miniaturization, and increasing frequencies of operation.

Human Rights Commission

1806. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where Human Rights Commission have been set up so far;

(b) the reasons for not forming Human Rights Commission in all the States; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to ensure setting up of the Human Rights Commission in all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) have been set up in the States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The Government has been pursuing with the concerned State Governments, from time to time, to set up SHRC.

[Translation]

Dues of Employees of Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO)

1807. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise details of dues of the workers including that of V.R.S. who were working in Indian Iron and Steel Company located at Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh after its closure; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to ensure early payment of their dues?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) All the employees except 189

numbers had taken Voluntary Retirement (VR) and have been paid in full. As per calculation done by the Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO), dues of the balance 180 number of employees has been estimated as Rs. 1.71 crores (approximately) comprising of gratuity, leave encashment and arrear wages for the period from February, 1997 to July, 1997. IISCO, Ujjain went under liquidation on 10.7.1997 and Official Liquidator was appointed by the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court who has been authorised by the Hon'ble Court to settle the dues of the employees who had not opted for VR, as per applicable law of the land.

[English]

Expansion of Tribal Sub-Plan

1808. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan had requested the Union Government for the expansion of Tribal Sub-Plan areas in that State;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the additional areas in that State included under the expanded Tribal Sub-Plan areas?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has been requested to send a comprehensive proposal as per the prescribed norms. They have been reminded several times.

(c) Does not arise.

Revision in amount of Scholarship

1809. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the amount given per person to pursue higher studies abroad under the National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): The Scheme of National

Overseas Scholarship for ST students is at final stage of consideration for its continuance & revision of rates of scholarship.

Urdu DTP Centres

1810. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals for running Urdu DTP centres for minority institutions have been submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to the National Commission for Promotion of Urdu Language during the last three years;

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

(c) the decision taken thereon along with the funds sanctioned or approved for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

Allotment of Land by DDA

1811. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Development Authority has been allotting lands to management/Technical Institutes at Zonal variant rates during the last three years and the number of requests pending for approval as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases recommended by the Union Government on later dates and which were cleared by the LAAC in subsequent meetings?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Development Authority has been allotting land to Management/Technical Institute on Zonal variant rates. 21 Societies have been allotted land during the last three years and 25 requests are pending.

(c) Out of 25 pending cases, 2 cases namely Symbiosis, Pune and Swaran Jayanti Education Society recommended by Union Government were cleared by Institutional Allotment Committee (IAC).

Promotion of SC/ST/OBCs in Delhi Police

1812. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Recruitment & Conditions of Service Order No. 36028/17/2001 dated April 19, 2003 of the Department of Personnel pertaining to the promotions of various categories of employees of SCs/STs and OBCs has been made applicable in the Department of Delhi Police;

(b) if so, the details of the promotions given under each category as per these orders; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Department of Personnel and Training has clarified that no order bearing no. 36028/17/2001 dated the 10th April, 2003 on this subject has been issued by that Department. However, the standing instructions of the Government in regard to the benefit of reservation admissible to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes officers in the matter of promotions have been made applicable to Delhi Police personnel also.

[Translation]

Women Empowerment Programme

1813. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes launched for empowerment of women;

(b) the funds released for these schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has reached an agreement with the State Governments in order to implement the women empowerment programme effectively;

(d) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(e) the share of participation of Central and State Governments in implementing this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Department of Women and Child Development have launched several schemes for empowerment of women such as Swayamsidha, Swashakti, Swawlamban, Support to Training-cum-Employment Programme (STEP), Hostels for Working Women, Swadhar, Condensed Courses for Women, Awareness Generation Programme, Short Stay Homes and Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK). Details of these schemes are available in the Annual Reports of the Department which are available in the Library of Lok Sabha.

(b) Funds released under these schemes during the last three years and the current year (upto 30.6.2004) are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The share participation between Centre and States in implementing the programme arises only in respect of Swayamsidha where the Central share per block is Rs. 14.20 lakh and State share is Rs. 4.00 lakh for the entire project period.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Funds Released (Rs. in lakhs)			
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (as on 30.6.04)
1	2	3	4	5	6

A. Centrally Sponsored Schemes

Name of the Scheme: Swayamsidha

1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	38.60	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.05	9.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	—	71.50	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	76.00	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	55.00	0.00	39.00	—
6.	Goa	—	0.00	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	0.00	—	—
8.	Haryana	1.20	18.00	69.00	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	27.36	0.00	3.63	19.70
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	33.05	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	45.00	34.00	51.01	—
12.	Karnataka	—	64.00	99.06	—
13.	Kerala	15.64	35.00	33.89	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	64.72	51.00	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	55.25	0.00	81.00	—
16.	Manipur	7.00	4.00	12.39	—
17.	Meghalaya	15.60	0.00	6.00	—
18.	Mizoram	—	11.00	5.00	8.74
19.	Nagaland	14.00	9.00	11.41	9.27
20.	Orissa	23.3	51.00	50.00	—
21.	Punjab	49.36	0.00	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	87.34	0.00	—	—
23.	Sikkim	7.00	4.00	8.00	7.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	15.00	62.00	70.00	—
25.	Tripura	7.00	4.00	9.00	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	159.18	0.00	122.44	—
27.	Uttaranchal	22	16.00	—	—
28.	West Bengal	—	49.94	76.98	—
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	7.90	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	—	0.90	—	—
3.	Delhi	—	7.90	5.68	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6.00	1.00	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	—	—
6.	Lakshadweep	—	0.00	—	—
7.	Pondicherry	4.73	4.00	—	—
		683.73	662.79	753.49	44.71

Name of the Scheme: Swa-Shakti Project

1.	Bihar	34.00	130.00	75.00	—
2.	Chhattisgarh	30.00	75.00	50.00	—
3.	Gujarat	225.00	200.00	250.00	—
4.	Haryana	65.50	200.00	20.00	—
5.	Jharkhand	100.00	175.00	75.00	—
6.	Karnataka	235.00	535.00	500.00	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	350.00	425.00	400.00	—
8.	Uttar Pradesh	225.00	392.83	50.00	—
9.	Uttaranchal	30.00	105.00	145.00	—
10.	Central Level (Not State)	205.00	352.00	—	—
	Total	1499.50	2589.83	1565.00	—

B. Central Scheme*Name of the Scheme: Hostels for Working Women (WWH)*

1.	Andhra Pradesh	84.20	81.72	33.17	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11.71	17.93	11.71	—
3.	Assam	17.71	28.30	1.92	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	6.21	12.42	—	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	27.38	—	33.76	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	13.21	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	39.99	33.23	55.44	—
12.	Kerala	82.23	75.41	75.18	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1.41	5.85	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	72.56	121.90	108.23	—
15.	Manipur	13.88	23.78	14.25	—
16.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
17.	Mizoram	—	—	3.41	—
18.	Nagaland	44.64	31.62	20.81	—
19.	Orissa	7.95	—	7.95	—
20.	Punjab	6.28	22.56	—	—
21.	Rajasthan	11.21	21.10	7.08	—
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	27.28	6.16	74.76	—
24.	Tripura	—	—	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	6.30	38.59	—	—
26.	Uttaranchal	—	13.85	8.11	—
27.	West Bengal	11.50	25.81	3.86	—
Union Territories					
28.	Delhi	6.47	—	—	—
29.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	—	—	46.28	—
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
33.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
Total		478.91	560.23	519.13	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Name of the Scheme: Swawlamban</i>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	438.58	453.64	13.41	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.45	—	—	—
3.	Assam	20.58	29.24	14.56	1.78
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	3.03	12.82	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	14.40	217.27	30.98	—
8.	Haryana	46.13	127.68	11.87	1.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.25	10.81	—	0.77
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	70.06	31.71	17.79	6.07
11.	Karnataka	43.07	182.92	76.80	—
12.	Kerala	8.87	75.42	5.13	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	77.73	113.16	19.13	1.56
14.	Maharashtra	93.18	119.04	61.99	0.35
15.	Manipur	6.16	59.18	53.9	14.13
16.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	1.14
17.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—
18.	Nagaland	11.17	11.51	4.47	—
19.	Orissa	84.67	75.11	26.66	8.25
20.	Punjab	77.60	43.62	—	—
21.	Rajasthan	31.48	44.16	31.91	2.63
22.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	22.12	26.05	16.9	1.61
24.	Tripura	0.57	2.04	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	235.03	335.28	167.38	70.82
26.	Uttaranchal	—	12.34	5.31	1.78
27.	West Bengal	35.03	172.31	52.04	3.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
Union Territories					
28.	Delhi	50.40	39.49	172.72	—
29.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	2.47	—	—	—
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
33.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
35.	CSWB, Delhi	524.00	300.00	1138.76	—
Total		1898.00	2485.01	1934.53	116.06

Name of the Scheme: Support to Training cum Employment Programme (STEP)

1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.70	12.04	22.56	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	153.80	232.20	262.13	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.87	49.73	24.85	—
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	75.41	38.07	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72.88	5.86	36.37	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	15.00	59.85	18.49	—
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	444.92	18.53	213.55	—
13.	Kerala	4.26	160.51	33.75	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—
15.	Maharashtra	54.83	168.21	46.30	—
16.	Manipur	26.91	15.46	31.30	—
17.	Meghalaya	9.03	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	—	64.56	11.86	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Nagaland	35.44	77.59	36.31	—
20.	Orissa	138.09	285.39	105.93	—
21.	Punjab	—	183.49	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	—	157.77	56.17	—
23.	Sikkim	39.43	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	132.48	—	—	—
25.	Tripura	17.55	22.60	120.58	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	373.17	390.87	208.69	—
27.	Uttaranchal	121.44	113.60	38.31	—
28.	West Bengal	125.68	18.31	73.06	—

Union Territories: No Grant release during the years

1.	NIPCCD (Not State/UT)	—	—	—	—
2.	NIC (Not State/UT)	0.45	—	—	—
3.	Miscellaneous (Not State/UT)	—	—	0.23	—
Total		1856.93	2111.98	1378.47	0.00

Name of the Scheme: Swadhar

1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	32.83	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Goa	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	95.50	16.69	—
7.	Haryana	—	7.90	12.88	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	7.65	—	—
10.	Karnataka	—	19.70	15.09	5.10
11.	Kerala	—	—	—	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Maharashtra	—	50.00	—	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	5.10	—
15.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
16.	Mizoram	—	—	5.10	—
17.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—
18.	Orissa	—	—	4.35	—
19.	Punjab	—	—	—	—
20.	Rajasthan	—	3.99	4.58	—
21.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	—	29.35	—	—
23.	Tripura	—	—	—	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	8.13	82.87	—	—
25.	Uttaranchal	—	—	1.21	—
26.	West Bengal	—	4.23	11.66	—
Union Territories					
27.	Delhi	—	6.70	3.25	—
28.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
33.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
34.	CSWB, New Delhi	—	63.52	30.56	—
Total		8.13	404.24	110.47	5.10

Name of the Scheme: Short Stay Homes (SSH)

1.	Andhra Pradesh	82.39	176.02	132.46	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.91	7.00	10.60	—
3.	Assam	30.05	37.32	50.75	—
4.	Bihar	67.33	125.05	81.93	—
5.	Goa	3.33	3.50	2.45	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Gujarat	19.29	20.06	15.57	—
7.	Haryana	9.16	7.20	9.28	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3.32	2.33	—	3.33
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5.47	6.93	7.52	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	23.54	—
11.	Karnataka	72.35	66.12	87.55	—
12.	Kerala	17.82	23.06	17.40	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	47.74	73.56	100.68	—
14.	Chandigarh	—	—	4.91	—
15.	Maharashtra	80.69	127.3	153.33	—
16.	Manipur	—	20.25	39.29	—
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	—	1.87	4.42	—
19.	Nagaland	2.54	2.33	4.42	—
20.	Orissa	120.24	154.34	154.55	—
21.	Punjab	12.88	9.33	8.91	—
22.	Rajasthan	26.18	45.57	36.39	1.07
23.	Sikkim	1.84	2.33	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	62.91	90.12	187.39	3.35
25.	Tripura	13.33	18.54	25.52	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	88.43	161.07	144.29	—
27.	Uttaranchal	—	—	24.99	—
28.	West Bengal	113.13	115.29	141.18	—
Union Territories					
29.	Delhi	8.38	12.76	20.00	—
30.	Pondicherry	12.17	8.42	8.49	—
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—
32.	Chandigarh	—	3.77	3.88	—
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.62	4.56	4.75	—
34.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
35.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
Total		910.50	1326.00	1506.44	7.75

1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Name of the Scheme: Awareness Generation Project (AGP)</i>					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.00	8.00	9.00	2.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.90	3.85	3.00	5.00
3.	Assam	19.55	17.70	14.67	—
4.	Bihar	20.53	24.20	29.22	7.50
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	7.20	22.13	3.00
6.	Goa	0.86	0.88	3.16	1.00
7.	Gujarat	16.51	19.32	22.44	6.00
8.	Haryana	7.42	8.85	12.25	5.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.15	7.55	11.90	5.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.14	4.70	9.04	3.50
11.	Karnataka	25.41	14.58	15.20	7.50
12.	Kerala	15.27	11.98	18.57	5.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	80.97	159.31	66.15	7.50
14.	Maharashtra	17.02	21.95	31.11	7.50
15.	Manipur	—	3.03	9.31	2.50
16.	Meghalaya	15.07	9.21	3.50	2.50
17.	Mizoram	11.97	4.50	6.40	2.00
18.	Nagaland	15.11	4.32	4.85	2.50
19.	Orissa	10.51	5.00	19.99	5.00
20.	Punjab	5.2	4.95	11.19	3.00
21.	Rajasthan	13.74	8.13	21.71	5.00
22.	Sikkim	12.53	4.50	4.13	2.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	15.27	12.15	33.80	7.50
24.	Tripura	9.74	4.80	3.00	2.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	12.58	28.28	37.44	10.00
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	5.00	3.00
27.	West Bengal	14.59	9.45	33.89	5.00
28.	Delhi	18.85	14.61	18.77	5.00
29.	Pondicherry	2.48	2.00	8.59	2.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.35	—	2.45	1.00
31.	Chandigarh	4.35	2.50	5.50	2.00
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
33.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	1.25	1.50	2.60	1.50
Total		401.32	429.00	499.96	129.50

Name of the Scheme: Condensed Courses of Education for Adult Women

1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.29	3.99	9.56	4.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.11	—	6.45	—
3.	Assam	10.44	10.00	16.14	—
4.	Bihar	17.83	1.82	57.27	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	14.91	4.04
6.	Goa	0.49	—	0.66	—
7.	Gujarat	1.48	0.68	5.63	—
8.	Haryana	1.46	—	5.62	3.72
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1.34	3.00	4.73	2.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.90	1.45	1.50	0.79
11.	Karnataka	4.56	7.18	10.36	6.00
12.	Kerala	6.57	6.64	10.59	—
13.	Madhya Pradesh	26.55	56.97	30.93	11.99
14.	Maharashtra	3.81	7.18	15.26	7.50
15.	Manipur	—	2.00	14.84	1.50
16.	Meghalaya	5.60	15.16	6.14	—
17.	Mizoram	7.18	0.69	10.96	3.75
18.	Nagaland	—	—	3.17	1.50
19.	Orissa	1.85	33.07	10.38	—
20.	Punjab	3.88	—	5.29	—
21.	Rajasthan	6.02	0.72	12.28	5.25
22.	Sikkim	1.47	1.00	2.23	2.22

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tamil Nadu	7.79	5.52	8.93	1.88
24.	Tripura	3.89	2.00	4.82	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	73.02	13.69	72.27	53.69
26.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	3.75
27.	West Bengal	6.13	15.88	33.95	11.28
28.	Delhi	17.63	11.32	18.85	—
29.	Pondicherry	1.63	—	0.75	—
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	1.72	—
31.	Chandigarh	0.62	—	2.76	—
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
33.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—
34.	Lakshadweep	0.30	—	1.05	—
Total		227.84	199.96	400.00	125.54

Name of the Scheme: Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (Loans released)

1.	Andhra Pradesh	333.25	483.44	436.69	183.50
2.	Assam	—	8.00	—	7.50
3.	Bihar	21.20	42.70	14.08	32.50
4.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
5.	Gujarat	—	6.00	—	—
6.	Haryana	5.00	22.50	20.00	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8.60	—	150.00	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.00	1.00	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	1.80	1.00	15.00	—
10.	Karnataka	13.51	5.00	2.50	20.00
11.	Kerala	27.50	13.50	5.50	10.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	135.00	—
13.	Maharashtra	25.00	31.00	27.50	—
14.	Manipur	—	—	4.50	4.50
15.	Mizoram	—	—	—	2.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
16.	Orissa	40.15	52.75	51.75	66.00
17.	Pondicherry	—	15.00	—	—
18.	Rajasthan	0.50	27.60	73.50	2.50
19.	Tamil Nadu	92.45	283.89	258.70	243.00
20.	Uttar Pradesh	24.50	22.00	55.50	9.50
21.	Uttaranchal	6.30	4.00	19.00	—
22.	West Bengal	19.50	14.00	31.85	6.60
Total		620.26	1033.38	1301.07	587.60

*[English]***Project Report for Dharavi Slum Upgradation**

1814. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any detailed project report from the Government of Maharashtra for upgradation of Dharavi Slum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government so far on the said project; and

(d) the number of slum dwellers likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) Government has received a Feasibility Report on Dharavi Development Project from the Government of Maharashtra. The tentative cost of the Project is estimated at Rs. 7084 crore for rehabilitation of 72975 slum families. Central Government's contribution is limited to Rs. 500 crore. For this purpose, an allocation of Rs. 75 crore has been made by the Planning Commission in the current financial year, i.e. 2004-05.

*[Translation]***Foreign Trips by Government Official**

1815. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA
DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has asked the Government to formulate concrete policy regarding foreign trips being performed by senior Government officials;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the policy formulated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Amendment in Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992**

1816. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 is sufficient for running local bodies in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend constitution further in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The Constitution (74th Amendment) Act provides for a common framework for urban local bodies in the country. This Act contains all such provisions, which are necessary for running urban local bodies. However, as per Entry-5 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, local government is a State subject. Hence, it is for the State Government to ensure that their municipal acts contain all necessary provisions required for efficient working of urban local bodies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) As the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 contains all necessary provisions for running urban local bodies in the country, there is, therefore, no proposal to amend the Constitution.

Frustration among the Youths

1817. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to liberalization of an Education Policy, the Government has permitted abundant Technical Colleges without relevance to the Employment potentiality resulting in frustration among the youths after completion of their education without any employment;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), there is a demand for technical manpower both within the country

and in the global market. AICTE accords approval for establishment of new technical institutes based on such demand and as supported by respective State Governments. Further, the recent expansion in technical education has been largely in the emerging areas of technology such as Electronics, Information Technology and Bio-Technology, keeping pace with the global trend. Of late, major employment opportunities have been in these emerging areas of Technology particularly Information Technology. With a view to promote entrepreneurship among students and to promote the concept of 'Job Providers rather than Job Seekers', AICTE is operating a scheme, namely, 'Entrepreneurship and Management Development Programme'.

[Translation]

Allotment of Land to Government of Chhattisgarh

1818. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Chhattisgarh has sought allotment of land in Delhi for construction of the Chhattisgarh Bhavan there;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the land is likely to be allotted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No allotment could be made due to non-availability of suitable land.

(c) No specific time frame can be indicated for allotment of land which is dependent on availability of suitable land and completion of other formalities.

[English]

Security Lapses

1819. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has ordered an inquiry into the security lapse that led to the death of 28 BSF personnel and their families in J&K IED blast near the Jawahar tunnel on May 5, 2004;

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry;

(c) the steps being taken to check security lapses and the extent to which security of 300 Kms. Jammu-Srinagar highway is being considered; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) A Border Security Force (BSF) bus was caught in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion on 23.5.2004 near lower Munda on the National Highway between Jawahar Tunnel and Qazigund, Distt. Anantnag while moving from Srinagar to Jammu as part of a BSF convoy.

A total of 31 people were killed including 14 BSF personnel and 17 members of their family. Three persons were injured.

A court of Inquiry ordered into the incident by CRPF, held one Assistant Commandant, two Head Constables and three Constables of CRPF responsible for not performing the ROP (Road Opening Party) duties properly. A case having FIR. No. 119/04/U/S 302, 307, RPC, 3 PSS/Act has been registered. The ROP's on this stretch of National Highway is being manned by CRPF. Besides

this, Government has directed the concerned authorities of the Security Forces to take measures to make ROP more effective.

Foreign Direct Investment in Fertiliser Sector

1820. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer sector has invited any foreign direct investment ever since the economy was opened up a decade ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The country-wise breakup of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals approved by the Government during the period from August 1991 to April 2004 in the fertilizer sector is given in the Statement enclosed. The total inflows of FDI to the sector during this period is Rs. 287.76 crore.

(c) Do not arise.

Statement

Country-wise Details of Foreign Direct Investment Approved by the Government During August 1991 to April 2004 in the Fertilizer Sector (Fertilizers, Chemicals & Pesticides)

Sl.No.	Name of the country	Name of Indian company	Amount of approved FDI (Rs. Cr.)	%age
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Australia	Waste Recovery Systems India Ltd., Hyderabad	1.66	0.46
2.	Finland	Jain Kemira Fertilizers Ltd., Jalgaon Maharashtra	0.99	0.28
3.	Israel	Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Hyderabad	1.20 (2 approvals)	0.34
4.	Mauritius	TOC Disinfectants Ltd., Mumbai	27.50	7.69

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Singapore	Duncans Industries Ltd., Kolkatta	32.04	8.96
6.	South Africa	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	2.68	0.75
7.	United Kingdom	PL Agro Technologies Ltd., Chennai Shri Disha Bio-Tech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	0.38 (2 approvals)	0.11
8.	Euro (GDR) Issues	Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd., Chennai	210	58.75
9.	Morocco	Zuari Maroc Phosphates Pvt. Ltd., Goa	78.40	21.93
10.	Tunisia	Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Andhra Pradesh	1.60	0.45
11.	Germany	EPIE Schwebda Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	1.00	0.28
Total			357.45 (13 approvals)	100%

Declaration of Telugu Language

1821. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested that Telugu be declared an additional official language of the Union along with English and Hindi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the other languages being considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution for the purpose of declaring them as official languages of the Union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) According to article 343 of the Constitution, Hindi is the Official Language of the Union.

(d) There is no proposal to declare any other language as the Official Language of the Union.

Statement

In letter dated 10-7-2003 of the then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the then Prime Minister, it is stated that Telugu is one of the oldest and sweetest languages of India. This language is now spoken by an estimated 14.5 crores of people in the country, making it the second largest spoken language after Hindi. Therefore, Telugu should also be given the status of a National Official Language. Sri Krishna Devaraya, the popular Vijayanagara Emperor, hailed Telugu as the best of languages. The renowned Tamil poet Sri Subramanya Bharathi was deeply impressed by the richness and sweetness of the language, so much so that he called it "Sundara Tenungu". Englishmen such as C.P Brown and Bishop Caidwell fell in the love with Telugu and rendered yeoman service for promotion and preservation of its precious qualities. The British Biologist Prof. J.B.S. Haldane felt

that Telugu had all the requirements to become a National Language.

It was, therefore, requested in the above mentioned letter that action be caused to declare Telugu as a National Official Language alongwith Hindi and English.

Taping of Ocean Wave Energy

1822. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to generate energy from ocean waves and provides to the adjoining areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE ON THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is supporting the development of tidal energy in the country. In this context, the Ministry has supported the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) through West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA) for the setting up of a tidal power plant in Sunderban region of West Bengal. Based on the DPR, a proposal has been prepared for a tidal power plant of 3.65 MW capacity at Durgaduani in South 24-Parganas district of West Bengal for supplying electricity to some villages in Sunderban region. Statutory environmental clearances are required for processing this proposal further for which WBREDA has initiated necessary actions.

In addition, Department of Ocean Development has set up a wave energy plant of 50 kW capacity at Vizhinjam in Kerala, which is being used as a National Test Facility. A desalination plant of 10,000 litres per day has been commissioned at Vizhinjam Wave Energy Plant for production of fresh water.

Sale of Scraps of Steel Plants

1823. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantum of scraps sold out of various steel plants during the last two years and as on June 30, 2004, plant-wise; and

(b) the rates and type of scraps sold out during the said period, plant-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Power Tariff

1824. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:
SHRI MANOJ KUMAR:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the adverse effect of the continuous increase in power tariffs in the country on the agriculture, industry and common man;

(b) if so, the power tariff for different sectors viz. agriculture, industry and domestic in the country, State-wise;

(c) the extent of hike in power tariff by SEBs in the States recorded during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the frequent hike in power tariff?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (d) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and in doing so these Commissions are required to be guided by the provisions contained in Section 61 of the Act which, *inter-alia*, include the factors which would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of the resources, safeguarding of consumer's interest and at the same time ensure recovery of the cost of electricity in a reasonable manner. The State Commissions are also required to ensure transparency while exercising its powers and discharging its functions.

Statements I, II and III showing estimated average rate of electricity as on 1.4.2003, 1.4.2004 and 1.7.2004 are enclosed.

A number of steps have been taken to reduce the cost of power. The benefit under Mega Power Policy which provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment and deemed export benefits for domestic suppliers has been extended to all inter-state project which fulfil the basic criteria of minimum capacity of 1000 MW for thermal and 500 MW for hydel project.

Further, the Government of India has recently announced the following fiscal measures for the power sector:

- Reduction of the aggregate duty on transmission and distribution equipments from the level of 25% (Basic Customs Duty)+16% (CV Duty)+4% (Special additional duty) to 10% (BCD)+ 16% (CVD).

- Reduction of customs duty on electricity meters from 25% to 15%.

- Reduction of customs duty on coal from 25% to 15%.

The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) have been launched for financing projects for system loss reduction which in turn has the effect of reducing the cost of delivered power.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the power sector and reduces the entry barrier in different segments of power supply industry. This is expected to encourage completion and in turn efficiency improvements, resulting in cost reduction and quality supply of power to consumers at competitive rates.

Statement I

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (As on 01-04-2003)

(Rates in Paise/Kwh)

Sl No.	Scheme of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2 KW (100 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 5 KW (400 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 5 KW (200 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 20 KW (2000 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 5 HP, 15% LF (408 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 10 HP, 20% LF (1088 Kwh/ Month)	Small Industry 10 HP, 25% LF (1381 Kwh/ Month)	Medium Industry 50 KW, 40% LF (14800 Kwh/ Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW, 65% LF (474800 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (11 KV) 1000 KW, 60% LF (438000 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (33 KV) 15000 KW, 50% LF (847500 Kwh/ Month)	Railway Traction 12500 KW, 30% LF (2737500 Kwh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO)	01-04-2003	238.50	398.63	492.25	609.75	654.75	680.38	39.58	38.19	419.86	408.12	414.51	480.89	472.40	450.03 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	01-04-2003	282.20	363.38	395.85	630.18	547.32	550.89	188.20	211.43	328.61U 234.80 R	379.55	385.46	388.41	398.38	—
3.	Bihar	01-08-2001	208.70U 63.60R	270.30	279.84	1213.91	858.81	858.81	64.96	63.80	693.83	708.93	484.48	467.22	464.56	519.22 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01-03-1999	157.20	259.73	294.78	438.34	497.95	505.19	73.53	55.10	304.19	398.20	434.59	437.71	427.23	406.69 at 132/220 KV
5.	Gujarat	10-10-2000	391.50U 333.50R	516.38U 439.88R	588.80U 501.40R	638.00	677.15	679.33	85.38	82.14	401.17	459.38 F	513.96	564.24	585.38	540.95
6.	Haryana (UHEVN)	01-09-2001	338.00	384.25	419.50	434.00	434.00	434.00	65.00	65.00	443.00	443.00	424.00	424.00	412.00	441.23 at 33 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01-11-2001	115.75	199.99	227.48	327.89	317.90	316.25	69.90	66.94	258.84	257.17	276.54	279.11	282.47	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01-04-1999	292.80	244.00	244.00	489.22	311.10	311.10	40.26	40.26	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	March, 2001	139.00U 46.00R	150.75	161.10	451.00	287.80	289.90	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV 299.21 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka (KPTCL)	01-04-2003	323.93	420.92	473.92	644.44	609.26	611.76	64.51	58.37	368.82	449.57	486.29	480.07	489.42	466.70 at 11 KV
11.	Kerala	01-10-2002	187.00	368.99	517.81	792.00	936.10	976.80	77.97	76.35	366.90	374.45	379.44	385.02	—	348.67 at 110 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19-12-2002	314.90U 286.00R	404.36U 346.94R	421.05U 360.79R	514.26	672.79	674.18	120.00	105.60	427.42	533.14	489.35	505.47	496.86	467.10 at 132/220 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01-01-2002	305.46	410.39	492.95	462.35	590.61	609.82	126.18	121.12	337.13	370.75	435.31	442.44	—	431.00
14.	Meghalaya	01-09-2001	130.00	182.50	205.00	288.50	314.50	317.75	76.00	78.00	266.12	267.77	219.75	222.23	—	—
15.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	01-06-2002	135.00	315.00	315.00	415.00	455.00	455.00	105.00	105.00	320.00	340.00	344.26	357.06	364.46	407.45 at 25/33 KV
16.	Punjab	01-08-2002	201.40	311.39	348.09	429.25	429.25	429.25	57.00	55.10	324.25	367.30	376.75	376.75	385.57	466.00 at 11 KV
17.	Rajasthan (JVVNL)	01-04-2001	322.50U 292.75R	305.63U 277.57R	302.25U 274.53R	556.09	551.00	553.80	105.03	83.40	391.04	417.66	447.07	446.83	450.19	446.66
18.	Tamil Nadu	16-03-2003	204.75	359.63	442.98	568.50	606.90	607.95	20.00	20.00	327.81	493.72	445.60	462.61	469.04	511.16
19.	Uttar Pradesh (UPPCL)	09-11-2002	321.50U 99.00R	327.13	316.25	599.00	491.00	482.50	72.25	64.28	413.00U 360.98R	396.54U 336.91R	393.63U 337.43R	397.36U 340.83R	383.79U 325.74R	471.70 Below 132 KV 433.64 132 KV and above
20.	Uttaranchal (UPCL) (Urban) (Rural)	01-01-2002	229.00U 72R	239.00	273.00	484.00	464.00	480.25	67.40	50.51	386.04	404.66	346.15	349.66	340.22	479.21 at 25 KV 467.52 12KV and below
21.	West Bengal (Urban) (Rural)	01-04-2001	200.81U 171.88R	330.90U 310.00R	387.75U 354.75R	367.40U 368.95R	461.25U 450.00R	461.25U 460.00R	74.67	173.00	341.56	421.96	391.98	399.10	379.50	391.70 at 25 KV 361.70 at 132 KV
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01-02-2000	162.50	211.78	231.75	357.50	367.50	361.25	—	—	345.00	361.44	363.95	394.89	—	—
23.	Goa	01-04-2002	122.00	170.75	216.50	314.80	344.90	363.25	102.00	102.00	257.00	297.00	339.19	342.29	250.35	—
24.	Manipur	03-09-2002	262.00	299.70	—	429.70	302.20	366.80	272.20	272.20	267.20	367.41	334.61	335.33	337.20	—
25.	Mizoram Distt. H.Q. & Sub-divn. Area Other areas	01-08-2002	115.00	171.25 163.75	143.50 140.50	250.00	300.00	300.00	70.00	70.00	165.32	101.23	62.01	67.15	80.58	—
26.	Nagaland	01-06-2001	259.00U 200.00R	300.08U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	360.00	380.00	380.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
27.	Sikkim	15-08-2002	90.00	230.63	261.25	270.00	375.00	367.80	157.50	225.70	365.40U 252.54R	216.26	258.47	261.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01-08-2001	348.00	240.00	230.00	755.00	330.00	363.00	75.00	120.00	175.00	209.45	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01-11-2001	115.00	243.75	289.50	330.00	410.00	420.00	75.00	75.00	285.30	286.63	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01-11-2002	180.75	246.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.80	103.66	102.75	301.00	336.00	381.00	381.00	389.80	—
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01-02-87	72.50	85.63	88.25	122.00	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.36	180.86	181.86	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01-09-2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	237.50	263.50	266.75	55.00	55.00	230.00	251.48	258.83	281.81	—	—
33.	Delhi	01-06-2001	157.50	252.00	327.80	525.00	462.00	525.00	78.75	78.75	430.50	430.90	459.05	482.39	484.89	480.88 at 11 KV
	NDMC	01-06-2001	198.00	252.25	327.70	500.00	462.00	525.00	—	—	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	578.90
34.	Lakshadweep	01-04-2000	200.00	337.50	375.00	660.00	660.00	650.00	—	—	480.00	480.00	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	16-04-2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	348.40	340.08	339.04	11.74	7.27	246.24	258.72	317.52	333.42	—	—
36.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01-08-2002	388.40	453.75	482.46	573.79	676.04	684.80	327.54	327.54	382.72	418.39	426.27	489.89	—	—
37.	Calcutta (CESC)	01-04-2003	270.80	482.82	543.95	314.93	635.63	435.24	—	—	474.44	532.13	529.53	532.09	584.40	537.94
38.	D.V.C.	01-09-2000	—	—	—	506.00	623.25	636.63	—	—	—	—	320.42	389.33	334.89	408.32 at 33 KV
	(a) Jharkhand Area								—	—	—	—	336.38	344.89	381.94	381.37 at 132 KV
	(b) W.B. Area															
39.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01-05-1999	180.25	338.44	404.83	361.18	467.00	467.00	207.00	283.54	327.86	445.44	400.48	488.48	—	—
40.	Mumbai															
	(BEST)	15-07-1997	84.00	305.51	441.48	622.00	757.80	802.80	—	—	689.06	721.15	418.43E	422.80E	—	—
	(BSES)	01-04-2000	154.56	436.31	447.86	603.58	636.01	647.48	—	—	585.01	473.47	343.34	382.84	—	—
	(TATA's)	01-12-1998	145.60	324.53	381.80	419.29	419.28	419.29	—	—	400.44	400.44	385.97	389.84	379.23	400.44 86 KV to 33 KV

U-Urban, R-Rural, E-Exclusive of reactive energy charge @ 98 paise/kwh F: Exclusive of reactive charge @ 10 paise/kwh

Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month. The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to FSA & A Division, Central Electricity Authority.

Statement II

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (As on 01-04-2004)

(Rates in Paise/Kwh)

Sl.No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2 KW (180 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 5 KW (400 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 5 KW (200 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 20 KW (2000 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 5 HP, 18% LF (408 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 10 HP, 20% LF (1089 Kwh/ Month)	Small Industry 10 HP, 25% LF (1381 Kwh/ Month)	Medium Industry 30 KW, 40% LF (14800 Kwh/ Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW, 65% LF (474930 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (11 KV) 1000 KW, 60% LF (488888 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (66 KV) 1000 KW, 60% LF (847900 Kwh/ Month)	Railway Traction 12500 KW, 20% LF (2757600 Kwh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO)	01-04-2004	238.50	398.63	492.25	583.50	621.50	626.25	38.58	38.180	409.86	398.12	404.51	448.68	461.41	440.03 at 132/220 KV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2.	Assam	01-04-2003	282.20	363.36	385.05	630.18	547.32	580.89	188.20	211.43	326.61U 234.80 R	379.55	395.46	388.41	398.38	—
3.	Bihar	01-06-2001	206.70U 63.60R	270.30	279.84	1213.91	858.81	869.81	64.95	63.80	693.53	708.93	464.48	467.22	464.58	519.22 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01-03-1999	157.20	259.73	294.78	438.34	497.95	505.19	73.53	55.10	304.19	386.20	434.59	437.71	427.23	486.89 at 132/220 KV
5.	Gujarat	10-10-2000	391.80U 333.50R	516.38U 439.88R	588.80U 501.40R	638.00	677.15	679.33	65.36	62.14	401.70	459.38F	513.96	554.24	585.38	540.95
6.	Haryana (UHBVN)	01-06-2001	338.69	384.25	419.50	434.00	434.00	434.00	65.00	65.00	443.00	443.00	424.00	424.00	412.00	441.23 at 11 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01-11-2001	115.75	199.89	227.48	327.50	317.50	316.25	69.80	66.84	258.84	257.17	276.54	279.11	282.47	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01-04-1999	292.80	244.00	244.00	489.22	311.10	311.10	40.26	40.26	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	March, 2001	139.00U 46.80R	180.75	161.10	451.00	267.80	289.80	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka (KPTCL)	01-04-2003	323.93	430.82	473.82	644.44	608.28	611.76	64.51	58.37	398.82	449.57	486.29	489.07	489.42	458.70 at 11 KV
11.	Kerala	01-10-2002	187.00	398.89	517.81	782.00	936.10	976.80	77.97	76.35	396.60	374.46	379.44	395.02	—	346.67 at 110 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19-12-2002	314.50U 286.00R	404.38U 346.94R	421.06U 380.78R	514.38	672.79	674.18	120.00	105.60	427.42	533.14	469.35	505.47	488.88	467.10 at 132/220 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01-01-2002	305.46	410.39	482.95	482.35	580.61	609.82	128.18	121.12	337.13	370.75	435.31	442.44	—	431.00
14.	Meghalaya	01-08-2001	130.00	182.80	205.00	288.50	314.50	317.75	76.00	76.00	286.12	287.77	219.75	222.23	—	—
15.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	01-01-2004	175.00	285.00	285.00	370.00	434.00	444.50	105.00	105.00	320.00	336.80	341.01	363.69	380.82	403.37 at 25/33 KV
16.	Punjab	01-06-2008	280.30	334.28	385.41	441.85	441.85	441.85	57.00	55.10	334.75	376.85	388.30	388.30	376.77	451.00 at 11 KV
17.	Rajasthan (JVVNL)	01-04-2001	322.80U 292.75R	305.63U 277.57R	302.25U 274.53R	565.00	561.00	563.00	105.03	83.40	381.04	417.88	447.07	448.83	450.19	446.86
18.	Tamil Nadu	16-03-2003	204.75	359.83	442.58	598.50	606.80	607.85	20.00	20.00	327.81	483.72	445.80	482.81	489.04	511.16
19.	Uttar Pradesh (UPCL)	01-09-2003	341.50U 109.00R	347.13	338.25	609.00	489.00	489.00	72.25	64.28	423.08U 380.98R	408.54U 346.91R	403.83U 347.43R	407.35U 380.63R	388.79U 340.74R	471.70 below 132 KV 433.64 at 132 KV and above
20.	Uttarakhand	01-01-2004	219.00U 88.28R	210.00	219.00	369.00	399.00	399.00	67.40	60.51	287.86	274.86	283.52	288.11	272.82	— 467.52 at 132 KV and above
21.	West Bengal	01-04-2003	252.51U 223.88R	382.80U 382.00R	448.78U 408.75R	419.40U 408.95R	513.25U 502.00R	513.25U 502.00R	74.87	173.00	389.58	473.96	391.99	421.10	431.50	443.70 at 25 KV 413.70 at 132 KV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01-02-2000	182.50	211.78	231.75	367.50	367.80	391.25	—	—	346.00	391.44	393.95	394.89	—	—
23.	Goa	01-04-2002	122.00	170.75	216.80	314.80	344.80	363.25	102.00	102.00	257.00	297.00	339.19	342.29	280.35	—
24.	Manipur	03-09-2002	292.00	299.70	—	429.70	302.20	398.90	272.20	272.20	287.20	367.41	394.61	395.33	337.20	—
25.	Mizoram Dist. H.Q. & Sub-dhn. Area Other areas	01-08-2002	115.00	171.25 163.75	149.50 140.50	299.00	300.00	300.00	70.00	70.00	105.32	101.23	92.01	97.16	80.98	—
26.	Nagaland	01-08-2001	260.00U 280.00R	300.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	360.00	380.00	380.00	180.00	180.00	280.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
27.	Sikkim	15-08-2002	90.00	230.63	281.25	270.00	375.00	387.80	157.50	225.70	355.40U 252.64R	216.26	298.47	291.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01-07-2003	480.00	325.00	300.00	1017.50	440.00	440.00	75.00	120.00	240.00	270.00	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01-11-2001	115.00	243.75	289.50	330.00	410.00	430.00	75.00	75.00	285.30	298.63	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01-11-2002	180.75	246.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	108.98	102.75	301.00	336.00	391.00	391.00	399.90	—
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	01-02-07	72.50	85.63	88.25	122.00	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.38	180.88	181.85	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01-08-2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	237.50	293.50	286.75	55.00	55.00	230.00	251.48	298.83	291.01	—	—
33.	Delhi BSES/NDPL NDMC	04-07-2003 01-08-2001	204.75 198.00	291.38 252.25	364.35 327.70	551.25 600.00	519.75 492.00	591.75 525.00	125.10 —	122.89 —	478.76 431.00	474.44 431.00	502.29 —	595.54 —	591.16 —	594.00 576.00 at 11KV
34.	Lakshadweep	01-04-2000	200.00	337.80	375.00	690.00	690.00	690.00	—	—	490.00	460.00	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	16-04-2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	348.40	340.08	339.04	11.74	7.27	246.24	258.72	317.52	333.42	—	—
36.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01-08-2002	389.40	453.75	482.46	573.79	676.04	694.80	327.54	327.54	382.72	418.39	426.27	429.83	—	—
37.	Calcutta (CESC)	01-04-2003	270.89	482.92	543.95	314.80	635.63	435.24	—	—	474.44	532.13	539.53	532.09	534.40	537.94
38.	D.V.C.	01-08-2000	—	—	—	508.00	623.25	635.63	—	—	—	—	320.42	329.33	334.89	409.32 at 33 KV
	(a) Jharkhand Area								—	—	—	—	338.38	344.89	351.94	391.37 at 132 KV
	(b) W.B. Area															
39.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01-05-1999	180.25	339.44	404.83	361.18	467.00	467.00	207.00	289.54	327.86	446.44	400.46	406.46	—	—
40.	Mumbai															
	(BEST)	15-07-1997	84.00	305.51	441.48	622.00	757.80	892.80	—	—	699.06	721.15	418.43E	422.08E	—	—
	(BSES)	01-04-2000	154.56	436.31	447.86	603.58	698.01	647.48	—	—	595.01	473.47	343.24	323.84	—	—
	(TATA's)	01-12-1998	145.80	324.53	391.80	419.29	419.29	419.29	—	—	400.44	400.44	395.97	399.84	379.23	400.44 0.5 KV to 33 KV

U-Urban, R-Rural, E-Exclusive of reactive energy charge @ 98 paise/kwh F: Exclusive of reactive charge @ 10 paise/kwh D: DPAP Area O: Other Areas

Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month. The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to FSA & A Division, Central Electricity Authority.

Statement III
Estimated Average Rates of Electricity
(As on 01-04-2004)

(Rates in Paise/Kwh)

Sl.No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2 KW (100 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 5 KW (400 Kwh/ Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 5 KW (200 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 10 KW (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Commercial 20 KW (2000 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 5 HP, 15% LF (400 Kwh/ Month)	Agriculture 10 HP, 20% LF (1000 Kwh/ Month)	Small Industry 10 HP, 25% LF (1381 Kwh/ Month)	Medium Industry 50 KW, 40% LF (14800 Kwh/ Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW, 60% LF (474800 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (11 KV) 1000 KW, 60% LF (438000 Kwh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (33 KV) (18000 KW, 90% LF (547900 Kwh/ Month)	Railway Traction 12800 KW, 30% LF (2737800 Kwh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh (APTRANSCO)	01-04-2003	238.50	398.83	482.25	583.50	621.50	626.25	00.00	00.00	409.86	398.12	404.51	449.68	461.41	440.03 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	01-04-2003	282.20	383.38	395.85	630.18	547.32	550.89	188.20	211.43	326.61U 234.80 R	379.55	385.46	388.41	398.38	
3.	Bihar	01-06-2001	206.70U 63.80R	270.30	279.84	1213.91	858.81	858.81	64.95	63.80	683.53	706.93	484.46	467.22	484.56	519.22 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01-03-1999	157.20	259.73	294.78	438.34	497.95	505.19	73.53	55.10	304.19	398.20	434.59	437.71	427.23	466.89 at 132/220 KV
5.	Gujarat	10-10-2000	391.50U 333.50R	516.38U 439.88R	588.80U 501.40R	638.00	677.15	679.33	65.36	62.14	401.70	458.38	513.98F	554.24	565.38	540.95
6.	Haryana (UHBVN)	01-09-2001	338.00	384.25	419.50	434.00	434.00	434.00	65.00	65.00	443.00	443.00	424.00	424.00	412.00	441.23 at 11 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01-11-2001	115.75	199.89	227.48	327.50	317.50	316.25	69.90	66.84	258.84	257.17	276.54	279.11	282.47	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01-04-1999	292.80	244.00	244.00	489.22	311.10	311.10	40.28	40.28	184.70	184.70	184.70	184.70	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	March, 2001	139.00U 46.00R	150.75	161.10	451.00	287.80	289.90	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka (KPTCL)	01-04-2003	323.93	420.82	473.92	644.44	609.28	611.76	64.51	58.37	388.82	449.57	466.29	480.07	489.42	456.70 at 11 KV
11.	Kerala	01-10-2002	187.00	398.89	517.81	792.00	936.10	976.80	77.97	76.35	386.80	374.45	379.44	385.02	—	348.67 at 110 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19-12-2002	314.50U 286.00R	404.38U 346.94R	421.05U 380.78R	514.38	672.79	674.18	120.00	105.80	427.42	533.14	469.35	505.47	496.88	467.10 at 132/220 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01-01-2002	305.46	410.39	492.95	462.35	580.61	609.82	128.18	121.12	337.13	370.75	435.91	442.44	—	431.00
14.	Meghalaya	01-08-2001	130.00	182.50	205.00	288.50	314.50	317.75	76.00	76.00	286.12	287.77	219.75	222.23	—	—
15.	Orissa (GRIDCO)	01-01-2004	175.00	285.00	295.00	370.00	434.00	444.50	105.00	105.00	320.00	336.80	341.01	353.69	380.82	403.37 at 25/33 KV
16.	Punjab	01-05-2003	220.30	334.23	365.41	441.85	441.85	441.85	57.00	56.10	334.75	378.85	388.30	388.30	376.77	451.00 at 11 KV
17.	Rajasthan (JVVNL)	01-04-2001	322.50U 282.75R	305.63U 277.57R	302.25U 274.53R	555.09	551.00	553.00	105.03	83.40	391.04	417.86	447.07	448.83	450.19	446.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18.	Tamil Nadu	16-06-2004	128.00	227.06	282.98	611.63	809.53	809.28	00.00	00.00	435.31	489.94	445.80	462.61	489.03	511.16
19.	Uttar Pradesh (UPCL)	01-09-2003	341.50U 109.00R	347.13	336.25	609.00	489.00	489.00	72.25	64.28	423.09U 360.98R	406.54U 348.91R	403.69U 347.43R	407.36U 360.63R	398.79U 340.74R	471.70 below 132 KV 433.64 at 133 KV and above
20.	Uttaranchal	01-01-2004	219.00U 89.28R	210.00	219.00	359.00	359.00	359.00	67.40	50.51	267.06	274.66	263.52	286.11	272.62	— 467.52 at 132 KV and above
21.	West Bengal	01-04-2003	252.81U 223.68R	382.90U 362.00R	449.75U 406.75R	419.40U 408.96R	513.25U 502.00R	513.25U 502.00R	74.67	173.00	389.89	473.66	391.99	421.10	431.50	443.70 at 25 KV 413.70 at 132 KV
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01-02-2000	162.50	211.78	231.75	357.90	367.50	391.25	—	—	345.00	361.44	393.95	394.89	—	—
23.	Goa	01-04-2002	122.00	170.75	216.90	314.50	344.50	363.25	102.00	102.00	257.00	297.00	339.19	342.29	290.35	—
24.	Manipur	03-09-2002	262.00	299.70	—	429.70	302.20	386.60	272.20	272.20	287.20	367.41	334.61	335.33	337.20	—
25.	Mizoram Distt. H.Q. & Sub-divn. Area Other areas	01-06-2002	115.00	171.25 163.75	143.80 140.80	250.00	300.00	300.00	70.00	70.00	185.32	101.23	62.01	67.15	80.58	—
26.	Nagaland	01-06-2001	250.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	350.00	380.00	380.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
27.	Sikkim	15-08-2002	90.00	230.63	281.25	270.00	375.00	387.50	157.50	225.70	355.40U 252.54R	216.26	298.47	281.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01-07-2003	480.00	325.00	300.00	1017.50	440.00	440.00	75.00	120.00	240.00	270.00	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01-11-2001	115.00	243.75	289.50	330.00	410.00	420.00	75.00	75.00	285.30	288.63	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01-11-2002	180.75	246.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	103.88	102.75	301.00	336.00	361.00	361.00	369.80	—
31.	Dehra & Nagar Haveli	01-02-87	72.50	65.63	88.25	122.60	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.38	180.86	181.85	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01-09-2002	130.00	172.90	204.00	237.50	263.90	286.75	56.00	55.00	230.00	251.48	298.63	281.01	—	—
33.	Delhi BSES/NDPL	19.6.2004	252.00	309.75	390.60	637.88	582.75	608.00	140.85	138.44	529.39	521.84	545.52	546.77	527.66	510.73 at 11 KV
	NDMC	01-06-2001	158.00	252.25	327.70	500.00	462.00	525.00	—	—	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	576.00
34.	Lakshadweep	01-04-2000	200.00	337.50	375.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	—	—	460.00	460.00	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	16-04-2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	348.40	340.68	339.04	11.74	7.27	246.24	298.72	317.52	333.42	—	—
36.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01-08-2002	389.40	453.75	482.46	573.79	676.04	684.80	327.54	327.54	382.72	416.39	426.27	429.83	—	—
37.	Calcutta (CESC)	01-04-2003	270.80	482.92	543.95	314.93	635.63	435.24	—	—	474.44	532.13	528.53	532.09	524.40	537.94
38.	D.V.C.	01-09-2000	—	—	—	508.00	623.25	635.63	—	—	—	—	320.42	328.33	334.89	408.32 at 33 KV
	(a) Jharkhand Area								—	—	—	—	328.38	344.89	351.84	391.37 at 132 KV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	(b) W.B. Area															
39.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01-05-1999	180.25	336.44	404.83	361.16	467.00	467.00	207.00	283.54	327.66	445.44	400.46	406.46	—	—
40.	Mumbai															
	(BEST)	15-07-1997	84.00	305.51	441.48	622.00	757.80	802.80	—	—	669.06	721.15	418.43E	422.08E	—	—
	(BSES)	01-04-2000	154.56	436.31	447.86	603.58	636.01	647.48	—	—	585.01	473.47	343.34	323.64	—	—
	(TATA's)	01-06-204	166.60	323.05	385.34	532.23	464.43	464.43	—	—	431.44	425.21	367.37	405.57	426.86	440.05 33/22/11/ 6.8 KV

U-Urban, R-Rural, E-Exclusive of reactive energy charge @ 98 paise/kwh F: Exclusive of reactive charge @ 10 paise/kwh

Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month. The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to FSA & A Division, Central Electricity Authority.

[English]

Status of IDPL Units

1825. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the present physical and financial status of various IDPL units in the country;

(b) whether the Government have worked out an action plan to improve the condition of IDPL; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) The IDPL has three manufacturing units at Gurgaon, Rishikesh & Hyderabad. Rishikesh and Gurgaon units are engaged in production of some formulations. There is no production in Hyderabad unit. However, its effluent treatment plant is providing services to outside parties on payment. All the units are loss making.

(b) and (c) At present there is no action plan under consideration of the Government to improve the condition of IDPL. BIFR in its hearing dated 4.12.2003 has passed winding up orders for IDPL and has referred the matter to the concerned High Court for winding up.

Allotment of Land by DDA

1826. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has provided land to various Welfare and Cultural Organisations in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of those provided with land during the last three years;

(c) the criteria fixed for allotment of land to such organisations;

(d) whether a number of applications are lying pending for approval;

(e) if so, the number thereof as on date along with the names of organisations to whom the allotment of land has not been made even after obtaining clearance in all respects from the Government of NCT of Delhi and other agencies;

(f) the reasons for not according approval to those organisations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

UT Status for Ladakh

1827. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been persistent demand to grant UT status for Ladakh; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been demand from various groups from time to time for grant of Union Territory status to Ladakh.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

Additional Financial Assistance to Orissa under AUWSP

1828. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the additional financial assistance has been demanded by the Government of Orissa under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No additional funds under Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme have been requested by Government of Orissa.

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

Anganwadi Centres

1829. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) the Centrally Sponsored Schemes which are made operational in the Anganwadi Centres;

(b) whether the Anganwadis are providing all the facilities earmarked therefor;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to effectively monitor the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme which aims at holistic development of children (0-6 years) and pregnant and lactating mothers from disadvantaged sections by providing a package of services comprising supplementary nutrition, immunization, health check-up, referral services, pre-school non-formal education and nutrition & health education through Anganwadi Centres. Nutrition component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Pilot Project in 51 districts across the country to provide free foodgrains to under nourished adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating mothers are also implemented through Anganwadis.

State-wise details of sanctioned and operational projects, Anganwadi Centres and beneficiaries under the ICDS Scheme are given in the Statement enclosed. Of the services provided under the Scheme, immunization, health check-up and referral services are delivered by the Health infrastructure in the Project area.

(d) The implementation of the ICDS Scheme is monitored through monthly reports received from the States/UTs and review meetings from time to time.

Statement

State-wise details of Number of Sanctioned and Operational Projects & Anganwadi Centres and Number of Beneficiaries under ICDS Scheme as on 31.3.2004

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of ICDS Projects		No. of Anganwadis		No. of Beneficiaries		
		Sanctioned	Operational	Sanctioned by GOI	Operational	Children 6 years	Women	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	363	351	54312	53564	2536035	642244	3178279
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	58	57	2359	2286	59049	9822	68871

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam*	196	195	25416	25302	1235299	170565	1405864
4.	Bihar	394	183	60813	24871	1307231	824095	2131326
5.	Chhattisgarh	152	152	20289	20277	1398938	335476	1734414
6.	Goa	11	11	1012	1012	39986	9221	49207
7.	Gujarat	227	227	37961	35441	1560731	256199	1816930
8.	Haryana	116	116	13546	13546	896907	232474	1129381
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	72	7354	7354	309590	68898	378488
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	121	120	11821	10227	132206	27921	160127
11.	Jharkhand	204	152	15505	14967	458954	188670	647624
12.	Karnataka	185	185	40301	40301	2587430	494029	3081459
13.	Kerala	163	163	25393	24415	939966	153137	1093103
14.	Madhya Pradesh	336	336	49784	48824	2265041	623804	2888845
15.	Maharashtra	370	368	62716	58109	4055941	609237	4665178
16.	Manipur	34	34	4501	4499	51538	8954	60492
17.	Meghalaya	32	32	2218	2217	183839	33401	217240
18.	Mizoram	21	21	1361	1341	106042	26296	132338
19.	Nagaland	54	54	2770	2770	229829	37918	267747
20.	Orissa	326	326	34201	34201	3689078	671587	4360665
21.	Punjab	142	142	15829	14016	421575	106801	528376
22.	Rajasthan	257	257	35821	35686	2600195	575368	3175563
23.	Sikkim	5	5	500	500	34353	6091	40444
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	434	42377	30059	1440075	444180	1884255
25.	Tripura	40	39	3786	3692	121707	17348	139055
26.	Uttar Pradesh	836	742	103104	75005	1951204	155104	2106308
27.	Uttaranchal	99	96	6378	5924	118122	28682	146804
28.	West Bengal	358	352	57540	53354	2893506	491961	3385467
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	5	527	429	23734	4817	28551
30.	Chandigarh	3	3	300	300	31095	7184	38279
31.	Delhi	29	28	3902	3842	418405	82208	500613
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	138	138	11381	1804	13185

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33.	Daman & Diu	2	2	87	87	6977	1898	8875
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	74	74	3877	986	4863
35.	Pondicherry	5	5	677	677	31341	9121	40462
	All India	5652	5267	744673	649307	34151177	7357501	41508678

#As on 30.11.2003.

Opening of I.T.

1830. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to establish some institutes of Technologies in the country atleast one IT institute in Bihar;

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

(c) the status of the proposal received from the State Governments for establishment of IT institutes as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In view of the announcement made by the then Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003 that five new IITs will be set up by upgrading promising academic institutions, the Government has constituted an Expert committee to identify such academic institutions. A number of proposals from various State Governments have been received by the Government and are under consideration of the Expert Committee. One of the proposal relates to setting up of an IIT in Bihar. A list of such proposals received from the States is given in the statement enclosed. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Proposal
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Setting up of New IIT at Basara, Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh Upgradation of Osmania University Engineering College, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Bihar	Setting up of New IIT in Bihar
3.	Chandigarh	Setting up of New IIT in Chandigarh
4.	Gujarat	Setting up of New IIT in Gujarat
5.	Jharkhand	Setting up of new IIT in Jharkhand
6.	Karnataka	Upgradation of NITK Surathkal to IIT Setting up of New IIT in Dharwad, North Karnataka
7.	Kerala	Upgradation of College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram to IIT
8.	Orissa	Upgradation of University College of Engineering (U.C.E.) Burla, Orissa
9.	Rajasthan	Setting up of new IIT in Rajasthan

Outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation

1831. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay for Rural Electrification Corporation during 2003-04;

(b) whether outlay for the current year has been reduced as compared to the previous three years; and

(c) if so, the details of the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The total outlay for the programmes, implemented by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), in Ministry of Power's Demand for Grants for 2003-04 was Rs. 200 crore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Police Officials Arrested

1832. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Delhi Police officials arrested during each of the last three years, rank-wise; and

(b) the nature of offence for which they have been arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The required details are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Nature of Crime (offence)	Number of Delhi Police personnel arrested								
		Addl. Commissioner of Police	Deputy Commissioner of Police	Assistant Commissioner of Police	Inspector	Sub Inspector	Assistant Sub Inspector	Head Constable	Constable	Group D
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2001										
1.	Murder/attempt to murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	0
2.	Extortion/robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3.	Cheating/theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
4.	Rape/molestation	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
5.	Hurt	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	1
6.	Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
7.	Corruption	0	0	0	0	11	0	6	6	0
8.	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	1	2	12	19	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	13	3	25	45	1
2002										
1.	Murder/attempt to murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0
2.	Extortion/robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
3.	Cheating/theft	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0
4.	Rape/molestation	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
5.	Hurt	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	7	0
6.	Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
7.	Corruption	0	0	0	0	7	1	2	9	0
8.	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	14	0
Total		1	0	0	1	13	3	8	46	0

2003

1.	Murder/attempt to murder	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	6	0
2.	Extortion/robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
3.	Cheating/theft	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0
4.	Rape/molestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5.	Hurt	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
6.	Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
7.	Corruption	0	0	0	2	10	3	6	11	0
8.	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	1	2	1	10	15	0
Total		0	0	0	3	12	8	19	42	0

2004 (Upto 30th June, 2004)

1.	Murder/attempt to murder	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1
2.	Extortion/robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
3.	Cheating/theft	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
4.	Rape/molestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
5.	Hurt	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
6.	Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Corruption	0	0	0	2	11	6	2	9	0
8.	Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Total		0	0	1	2	12	8	9	19	1

Speed Breakers in Delhi

1833. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed breakers in Delhi have come in all sizes and shapes and the agencies responsible for constructing speed breakers are flouting norms laid down by the Indian Road Congress in 1996;

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

(c) whether there is no painting on the speed breakers and the customary warning signs; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to get the matter right?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The speed breakers in Delhi are by and large in conformity with the norms prescribed by the Indian Road Congress.

(c) and (d) The speed breakers are painted periodically and the customary warning signs are also provided at the time of providing speed breakers. However, there are occasions when there is some delay in re-painting such speed breakers or the warning signs get stolen. It is the constant endeavour of the Local Bodies to remove these shortcomings.

Employment to Trainees

1834. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the actual number of beneficiaries from vocational training in tribal areas and collect full data of the trainees who have gained employment after completion of vocational courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said survey is proposed to be conducted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) In order to

assess the impact of the scheme of Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) all the State Govts. were asked to indicate the number of candidates who are earning their livelihood through the training received by them in the VTCs. From the information received from some of the State Govts. it is seen that on an average one third of the trained candidates get gainfully employed.

Further, the Planning Commission has been requested to conduct a survey/evaluation of VTCs, through their Project Appraisal and Management Division.

N.I.T. Warangal

1835. SHRI MADHUSUDAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government received any request from Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding renewal of lease period of place of National Institute of Technology, Warangal to Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation, Andhra Pradesh to run a hotel in Hanam Konda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) to (c) The letter (No. 9339/EC. 1/2002-2 dated 31.12.2002) received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in January 2003 regarding extension of lease of two acres of land given by the National Institute of Technology, Warangal to Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) for running a Guest House with a Restaurant was sent to the Director of the Institute for placing it before the Board of Governors (BOGs) for an appropriate consideration. The BOGs which is the apex body for the management of the Institute, and which also include the Secretary, Technical Education, Andhra Pradesh as a representative of the State Government, considered the matter in its meeting held on 9th September 2003. Keeping in view the need for academic expansion of the Institute as a Deemed University, it was decided not to renew the lease further. However, it was decided to give one-year's time up to 7th January 2004 to APTDC to make alternative arrangement and to vacate the premises. Further, the Director of the Institute also informed the Chairman and Managing Director, APTDC vide his letter-dated

29.10.2003 to move out of the Campus latest by 30.06.2004.

Production/Price of Decontrolled Drugs

1836. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production and prices of de-controlled Drugs are higher than the controlled Drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) 74 bulk drugs are specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. As per a recent study, it is noted that the availability of medicines in the de-controlled sector is on the higher side as compared to those in the controlled sector.

Decentralisation of AICTE

1837. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to decentralise All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps 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) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has already decentralised its functioning by delegating more powers to its Regional Committees for processing of proposals at undergraduate and postgraduate levels for establishment of new institutions, extension of approval, variation in approved intake and introduction of additional courses. The State Governments have also been delegated powers in respect of diploma level technical institutes.

[*Translation*]

Navyug School in Delhi

1838. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate number of teachers of Computer, sports physical education and arts subjects as well as facilities like computers, sports items, drinking water, clean toilets and furniture etc. have been provided in all Navyug schools;

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

(c) if no, the time by which these arrangements are likely to be made;

(d) whether construction work of the new building of Navyug schools particularly Navyug school, Mandir Marg has been started;

(e) if so, the time by which the construction of this building is likely to be completed;

(f) if no, the reasons therefor;

(g) the arrangements made to appoint principal and T.G.T. teachers etc. and to arrange building for the students of class VI, VII and other higher classes during the academic session 2004-2005 till the completion of the construction of new school buildings, particularly of Navyug School, Mandir Marg, New Delhi;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons for not shifting the students of Navyug School, Mandir Marg to Navyug School, Peshwa Road during the current academic session?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The number of posts of teachers in various disciplines sanctioned for various Navyug Schools is adequate. However, some of these posts are lying vacant at present even after appointing persons on contract basis as a temporary measure. The School-wise number of vacancies after excluding the staff engaged on contract basis is given in the attached statement.

The basic civic facilities have been provided in all Navyug Schools. However, the two recently upgraded Schools located at Vinay Marg and Mandir Marg have not so far been provided with Computer Laboratories for students of Class VI and above. This facility is in the process of installation.

(d) to (f) The only proposal to construct a new school building relates to the upgraded School at Mandir Marg. The construction work for this School, however, could

not be commenced as the land on which it is to be constructed is not free from encumbrance.

(g) to (i) No Principal for the upgraded Navyug School at Mandir Marg has been appointed as the School is not fully functional. The necessary arrangements have, however, been made in the matter of engaging Trained

Graduate Teachers for the benefit of the students of VI and VII classes. The students of Classes VI and VII of the Navyug School, Mandir Marg have been temporarily accommodated in the existing building. There is, therefore, no requirement to shift them to the School at Peshwa Road.

Statement

Vacancy Position of Teaching Staff of Navyug Schools

Sl.No.	Name of School	Principal	Post Graduate Teacher	Trained Graduate Teacher					Primary Teacher					Computer Teacher
				TGT	PET	MUSIC	ART	Total	TGT	PET	MUSIC	ART	Total	
1.	Sarojini Nagar	—	01	05	—	—	01	06	—	—	01	01	02	—
2.	Peshwa Road	—	01	03	01	—	—	04	—	—	01	—	01	—
3.	Laxmibai Nagar	—	02	02	—	—	01	03	—	—	01	01	02	—
4.	Lodhi Road	—	06	03	—	—	—	03	—	01	—	—	01	—
5.	Moti Bagh	—	03	04	01	—	—	05	—	01	—	—	01	—
6.	Vinay Marg	—	—	03	01	01	01	06	—	01	—	—	01	—
7.	Tilak Marg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	01	—	—	01	—
8.	Mandir Marg	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	01	—	—	01	—
9.	Pataudi House	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	01	01	—	02	—
Total		—	13	20	03	01	03	27	—	06	04	02	12	—

[English]

Swayamsiddha Scheme

1839. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swayamsiddha Scheme has performed poorly in many States during the last three years;

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

(c) whether there were many serious lapses for empowering women under the scheme;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government for proper implementation of schemes for women empowerment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

(e) In order to ensure proper implementation of schemes for women empowerment, a system of monitoring exists to review the progress under various schemes through periodical reports, review meetings and field visits by the concerned Area Officers.

*[Translation]***Setting up of Minority Education Commission**

1840. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up the Minority Education Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government a Commission for Minority Educational Institutions that would provide direct affiliation for minority professional institutions to central universities will be established. The matter is under consideration.

*[English]***Agreement for Laying Transmission Line in Afghanistan**

1841. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation has signed any MOU with the Government of Afghanistan for laying a 300 Km. power transmission line in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits accrued to the Government therefrom; and

(d) the time by which the work on the line is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has not signed any MOU with Government of Afghanistan for laying a 300 km power transmission line in Afghanistan. Government of Afghanistan had requested Government of India for construction of a transmission line from Pul-E-Khumri to Kabul in Afghanistan for import of power from Uzbekistan. PGCIL has carried out survey and soil investigation on a major part of the route of the transmission line and has submitted Detailed Project Report to Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) The project has been envisaged as part of India's commitment to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction effort. It will enhance India's image as a major partner of Afghanistan and will introduce its capability in a new area of activity with potential future commercial spin offs.

(d) The decision to implement this transmission line would depend upon the result of the complete survey and soil investigation.

American and Canadian Community Colleges

1842. PROF. M. RAMADASS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the utility and potential of American and Canadian Community colleges in achieving the objectives of access, quality, relevance and job opportunities in higher education; and

(b) if so, the Government consider the establishment of community colleges in different districts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

Degree College in Islands

1843. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lakshadweep Administration has submitted a proposal to start a Degree College in the Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Proposal is for creation of 41 teaching and non teaching posts for the proposed degree college in

UT of Lakshadweep. Some further clarifications have been sought for processing the case.

Grievance Redressal Committees Under ICDS

1844. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States where 'grievance redressal committees' under Integrated Child Development Schemes have been formed at State and District Level;

(b) whether the Government has received any memorandum from any organization of Anganwadi workers and helpers during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action so far been taken by the Government to redress the grievances?

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

Pending Bills of State Legislative Assemblies

1845. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bills passed by the various State Legislative Assemblies are pending with the Government to get the assent of the President;

(b) if so, the details of the Bills particularly which are related to the welfare of the workers, State-wise;

(c) since when such bills are pending; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those Bills at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) 36 Bills passed by the State Legislatures have been reserved by the Governors for the consideration of President. Out of these bills one bill from the Madhya Pradesh Legislature received on 14.01.2004, relates to amendment of Labour Laws.

(d) The State legislations are examined from three angles viz., (a) repugnancy with any Central Law, (b)

deviation from National or Central Policy and (c) legal and Constitutional validity, by the concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government. Whenever necessary, the State Governments are advised to modify/ amend provisions of such legislations keeping the above in view. With a view to expeditiously finalizing the Bills, discussions are also held with State Governments and Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Drug Policy

1846. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Drug Policy announced by the Government in 2002 has been termed as anti-people by Karnataka High Court;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to monitor the complete range of medicines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (c) Prices of Scheduled drugs are fixed/ revised and prices of non Scheduled drugs are monitored in accordance with the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 which is in force.

[Translation]

Development of Model Villages

1847. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has initiated work on the special scheme formulated for the development of model villages in the country;

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

(c) the number of villages selected under this scheme from each State especially from Himachal Pradesh alongwith their names;

(d) the amount allocated and spent so far; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be developed as model villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) had launched a programme for developing two 'Model Villages'/ 'Adarsh Gram' in all the States and Union Territories in 1997. Further in January, 2003, it was decided to set up two model villages for every 7 districts in a State/Union Territory. The selected villages predominately covering lower income population are to be provided with a grant assistance of upto Rs. 35 lacs, by HUDCO out of the interest accretion of KFW funded schemes subject to matching contribution from State Govt./implementing agency.

(b) to (d) HUDCO has so far sanctioned 73 Model Villages covering 25 States and 1 Union Territory for a

total grant assistance of Rs. 25.09 crores.

The State-wise details of the number of villages selected, grant sanctioned and released are given in the statement enclosed.

So far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, HUDCO has sanctioned one model village in Panchayat Harat Village, Kangra with grant of Rs. 24.37 lacs out of which Rs. 6.09 lacs has been released.

(e) The total duration of the project is 9 months. However, sometimes the projects get delayed due to non-availability of matching contribution from the State Government/implementing agency.

Statement

Status of Model Villages

				(Rs. in Lacs)
Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Total Model Villages	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	105.00	96.25
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	35.00	26.25
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	73.50	63.88
4.	Assam	2	70.50	52.50
5.	Bihar	3	84.76	71.54
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	31.32	7.83
7.	Haryana	5	172.38	70.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1	24.37	6.09
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	70.00	35.00
10.	Jharkhand	1	35.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	4	140.00	43.75
12.	Kerala	1	35.00	33.41
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5	195.50	108.10
14.	Manipur	5	177.00	147.40
15.	Mizoram	1	38.50	9.63

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Nagaland	6	210.00	192.50
17.	Orissa	6	196.00	123.26
18.	Punjab	1	70.00	35.00
19.	Rajasthan	4	91.99	52.24
20.	Sikkim	2	66.78	68.33
21.	Tamilnadu	1	35.00	8.75
22.	Tamilnadu	2	70.00	65.10
23.	Tripura	1	38.34	28.80
24.	Uttar Pradesh	9	315.00	227.50
25.	Uttaranchal	2	58.67	54.56
26.	West Bengal	2	70.00	43.75
Total		73	2509.61	1671.42

*[English]***Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

1848. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments have spent only 70% of the funds allocated under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during 2003-04 as reported in *Times of India* dated June 7, 2004;

(b) if so, the reason therefor alongwith the names of such States;

(c) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the public expenditure on education upto 6% of GDP; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government would ensure that the States will fully utilize the coming funds when the State Governments have not utilized even the first instalments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No Sir. The total releases to the States during the year 2003-04 were Rs. 2698.38 Crores. The expenditure by the States was Rs. 3604.26 Crores.

(c) As stated in the President's Address to the Parliament delivered on 7th June 2004, the Government will aim at increasing public spending on education to ultimately reach at least 6% of GDP with half this amount earmarked for primary and secondary education.

(d) Does not arise.

National Building Code

1849. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National Building Code has been set up to make every building coming up in the country as resistant to natural hazards;

(b) if so, the guidelines that have been introduced in this regard;

(c) whether these guidelines are being followed world wide; and

(d) if so, the extent to which this Code has helped to minimize disaster in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The National Building Code formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards is in the nature of model guidelines and is voluntary, but can be made mandatory through suitable adoption in building bye-laws and town planning rules of the States. The Code prescribes structural design of buildings which are safe during earthquake and winds.

(c) The National Building Code is applicable to India.

(d) The Buildings designed as per the provisions of National Building Code and also constructed and maintained accordingly, will be able to safely withstand the design loads in the event of a natural calamity like earthquake and cyclone.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1850. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the expansion of the plant;

(c) the proposed capacity of the plant after implementation of expansion plan;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is concentrating more on exports and denying the material to the locals resulting in high prices to the consumers;

(e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(f) the manner in which the proposed expansion programme is likely to help indigenous market and consumers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Apart from the proposal for installation of the 4th Coke Oven Battery, no proposal has been received by the government for the expansion of the steel Plant.

(b) The salient features of the IV Coke Oven Battery project are as under:

- (i) The proposed 4th Coke Oven Battery is to meet the shortfall in Blast Furnace (BF) Coke in view of the increased production of hot metal and the shortfall that will arise when the rebuilding programme of the three existing coke oven batteries is taken up.
- (ii) The installation of 4th Coke Oven Battery is a technical necessity for sustaining plant operations at higher efficiency.
- (iii) The 4th Coke Oven Battery will act as a replacement battery when the existing batteries are taken up for repair/rebuilding. After the rebuilding is completed this battery will function as an additional battery.
- (iv) The 4th Coke Oven Battery will be 7 meters tall and will consist of 67 ovens and will be based on Russian technology. It will thus be similar to the existing three batteries.
- (v) There is a provision in the plant lay-out hence the proposed new battery will be installed in the existing coke oven battery complex adjacent to coke oven battery No. 3.
- (vi) The 4th Coke Oven Battery is estimated to cost Rs. 303.00 crores.
- (vii) The entire cost will be borne by the company from its internal resources.
- (viii) The estimated time for completion of the 4th Coke Oven Battery is 36 months.
- (x) The project has been approved by the government.

(c) The implementation of the 4th Coke Oven Battery is not designed to lead to any increase in the steel making capacity of the steel plant.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

(f) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

Outstanding Electricity Dues Towards F.C.I.

1851. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Fertilizer Corporation of India's plant at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh, left huge electricity dues to the State before being closed and referred to BIFR;

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

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government for the payment of the outstanding dues;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government for timely payment of the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) The electricity dues payable by the Ramagundam unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (F.C.I.) to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh amounting to Rs. 37.75 crore relate to the months of February and March, 1999 which could not be paid due to paucity of funds.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Based on the request of the then Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh received in November, 2003, the matter was taken up with the Ministry of Finance for release of funds to settle the outstanding electricity dues.

(e) In view of opinion of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for winding up of F.C.I., the dues of all creditors will have to be settled by the official liquidator to be appointed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court.

Allotment of Flats by DDA

1852. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flats constructed by DDA during the last five years, category-wise;

(b) whether all the applicants registered for flats/plots under different schemes of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) have been allotted flats/plots;

(c) if not, the position as on date, Scheme-wise;

(d) the time by which the remaining applicants are likely to be allotted flats/plots; and

(e) the details of new schemes introduced/likely to be introduced for the allotment of flats, plots and houses?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The total number of flats constructed by DDA during the last five years, category-wise, is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The total number of registrants and the number of wait listed registrants for flats and plots are as follows:

	Name of Scheme	No. of Registrants	Present back-log
For Flats	New Pattern Registration Scheme, 1979	1,71,272	10,163
	Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 1989	20,000	3,383
	Janta Housing Registration Scheme 1996	20,000	6,736
For Plots	Rohini Residential Scheme, 1981	82,384	31,336

(d) DDA has prepared an action plan for liquidation of wait-listed registrants of flats by 2005 and of plots by 2005-06. The disposal of plots is, however, dependent on acquisition of land and development of infrastructure facilities there.

(e) DDA has recently launched a Two Bed Room Housing Scheme, 2004 for allotment of 1500 MIG flats. DDA do not propose to launch any new scheme for allotment of plots at present.

Statement***Details of Houses Constructed by DDA During the Last Five Years***

Category	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total
HIG	1,056	888	1,715	790	416	4,865
MIG	1,102	288	390	1,627	492	3,899
LIG	232	526	590	1,072	704	3,124
Janta	3,584	5,600	5,164	2,032	64	16,444
Total	5,974	7,302	7,859	5,521	1,676	28,332

*[Translation]***N.C.T.E.**

1853. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the power entrusted to the National Council of Teachers Education to impose ban on the advertisements regarding providing B.Ed./M.Ed. degrees by the unrecognized colleges/institutions;

(b) the number of such colleges/institutions against whom action has been taken so far;

(c) whether any provisions/rule is proposed to be made to instruct the newspapers/agencies not to publish the advertisements released by the unrecognized colleges/institutions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, other measures proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of admission seekers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) There is no provision in National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993, empowering the Council to prohibit publication of advertisements by unrecognized colleges/institutions, offering B.Ed./M.Ed. courses, or to take action against institutions publishing such advertisements.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) NCTE has been issuing public notices from time to time bringing provisions of NCTE Act relating to the requirement of recognition by Teacher Training Institutions, to the notice of public in general and students in particular, and informing them that a teacher education qualification obtained after undertaking a course or training in an institution not recognized by NCTE, is not valid for employment under the Central Government, any State Government, any University, or in any school, college or other educational body aided by the Central Government or any State Government.

Illegal Migrants

1854. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether infiltration by the Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals is constantly increasing in the country;

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

(c) the number of Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals apprehended infiltrating during each of the last three years;

(d) the State-wise number of illegal immigrants from various countries over-staying in the country as on date, country-wise;

(e) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the neighbouring countries;

(f) if so, the reaction of each of the such country on the matter; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government to deal with the problem of infiltration/illegal immigration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) There are reports on increase in infiltration of militants, since March 2004, from Pakistan. However, infiltration of illegal migrants from Bangladesh has slightly decreased.

(c) The number of Bangladeshi and Pakistani nationals apprehended by BSF during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Bangladeshi National	Pakistani National
2001	8811	73
2002	15549	38
2003	21453	98
2004 (up to 30 June)	12476	64

(d) The country-wise/State-wise figures of foreigners overstaying in India during 1999-2003 are given in the enclosed statement I and II respectively.

(e) and (f) The matter was taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and with the Government of Pakistan. The official stand of the Govt. of Bangladesh is that there are no illegal Bangladeshi migrants in India. As regards the stand of the Government of Pakistan, in the Joint Press statement of January 6, 2004 the President of Pakistan reassured the Prime Minister of India that he will not permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

(g) The Government of India has taken several measures to check illegal migration from across the borders, which includes strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets, raising of additional battalions of BSF, reduction of gaps between border outposts, intensification of patrolling, accelerated programme on construction of border roads and border fencing and provisioning of surveillance equipment, etc. The powers under Sec. 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals staying in India unauthorisedly have been entrusted to the State Governments and UT Administrations. Administrative instructions are also issued from time to time to launch special drives to detect Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in the country, for their immediate detection and deportation.

Statement I

Overstayal by Foreigners: Country-wise (1999-2003)

Country	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
Afghanistan	12154	11071	10158	10330	10330
Algeria	0	7	9	0	11
Angola	0	0	3	0	0
Antigua & Barbuda	0	0	0	0	1
Argentina	6	16	9	11	9
Armenia	0	3	2	2	3
Australia	369	270	336	190	188
Austria	67	34	133	135	26

1	2	3	4	5	6
Azerbaijan	0	0	1	1	2
Bahrain	72	65	8	7	3
Bangladesh	22573	20011	24443	21813	24359
Barbados	1	0	0	0	0
Belarus	1	0	33	3	5
Belgium	65	104	96	88	69
Belize	0	1	1	0	0
Bolivia	3	5	0	0	0
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2	2	1	4	2
Botswana	0	0	0	0	0
Brazil	14	29	34	34	18
British Overseas Citizen	0	0	1	2	3
British Protectorate	0	0	0	1	3
British Solomon Island	0	0	0	1	0
Brunei	0	1	1	1	2
Bulgaria	14	10	7	10	9
Cambodia	3	9	8	25	16
Cameroon	1	0	0	1	2
Canada	828	823	894	484	420
Central African Rep.	0	0	0	0	1
Chad	1	0	0	0	14
Chile	1	11	5	6	4
China	181	142	198	137	116
China (Taiwan)	11	11	16	4	11
Colombia	6	11	5	10	7
Congo	0	0	1	0	0
Costa Rica	1	0	0	0	0
Croatia	12	14	9	16	17
Cuba	2	1	6	6	16
Cyprus	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Czech	186	132	167	23	19
Denmark	89	124	157	34	25
Djibouti	0	0	0	1	4
Dominican Rep.	0	1	0	0	4
Ecuador	3	2	0	1	1
Egypt	51	11	25	10	9
El Salvador	0	0	0	0	0
Eritrea	4	8	6	4	11
Estonia	0	0	2	2	2
Ethiopia	328	292	114	146	88
Fiji	16	21	25	16	14
Finland	15	36	120	130	19
France	405	113	369	321	122
Gambia	0	0	0	0	0
Georgia	2	0	3	2	2
Germany	631	881	779	808	232
Ghana	9	3	19	5	8
Greece	6	24	17	17	7
Grenada	0	0	0	0	1
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	1
Guinea	0	2	2	3	2
Guinea Bissau	4	0	0	0	0
Guyana	4	1	4	5	5
Haiti	0	0	3	0	2
Hong Kong	2	3	4	0	1
Hungary	23	24	22	8	12
Iceland	4	3	0	0	0
Indonesia	97	162	142	70	44
Iran	551	254	172	109	192
Iraq	43	31	30	23	20
Ireland	40	74	53	59	20

1	2	3	4	5	6
Israel	44	273	174	32	35
Italy	244	85	230	67	15
Ivory Coast	2	4	0	0	0
Jamaica	0	0	0	1	2
Japan	314	299	282	897	219
Jordan	332	201	64	36	50
Kazakhstan	0	11	20	31	35
Kenya	601	485	277	223	179
Korea North	0	6	0	0	0
Korea South	256	275	418	657	148
Kuwait	3	9	1	4	6
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	16	21	20
Laos	2	2	3	4	2
Latvia	0	1	2	2	2
Lebanon	7	9	9	8	10
Lesotho	0	1	1	2	2
Liberia	1	2	0	0	3
Libya	0	2	2	2	3
Lithonia	0	0	0	0	1
Lithuania	1	2	1	2	0
Luxemburg	0	2	2	3	2
Madagascar	2	0	0	0	1
Malawi	8	11	4	3	4
Malaysia	1642	1512	879	640	441
Maldives	131	119	89	54	39
Mali	0	0	0	0	1
Malta	1	2	4	2	2
Mauritius	552	539	488	469	142
Mexico	10	14	19	10	24
Moldova	0	1	1	1	1
Mongolia	57	43	30	11	15

1	2	3	4	5	6
Morocco	5	5	2	5	6
Mozambique	11	8	2	0	1
Myanmar	79	169	285	341	322
Namibia	1	2	2	3	7
Netherlands	239	123	387	273	58
New Zealand	69	80	84	50	49
Nicaragua	1	1	0	0	0
Nigeria	224	26	148	120	139
Norway	44	41	32	81	70
Oman	73	78	15	13	81
Pakistan	11434	6912	6748	5901	8360
Palestine	96	80	4	2	15
Panama	4	1	1	10	8
Papua New Guinea	0	0	0	3	0
Paraguay	0	0	0	1	0
Peru	1	7	5	5	7
Philippines	143	102	64	90	79
Poland	57	13	30	45	40
Portugal	15	26	22	8	5
Qatar	2	2	5	4	10
Romania	6	18	17	11	7
Russia	313	261	378	389	83
Rwanda	20	25	2	3	53
Samoa (West)	0	0	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	8	22	12	7	38
Senegal	2	1	1	2	5
Seychelles	25	17	29	18	12
Sierra Leone	0	1	1	1	1
Singapore	220	280	349	233	192
Slovak Rep.	21	10	4	7	6

1	2	3	4	5	6
Slovenia	2	3	5	6	5
Somalia	325	142	109	176	100
South Africa	101	39	37	55	64
Spain	57	71	46	79	37
Sri Lanka	1221	818	620	533	491
St. Lucia	0	0	0	0	2
Stateless	154	28	33	38	30
Stateless-Malaysia	7	7	5	0	6
Stateless-Tibet	415	276	266	365	336
Sudan	382	233	120	95	70
Suriname	0	0	0	0	0
Swaziland	0	0	3	4	4
Sweden	80	84	80	58	72
Switzerland	58	62	42	106	66
Syria	20	33	33	11	19
Tajikistan	0	4	9	10	15
Tanzania	205	76	76	27	58
Thailand	431	304	350	155	107
Tonga	1	2	1	2	0
Trinidad & Tobago	21	24	11	6	9
Tunisia	0	1	2	1	2
Turkey	11	30	30	13	8
Turkmenistan	0	0	1	2	2
United Arab Emirates	15	12	7	0	12
United Kingdom	1840	1551	1388	1216	1163
United States of America	1863	1601	1102	760	762
Uganda	154	162	149	55	85
Ukraine	2	20	31	24	28
Uruguay	1	1	0	0	2
Uzbekistan	19	55	17	13	13

1	2	3	4	5	6
Venezuela	11	12	4	4	7
Vietnam	78	47	160	147	167
Yemen	224	130	77	43	144
Yugoslavia	38	23	20	23	19
Zaire	0	7	8	7	7
Zambia	24	36	12	6	4
Zimbabwe	21	8	12	12	7
Others	9	11	7	43	7
Total	64061	52987	55171	50022	51522

Statement II***State/UT-wise overstaya by Foreigners (1999-2003)***

State/U.T.	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	3	0
Andhra Pradesh	84	19	33	44	74
Assam	20	16	18	22	12
Bihar	73	22	18	19	17
Chandigarh	69	47	47	24	13
Chhattisgarh	*	*	15	5	3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	1	0	*	0
Delhi	19583	18300	19304	18493	15516
Goa	5	2	1	6	0
Gujarat	955	533	532	585	729
Haryana	430	418	388	2	386
Himachal Pradesh	2	3	2	1	6
Jammu & Kashmir	68	0	0	1	82
Jharkhand	0	0	0	8	13
Karnataka	7015	4080	121	87	866
Kerala	519	189	193	206	350

1	2	3	4	5	6
Madhya Pradesh	887	368	381	149	470
Maharashtra	2591	1016	572	907	816
Orissa	84	91	72	139	94
Pondicherry	1	0	1	46	29
Punjab	714	146	517	232	230
Rajasthan	4893	4303	4231	4197	5363
Tamil Nadu	2090	2855	3628	2926	1361
Tripura	296	331	420	444	463
Uttar Pradesh	1010	444	454	462	560
Uttaranchal	*	1	1	2	3
West Bengal	22672	19802	24222	21012	24066
Total	64061	52987	55171	50022	51522

*[English]***Sex Rackets Operating in Delhi**

1855. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sex rackets operating in Hotels/ Restaurants and at other parts of the city unearthed by the Delhi Police during current year so far;

(b) the number of persons arrested;

(c) whether any nexus between the operations and certain influential persons has come to the notice of the Government;

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

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) During the current year upto 10th July, 2004 Delhi Police registered 38 such cases under "the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956" in connection with which 161 persons were arrested.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The steps taken to control this evil include keeping a watch on hotels and guest houses; conducting surprise checks on hotels/guest houses suspected to be involved in such activities; keeping a watch on persons previously involved in prostitution; and collection of intelligence by deploying sources.

Setting up of Ammonia Plant in Iran

1856. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

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

(a) whether Indian Farmers Fertilizer Corporation of India (IFFCO) propose to set up a gas based ammonia plant in Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the environmental clearance has been given for setting up the said plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total investment involved in the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) and (b) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO) along with Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) and Qeshm Free Area Authority (QFAA) of Iran had decided to carry out a feasibility study to explore the possibility of setting up a gas based joint venture ammonia plant in Iran with a capacity of 1750 MT per day.

(c) and (d) Environmental clearance to proposal is to be sought on finalisation of investment decision by the project sponsors.

(e) The estimated cost of the project was US \$ 262 million in 2001.

Illegal Constructions in Delhi

1857. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to collusion and nexus of engineers of building department of Delhi Municipal Corporation with builders, large scale illegal constructions have taken place all over Delhi;

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the MCD in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi directed the Municipal Commissioner, Delhi to form a policy for a periodic verification of the constructions taking place in various parts of the city;

(d) if so, whether the Municipal Commissioner, Delhi has formulated any policy in that regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Municipal Commissioner, Delhi to ensure compliance of the Policy?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has reported that no such instance of nexus between builders and staff of MCD has come to notice.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (g) MCD has reported that it has circulated a "Manual of Instructions on Unauthorised Construction" vide office order No. D/38/EE (B) HQ-G/03 dated 16.12.2003 to all zonal officers for strict compliance. The manual highlights the action to be taken in respect of construction being carried out with/without approval, responsibility & accountability of various officers of building department and delegation of powers at different levels to control building activities.

Arrest of Accused

1858. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court has ruled that no accused should be arrested till it is absolutely necessary from the point of investigation;

(b) if so, the details of the Delhi High Court order in this regard; and

(c) the follow up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Delhi High Court in its Judgement dated 28th January, 2004 in CrI.M (M) 3875/2003-the Court on its own motion, after examining the arresting powers of the investigating agencies like CBI etc., gave the following directions to the police/investigating agencies like CBI etc.:

(i) Investigating Officer, be of police station or special agency like CBI, shall not arrest any person accused of having committed a cognizable and non-bailable offence until it is very necessary for the purpose of investigation or custodial interrogation say for recovering incriminating articles or weapons of offence or eliciting information as to his accomplices etc. or for any other purpose that may help in gathering evidence to prove his guilt.

(ii) Arrest should always be avoided if the investigation can be completed even otherwise and the accused gives full cooperation in completing the investigation.

(iii) Arrest may be necessary, if the offence alleged is of grave nature and prescribes severe punishment and there is a likelihood of an

offender either absconding or not appearing on being summoned or his fleeing away from justice or judgment.

The court has directed Commissioner of Police (Delhi) for guidance and compliance of the aforesaid directions by SHOs/Investigating Officers and also Judicial Officers of Delhi as well as Director of Central Bureau of Investigation.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Unauthorized Colonies

1859. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any criteria with regard to regularisation of unauthorized colonies in the capital;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government has decided to regularise such unauthorized colonies which came up upto March 31, 1993;

(e) if so, the location-wise details of such colonies;

(f) the number of other unauthorised colonies which came up during the period from March 31, 1993 to December 31, 2001 alongwith locations thereof; and

(g) the time by which these colonies are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (g) Government had prepared guidelines for regularisation of unauthorised colonies which were in existence as on 31.3.1993 and filed the same in Delhi High Court on 20.2.2001 in CWP No. 4771/1993-Common Cause (Regd) Society Versus Union of India and others. The Hon'ble Court in its order dated 27.2.2001 directed the Government to notify colonies which could be regularised in terms of the said guidelines. It had also indicated that till modalities in terms of the guidelines are worked out, interim orders passed earlier restraining the Government from regularizing any unauthorised colony shall be operative.

The Government has revised the guidelines in February 2004 extending the cut off date for regularisation from 31.3.1993 to 31.3.2002. The revised guidelines have been issued to Govt. of NCT of Delhi, DDA, MCD and NDMC. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has been requested to take steps for drawing list of unauthorised colonies which conforms to the revised guidelines. A working Group has also been set up to work out modalities for regularisation.

The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has informed that there were about 1071 unauthorised colonies in Delhi upto 31.3.1993. However, no survey has been undertaken to ascertain the number of colonies that have emerged after this date.

[English]

Reduction of Schemes by Planning Commission

1860. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has taken a decision to reduce some centrally sponsored schemes relating the Ministry of Human Resource Development;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The Planning Commission undertakes a review of the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes from time to time and subjects them to Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB), retaining only those schemes that are demonstrably essential.

(b) The exercise helps in rationalizing the schemes by making them more focused and it also streamlines the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group.

(c) The Common Minimum Programme that has been adopted by the Government refers to transfer of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes except in national priority areas like family planning to States.

Promotion of Education Amongst Tribal Communities

1861. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes have been formulated by the Government for promotion of education amongst tribal communities; and

(b) if so, the total budget provision made and spent on each of these programmes during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A.

FATMI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Human Resource Development does not operate any exclusive programme for the Scheduled Tribes as its schemes are of an integrated nature. However, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being the nodal Ministry for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, has formulated special programmes for the promotion of education amongst tribal communities. The budget provisions and expenditure during the last three years on these programmes are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Name of the scheme	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	BE	Expenditure	BE	Expenditure	BE	Expenditure
Boys' Hostels	1000.00	837.40	1200.00	715.75	1100.00	996.20
Girls' Hostels	1050.00	720.00	1200.00	634.30	1300.00	818.28
Ashram Schools in TSP areas	1250.00	997.75	1400.00	950.00	1400.00	647.00
Post-matric scholarships	6300.00	6678.22	6600.00	5158.64	5400.00	6579.46
Book bank	80.00	72.00	150.00	140.00	150.00	63.43
Upgradation of merit	30.00	33.90	99.00	92.05	99.00	76.88
Educational complexes in low literacy pockets for women literacy in Tribal areas	700.00	399.00	800.00	600.00	800.00	572.00
Eklavya Model Residential Schools	*5000.00	5300.00	*2000.00	2000.00	*2000.00	1542.58

*This allocation was earmarked by the Ministry for Eklavya Model Residential Schools out of the allocation provided under the Scheme of Article 275 (1) of the Constitution of India.

*[Translation]***Joint Venture by SAIL**

1862. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) has embarked upon a Joint Venture with any private company during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any tenders were floated in this regard with special reference to Bokaro Steel Plant; and

(d) if so, the number of bidders and the process adopted for finalization of bids and indicating the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has entered into the following Joint Ventures during the last five years:

- (i) SAIL Bansal Service Centre Limited—with 40% equity participation by SAIL and 60% equity participation by BMW Industries Ltd., Kolkata.
- (ii) Metaljunction.com Private Limited—with both SAIL and TISCO holding 50% equity. The company has been set up to operate an independent e-Commerce Steel Marketplace to serve as a comprehensive online e-Marketplace for all manufacturers, dealers and users of steel and allied materials.

(c) and (d) The selection of BMW Industries Limited as the Joint Venture partner of SAIL for the purpose of setting up a steel service centre at Bokaro was through the process of inviting "Expression of Interest" through an open press advertisement in which 61 parties had registered their interest. BMW Industries Limited were selected based on their experience in the field of operating service centre.

*[English]***Extension of Metro Rail**

1863. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has extended the route of Metro Rail Project in AIIMS-Qutub, Safdarjung via South Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DMRC has chalked out the residential and commercial units likely to be dislocated thereby;

(d) if so, the details in this regard, location-wise;

(e) whether the DMRC has any plan to pay compensation/alternative sites to the affected units;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the funds earmarked by DMRC for resettling the affected units; and

(h) the time by which this extended portion is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (h) There is no proposal with the Government of India for the extension of Delhi Metro Rail Project route AIIMS-Qutub, Safdarjung via South Delhi. However, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., has indicated that it has submitted a proposal to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi in this regard. No Detailed Project Report has however been prepared.

Inclusion of Medicines in Drug Price Control Order

1864. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the medicines Salbutamol and Oiclofenace have not been included in Drug Price Control Order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include medicines of mass consumption in the Drug Price Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) The bulk drug Salbutamol has been included in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). There is no drug in the name of Oiclofenace.

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

(c) Extent of usage of drug is one of the criteria to identify the drugs for price control, as per the 'Modification in Drug Policy, 1986', announced in September, 1994. DPCO, 95 is based on this policy.

Vacant Posts in Lakshadweep

1865. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts are presently lying vacant in various departments under the local administration of Lakshadweep Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof, category-wise and the reasons for not filling up these vacancies so far;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take immediate steps to fill up these vacancies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) There are at present 417 posts lying vacant under the Lakshadweep Administration as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Category	No. of posts vacant
1.	Group 'A'	28
2.	Group 'B'	23
3.	Group 'C'	267
4.	Group 'D'	99

These posts are lying vacant for various reasons including ban on filling up of vacancies which are more than one year old; non-availability of eligible officers; on-going litigation; and the recruitment process set in motion but not yet completed.

(c) and (d) The action to fill up the vacant posts not covered under ban orders is already at hand.

Proposals Sanctioned Under AUWSP

1866. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sanctioned by the Union Government during the last one decade under the 'Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme', State-wise;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra has recently submitted fresh proposals under this programme; and

(c) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Ministry of Urban Development has sanctioned water supply schemes for 1038 towns as on 13.7.2004 since launching of the Programme in March, 1994. The State-wise details of the number of schemes sanctioned are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra have submitted proposals on water supply schemes for 10 towns for technical approval during the current financial year. The list of towns covered by the proposals is given in the Statement-II enclosed. The technical approval of the schemes will be subject to the techno-economic feasibility of the scheme, compliance of technical remarks by Government of Maharashtra, availability of funds, submission of utilization certificates for the Central share released during the previous years, release of counterpart matching State share by the State Governments and submission of Quarterly Physical and Financial Progress Reports of the ongoing approved schemes.

Statement I

Status-13.7.2004

Ministry of Urban Development

Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Schemes approved from 1993-94 to till date
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	18
4.	Bihar	23
5.	Chhattisgarh	41
6.	Goa	4

1	2	3
7.	Gujarat	51
8.	Haryana	34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5
11.	Jharkhand	9
12.	Karnataka	35
13.	Kerala	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	128
15.	Maharashtra	28
16.	Manipur	24
17.	Meghalaya	2
18.	Mizoram	8

1	2	3
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	29
21.	Punjab	11
22.	Rajasthan	61
23.	Sikkim	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	62
25.	Tripura	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	367
27.	Uttaranchal	19
28.	West Bengal	19
Total		1038

Statement II*AUWSP Schemes Received from Government of Maharashtra**State-Maharashtra*

Sl.No.	Name of Town	District	Population (1991 census)	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakhs)
1.	Loha	Nanded	15865	881.95
2.	Nakoda	Chandrapur	7119	143.22
3.	Aheri	Gadchiroli	10979	255.6
4.	Malkapur	Kolhapur	5238	138.82
5.	Murum	Osmanabad	15870	386.24
6.	Kalamnuri	Hingoli	15736	160.48
7.	Panhala	Kolhapur	2968	60.85
8.	Mahabaleshwar	Satara	10564	483.22
9.	Pachgani	Satara	10558	994.98
10.	Shirur	Pune	18410	206.22
Total:			113307	3711.58

Additional Educational Complex

1867. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up additional number of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for development of Scheduled Tribe girls in tribal areas;

(b) if so, the proposal mooted in that regard for Tenth Plan; and

(c) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for development of Women Literacy in Tribal Areas has been approved for continuation during the Tenth Five Year Plan as well. The State Govts. have been requested to send proposals of Non Governmental Organisations for setting up of new complexes in uncovered areas and continuation of ongoing complexes.

(c) The proposals of the Non-Governmental Organisations/State-Govt.-run-societies are considered on year to year basis subject to availability of funds for sanction of new educational complexes after meeting the committed liabilities on account of maintenance and running of ongoing projects. During the first two years of Tenth plan, the Ministry has sanctioned 12 new educational complexes as per details given below:

Name of State	No. of new Educational Complexes Sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh	02
Gujarat	02
Madhya Pradesh	01
Maharashtra	03
Orissa	01
Rajasthan	01
Tamilnadu	01
Total	12

ISI Activities

1868. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISI activities in West Bengal is increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware of the press reports from Midnapur in West Bengal on alleged links between naxalities and Pakistan intelligence agency ISI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also aware of the links between the naxalities and the militant groups of North East and Sri Lanka;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the activities of ISI in the country particularly in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Government.

(d) and (e) There have been reports to suggest links between the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist)-People's War (CPML-PW) and some of the insurgent groups in the North-East.

As per available information, there are no organizational links between the Indian Naxalite outfits and militant outfits of Sri Lanka.

(f) In order to deal with the situation, the Government has pursued a well coordinated multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, improved technology, weaponry and equipments for security forces both at the Centre and in the States, neutralizing plans of terrorist groups/anti-national elements/ ISI agents by well coordinated intelligence based operations.

As a result of the coordinated action by the Central and State intelligence and security agencies, a number of Pak backed terrorist/espionage modules have been detected/neutralized in various parts of the country including in West Bengal.

Rural Electrification

1869. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of priorities and programmes of the Government about the goal of power for all by 2012;

(b) whether the Government propose to review the rural electrification programme in the country;

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

(d) whether the Power Grid Corporation has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Rural Electrification Corporation recently in order to boost rural electrification in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (c) According to the National Common Minimum Programme household electrification is to be completed in five years in all States.

For achieving this target, a new rural electrification strategy has been drawn up, which envisages:

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) of 33/11 KV substations, with at least one such substation in each block appropriately networked and linked to the State transmission system.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) by providing Distribution Transformer(s) with at least one such transformer in every village.
- (iii) Rural Households Electrification of unelectrified households from village distribution transformer(s).
- (iv) Decentralized distributed generation system for such villages where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective.

(d) and (e) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 14th July, 2004, for providing assistance in formulation, development and implementation of the rural electrification projects in the States.

Introduction of BIT Course

1870. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) course introduced by Delhi University some year ago was discontinued after making admission of fourth batch which has passed out this year;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, the Bachelor of Information Technology (BIT) course introduced by the University had to be discontinued as BIT was not a degree specified by the UGC under Section 22(3) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

(c) With a view to safeguard the interests of the students already pursuing this course, the UGC has already permitted recognition of BIT degree in respect of the students enrolled till the academic session 2000-2001.

Outstanding Dues of NTPC on SEBs

1871. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of outstanding dues to be recovered by N.T.P.C. from the Power Grid Corporation and each of the State Electricity Boards as on date; and

(b) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure realization of outstanding dues from them?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) owes a sum of Rs. 2.73 crore to the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) on account of payment of auxiliary consumption of power for High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) stations. Various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) owe to NTPC an amount of Rs. 3100 crore as on 30.06.2004. The details are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	SEB/Utility	Outstanding dues as on 30.06.2004
1.	Unscheduled Interchange (UI) Charges payable by the constituent SEBs of the Regional Electricity Boards to NTPC through PGCIL	47.02
2.	Bihar SEB	925.04
3.	Jharkhand SEB	577.83
4.	Chhattisgarh SEB	220.18
5.	Delhi (DESU period)	1310.83
Total		3080.90 or say Rs. 31.00 crore

(b) National Thermal Power Corporation and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. have agreed to settle Rs. 2.73 crores of energy dues. Similarly, the unscheduled interchange (UI) charges are to be recovered from the constituent State Electricity Boards (SEBs) of the Regional Electricity Boards by NTPC through the existing arrangement of the pool account monitored by PGCIL.

As far as dues of State Electricity Boards are concerned, Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) is yet to securitize a part of its outstanding as of 30.09.2001 as well as payment for power supplies made thereafter because of their reservation on the interim order with regard to division of assets and liabilities of the erstwhile BSEB between the new Bihar Electricity Board and Jharkhand State Electricity Board. In a meeting chaired by Secretary (Power) on 07.07.2004, Government of Bihar have agreed to settle the accumulated dues of NTPC after 1.10.2001 till date.

With regard to Jharkhand SEB and Chhattisgarh SEB, the outstanding dues as on 30.09.2001 are yet to be fully securitized as they also have reservation on the interim order of division of assets and liabilities issued by the Government of India. On the issue of final order of division of assets and liabilities, the dues are likely to be settled. The settlement of outstanding dues of Delhi pertaining to DESU period i.e. upto 24.02.1997 has been taken up with the Government of National Capital Union Territory of Delhi for settlement.

[Translation]

Vohra Committee Report

1872. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vohra Committee constituted by the Government has made any comments on the nexus between criminal-politicians and administrative officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The Vohra Committee had recommended a mechanism directly under the Union Home Secretary, to which the concerned law enforcement and intelligence agencies of the Government shall promptly pass on any information which they may come across, relating to links of crime syndicates with the functionaries of the Government and political personalities. Such a mechanism is in place.

[English]

Removal of Officials

1873. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has removed some officials who were involved in IIM fee cut and change of NCERT's books;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of officials removed from service or suspended as a result thereof; and

(d) the name of Government agencies to which they were attached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Revival of Closed Fertilizer Units by Private Companies

1874. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked private companies to restart some Public Sector fertilizer units which had been closed down;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether any company has accepted this proposal; and

(d) if so, the name of the company and the fertilizer units which are likely to be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) to (d) In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) is being re-examined based on market demand and their techno-economic viability.

Price of Medicine

1875. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) the names of pharmaceutical companies which have not reduced the prices of their medicines inspite of availing concession from the Government alongwith reasons therefor;

(b) whether the chemists are also getting a margin of 1000 to 1500 per cent on generic formulations;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against those companies;

(d) whether N.P.P.A. (National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority) has conducted any study into the pricing of generic formulations; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): (a) Whenever custom/excise duty exemption is given by the Government, the prices of the medicines listed in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 are revised accordingly. Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves.

(b) to (e) NPPA has collected data on trade margin being offered by the manufacturers to the retailers for a limited sample. It was noted that some manufacturers had offered high margin to the retailers, however, the market share of such medicines was small.

Allotment of Government Accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar

1876. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 3487 dated August 19, 2003 and state:

(a) the date on which and the circumstances under which the Kendriya Bhandar provided Government accommodation at a nominal rent of Re.1/- per month;

(b) whether these circumstances still continue and merit accommodation at Re.1/- per month; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) In accordance with a Cabinet decision of 1963, it was decided to allot suitable General Pool residential accommodation to run Kendriya Bhandar outlets under the aegis of the Department of Personnel & Training, Government of India on payment of nominal licence fee of Re.1/-per month plus charges for services. Kendriya Bhandar is a welfare project of the Government of India and was established with the objective of providing consumer goods of quality at reasonable price

to the Central Government servants, in particular and public at large and stationery and other items to the Government Departments.

(b) and (c) The Government reviewed the guidelines for allotment of General Pool accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar in September 1985 and decided to continue to allot accommodation to Kendriya Bhandar at the nominal licence fee of Re.1/-per month. The Government has already initiated another such review in the matter.

Village Grain Bank Scheme

1877. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the village Grain Bank Scheme has been introduced in the scheduled districts in the country;

(b) if so, the scheduled districts in Orissa where such scheme has been introduced; and

(c) the achievements made in that State under the Scheme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Scheme was introduced based on the districts and blocks as identified by the Central Planning Committee and not as per the scheduled districts. The list is, however, indicative. The Central Planning Committee had identified 8 districts namely Koraput, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nowapara, Bolangir and Sonepur for implementation of the scheme in Orissa.

(c) The details of grants released and the number of Grain Banks during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amount released	Grain Baks to be established	Grain Bank established
2001-02	100.00	157	61
2002-03	Nil	—	—
2003-04	Nil	—	—

Unemployment In Urban Areas

1878. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that urban unemployment in the country particularly in West Bengal has increased rapidly irrespective of launching Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) in the last few years as also reported in the *Indian Express* dated July 06, 2004;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government's strategy to create more job opportunities in general and under SJSRY in particular in the country could not achieve results in the past few years;

(c) if so, whether in view of growing unemployment in the country, Union Government has formulated any new strategy to face the challenge of growing unemployment in the urban areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Ministry of Labour has reported that the statistical data contained in the news item titled "West Bengal is No. 1 in the number of urban employed" appearing in the Indian Express dated 6th July, 2004, is based on the information maintained by it. Insofar as the implementation of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) in the State of West Bengal is concerned, there is a decline in the number of beneficiaries assisted under Self Employment Programme component of SJSRY, while there is an increase in the number of mandays of works generated under Wage Employment component of the Scheme during 2003-04.

(b) to (d) During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), on all India basis, targets to provide 4,00,000 employment opportunities to the urban poor, through setting up of micro/group enterprises and to impart skill training to 5,00,000 persons have been fixed under SJSRY. Against these targets, as per the reports received from the State Governments/UTs, upto 31.3.04, during the first two years of the Tenth Plan (2002-03 and 2003-04), cumulatively 2,19,412 micro enterprises were set up and 2,16,090 persons were trained in the country.

Setting up of Foreign Aided Private Power Projects

1879. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power projects set up during each of the last three years in foreign collaboration or independently by foreign companies or proposed to be set up in near future, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the names of foreign and Indian participants, the amount of total investments and time schedule to completion of each such project in the country;

(c) whether the Government has given clearance to these projects in all respects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which power shortage in the country is likely to be reduced after commissioning of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Proposals for Foreign Direct Investment in respect of power generation projects (other than nuclear power plants) no longer require the approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIBP) for foreign investment and are eligible for automatic approval. Further, under the Electricity Act, 2003, generation of electricity has been delicensed and also there is no longer any requirement of Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) of the

Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for thermal generation schemes.

CEA had accorded TEC to a number of power projects having foreign equity/partner. Only some of these projects could achieve financial closure and remaining could not, due to various reasons including the inability of the State Electricity Boards/Utilities to provide payment security mechanism owing to their poor financial health. The list of power projects, location-wise and State-wise, having foreign equity/partner which have been commissioned in the last 3 years or which may achieve financial closure/commissioning in the near future is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir, as stated above, CEA has accorded TEC to all the projects listed in the statement enclosed.

(d) The estimated capital cost and other details as per TEC have been indicated project-wise in the statement enclosed. After all these projects are commissioned, they will add a total installed capacity of 5151 MW and to that extent, contribute towards reducing the power shortage.

Statement

List of Power Projects having Foreign Equity Partner which have been considered during last three years/or which are likely to achieve Financial Closure/Commissioning in the near future

Sl.No.	Name of the Project & Capacity (MW)	State	Estimated completed capital cost of project Exchange Rate	Name of foreign investor	Quantum of foreign equity	Name of Indian partner	Date of TEC/ Date of firm financial package clearance	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Neyveli TPS-Zero Unit (1x250 MW) M/s ST-CMS Elec Co.	Tamil Nadu	US\$261.59M+ Rs. 501.10 crs (1US\$=Rs. 31.50)	M/s ST-CMS Electric Co Mauritius	\$114.28 M (Rs. 359.962 crs)	ST-CMS Power Corpn Ltd.	19.08.1994	Project Commissioned 11.10.2002
2.	Samayanallur DGPP (106.001 MW) M/s Balaji PCL	Tamil Nadu	US\$ 59.84 M+Rs. 150.845 Crs (1 US\$=Rs. 39.00)	M/s Wartsila France & Others Singapore	US\$ 17.73 M (Rs. 69.147 crs)	M/s Balaji Power Corpn Ltd)	10.02.1998	Project Commissioned DG-1 to 7 22.09.2001
3.	Rosa TPS (2x283.5 MW) M/s Indo Gulf F.C. Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh	US\$ 280.726 M+Rs. 1435.5 Crs (1 US\$=Rs. 35.5)	PowerGen Pic, UK	US\$ 53.437 M (Rs. 189.70 cts)	M/s Indo Gulf Fertilizer	19.09.1997	Identified for 11th Plan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Raigarh TPP- Ph. I (550 MW) M/s Jindal Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	US\$ 85.176 M+DEM 240.676M+Rs. 1628.075 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 35.50) (1 DEM= Rs. 20.00)	GPH Ltd. Malaysia	US\$53.0 (Rs. 188.15)	M/s Jindal Power Ltd.	17.11.1997	Capacity revised to 4x250 MW. 1x250 MW to be commissioned in 10th Plan remaining capacity in 11th Plan
5.	Guna CCGT (Revised) 330 MW M/s ST Power Ltd.	M.P.	US\$ 152.37 M+ Rs. 484.86 crs	Promoter name not mentioned	US\$78.02 M (Rs. 276.971 crs)	M/s STI Power Ltd	22.07.1998	Identified for 11th Plan
6.	Duburi TPS (2x250 MW) M/s Kalinga Power	Orissa	US\$ 313.58 M+ Rs. 982.83 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 39.50)	Promoter (UK)	US\$ 186.45 M (Rs. 657.478 crs)	M/s Kalinga Power Co. Ltd	29.04.1999	Identified for 11th Plan
7.	Ramagundam TPP (2x260 MW) M/s BPL (P) Projects (AP) Ltd (as per FFP) (Financial Closure)	Andhra Pradesh	US\$ 326.80 M+ Rs. 1228.92 crs (1 US\$ = Rs. 35.5)	Wellesley Inv Manubeni Corpn Electric Power Dev. Co. Ltd	US\$ 47.57 M US\$ 47.57 M US\$ 20.13 M	M/s BPL	23.02.2001	Identified for 11th Plan
8.	Nagarjuna TPP (1015 MW) (2x507.5 MW) M/s Nagarjuna Power	Karnataka	US\$ 273.795 M+ GBP 277.400 M+ F.Fr 907.190 M+Rs. 1792.685 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 42.00) (1 GBP=Rs. 68.50) (1 F.Fr=Rs. 7.20)	Fire Seed Ltd Hong Kong	US\$ 290.51 M (Rs. 1220.142 crs)	M/s Nagarjuna Fertilizers Chemicals Ltd	29.04.1999	Identified for 11th Plan
9.	Kannur CCGT (513 MW) (3x 11.90 MW GT+1x177.3 MW ST) M/s Kannur PPL	Kerala	US\$ 210.010 M+Rs. 587.971 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 42.00)	Koretech Corporation Ltd, Mauritius	US\$ 77.70 M (Rs. 326.34 crs)	M/s KPP Nambiar & Associates	16.06.2000	Identified for 11th Plan
10.	Shrinagar HEP (4x82.5 MW) M/s Duncans NHPC	Uttaranchal	US\$ 95.054 M+ Rs. 1299.89 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 42.00)	SED, USA (Synergy Energy Dev Inc, USA	US\$ 117.10 M (Rs. 491.82 crs)	Duncans NHPC	14.06.2001	Identified for 11th Plan
11.	Dhamwari Sunda (2x35 MW) M/s Dhamwari Power Co	H.P.	US\$ 10.91 M+Rs. 393.04 crs (1 US\$=Rs. 43.00)	PESCL & Harza of USA	US\$ 10.91 M (Rs. 46.91 crs)	M/s Dhamwari Power Co Ltd	06.07.2001	Identified for 11th Plan
12.	Maheshwar HEP (400 MW) M/s SMHPC Ltd As per FFP (Financial Closure)	M.P.	US\$ 211.68 M+ Rs. 921.6648 crs) (1 US\$=Rs. 35.50)	OGDEN	US\$ 69.282 M	M/s S. Kumar	06.04.2000	Presently project on hold due to gap in equity. Identified for 11th Plan

Total 5151 MW

Modernisation of Steel Plant

1880. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for modernisation and upgradation of steel plants;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) the time schedule for modernisation programme of these plants; and

(e) the profit/loss made by each plant during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) During the Ninth Five Year Plan, modernisation of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)'s Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants had been completed at an estimated total investment of Rs. 12,650 crores.

Further during the 10th Plan, SAIL is planning to invest in quality related schemes like upgradation of its Mills particularly the Cold Rolling Mills at Bokaro and Rourkela. SAIL would also invest in Coal Dust Injection and Continuous Casters to reduce the energy consumption, improve yield and productivity. The total investment (outlay) in the 10th Plan would be of the order of Rs. 5000 crores depending upon the availability of funds and techno-economic parameters. As regards the other Public Sector Steel Plant, i.e. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), during the 10th Five Year Plan, RINL is planning to invest a sum of Rs. 860 crores in its various upgradation schemes. State-wise and Plant-wise value of projects planned to be considered by SAIL and RINL are given in the Statement enclosed.

The aforesaid projects will be funded through internal resources of the companies and the Government does not propose to grant any budgetary support for these projects.

(e) The profit/loss made by public sector steel companies during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of Company	Profit/loss (-)		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	(-) 1887	(-)486	2539
2.	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	(-)75	521	1521 (Prov.)

Statement

State-wise and Plant-wise value of projects proposed to be undertaken by SAIL and RINL

Sl.No.	Name of State	Name of Plant	Value in Rs. crore
1.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai Steel Plant (SAIL)	1014
2.	West Bengal	Durgapur Steel Plant (SAIL)	787
3.	Orissa	Rourkela Steel Plant (SAIL)	500
4.	Jharkhand	Bokaro Steel Plant (SAIL)	1258
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	860
Total:			4419

SAIL's total value of 10th Plan Schemes is Rs. 5865 crores and total outlay Rs. 5000 crores.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 12 noon.

11.41 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Twelve of the Clock.*

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please allow your leader. I will hear him.

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already told that issue of arrest warrant against a Cabinet Minister has created a critical situation. The police is about to come to arrest him as the intimation has been sent from there. The State Govt. have stated that they have written a letter to you and to the Secretary General as well. Police may be on the way and he still continues to be a Minister. I think it is a matter of shame for the country and the Government as well and even for the world as a whole. It is tarnishing the image of Lok Sabha and the democracy. The Government are not responding in this regard, neither the Prime Minister nor the leader of the House is responding. Therefore, we walk out in protest.

12.02 hrs.

*(Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon.
Member then left the House)*

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, now, we shall take up Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 266/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 267/04]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants (Vol. I) of the Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Detailed Demands for Grants (Vol. II) of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories without Legislature) for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 268/04]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 269/04]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI

GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Development for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 270/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 271/04]

- (4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 272/04]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Capital Region Planning Board, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 273/04]

- (8) A copy of the Recruitment Regulations of Stenographers, Sr. Stenographers, LDC-cum-Typist (Hindi and English), Upper Division Clerks, Assistants, Welfare/Personnel Inspector, Manager (Sports), Assistant Manager (Sports), Game Supervisor and Games Attendant, Delhi Development Authority, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 932(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2003

under section 58 of the Delhi Development Authority Act, 1957 together with Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 57(E) (in Hindi version only) dated the 21st January, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 274/04]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sish Ram Ola I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 997(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003 regarding addition of the Processing or Production of Fuel Gases (Coal Gas, Natural Gas and the like) in the First Schedule to the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 40 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 275/04]

- (2) A copy of the Employees' State Insurance (Central) (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 172(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2004 under sub-section (4) of section 97 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 276/04]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 277/04]

- (4) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 278/04]

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PARASD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 279/04]

- (2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 280/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 281/04]

- (2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 282/04]

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 283/04]

- (2) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 284/04]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 285/04]

- (2) A copy of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Appointment of Secretary) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 362 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004 under sub-section (1) of section 59 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 286/04]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Power Finance Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 287/04]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, on behalf of Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 288/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 289/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 290/04]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 291/04]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 292/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 293/04]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 294/04]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 295/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organization, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Government Employees Welfare Housing Organization, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 296/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited and the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 297/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited, Rohtas, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 298/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Antibiotics, Limited, Pune, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics, Limited, Pune, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 299/04]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Insecticides Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 300/04]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Assam Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 301/04]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-1997.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1996-1997, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 302/04]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) Annual Report of the West Bengal Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the

year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 303/04]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited, Gandhinagar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Four Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 304/04]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Seeds Corporation Limited and the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 305/04]

- (4) A copy of the National Dairy Development Board (Enforcement of Claims) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification N. DEL: NDDB in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2004 under section 50 of the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 306/04]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): On behalf of Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 18 of the Citizenship Act, 1955:—

- (i) The Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 937(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2003.

- (ii) The Citizenship (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 168(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 307/04]

- (2) A copy of the Border Security Force (General Duty Officers) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 234(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 308/04]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (4) of section 34 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 309/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): On behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 175(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2004 under sub-section (1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 310/04]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shri M.A.A. Fatmi I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 311/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 312/04]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, for the year 2002-2003.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 313/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 314/04]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Rural Institutes, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Rural Institutes, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 315/04]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, for the year 2001-2002.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 316/04]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 2002-2003.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 317/04]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Open Schooling, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Open Schooling, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 318/04]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal, for the year 2002-2003.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 319/04]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) 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 2002-2003.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 320/04]

- (19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 321/04]

- (21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Northern Region), Kanpur, for the year 2002-2003.

- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 322/04]

- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Practical Training (Eastern Region), Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 323/04]

- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2002-2003.

- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 324/04]

- (27) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region),

Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Western Region), Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 325/04]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 326/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 92(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd February, 2004 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 327/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 328/04]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 62 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002:—

- (i) The National Biodiversity Authority (Salary, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 779(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003.
- (ii) The Biological Diversity Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 261(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 329/04]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sections 1 and 8 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:—

- (i) S.O. 1146(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 appointing the 1st day of October, 2003 as date on which the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 shall come into force.
- (ii) S.O. 1147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 regarding establishment of the National Biodiversity Authority consisting of members mentioned therein on and from the 1st day of October, 2003.
- (iii) S.O. 497(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1147(E) dated the 1st October, 2003.
- (iv) S.O. 753(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2004 regarding appointing the 1st day of July, 2004 as date on which the certain sections of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 shall come into force.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 330/04]

12.08 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General

of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2004, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 2004 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.09 hrs.

RULES COMMITTEE

First Report

[*English*]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-rule (1) of rule 331 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rules Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, in pursuance of the decision taken at the meeting of Leaders of Parties/Groups on 4th July, 2004, the Rules Committee at their sitting held on 8th July, 2004, considered and approved a proposal regarding increasing the number of Departmentally Related Standing Committee (DRSCs) from 17 to 24 with each Committee consisting of 21 members from Lok Sabha and 10 members from Rajya Sabha. The Report of the Rules Committee has been laid on the Table of the House today. Under rule 331, the Report of the Rules Committee is required to be laid on the Table for seven days. Considering the urgency of constituting the DRSCs, the Rules Committee had also recommended that the requirement of laying the Report of the Committee on the Table of the House for seven days under rule 331 may be suspended.

If the House agrees, the relevant rule may be suspended. I hope, the House agrees and the Member may now move the motion.

Now, Shri N. Janardhana Reddy.

12.09¹/₂ hrs.**MOTION RE : SUSPENSION OF RULE 331***[English]*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend part of rule 331(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it provides for laying of the recommendations of the Rules Committee on the Table of the House for a period of seven days, to enable members to give notice of amendments to such recommendations together with the consequential provisions to this extent in rule 331(2) and (3), in their application to the First Report of the Rules Committee laid on the Table today."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend part of rule 331(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it provides for laying of the recommendations of the Rules Committee on the Table of the House for a period of seven days, to enable members to give notice of amendments to such recommendations together with the consequential provisions to this extent in rule 331(2) and (3), in their application to the First Report of the Rules Committee laid on the Table today."

The motion was adopted.

12.09³/₄ hrs.**MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF RULES COMMITTEE***[English]*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): With your permission, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Rules Committee laid on the Table today."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Rules Committee laid on the Table today."

The motion was adopted.

12.10 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION*[Translation]*

Shri Basu Deb Acharia to present a petition signed by Shri P.K. Chaki, Secretary, FCI Pensioners' Association, Kolkata, regarding issue of orders for payment of pension and pensionary benefits w.e.f. 1.1.1997 to the Directorate of Food transferee employees retired from Food Corporation of India.

12.10¹/₂ hrs.**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377****[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377, listed for the day, may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to take steps to preview the programmes of private T.V. channels with a view to eliminate airing of objectionable and vulgar shows**

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): The obscenity of the electronic media has crossed all limits. The contents of music and fashion channels are predominantly obscene. Women are being shown in the scantiest of clothes which is loathsome. Extremely provocative and dangerous stuff is being dished out of the media. The effect is particularly severe on the conscious minds of children, the most valuable asset and the future of the country. We have lots of evidence to show how the unrestricted flow of sex, nudity and violence telecast is causing degeneration and depravity in the national life. Both boys and girls who watch such TV shows have a heightened risk of aggressive adult behaviour including spouse abuse and criminal offences. I request the Government to take steps to preview such showings in private TV channels as is being done for Doordarshan programmes to ensure that nudity and vulgarity are eliminated from the shows. If need be legislation may be introduced to save the nation from the impending disaster of polluting young minds. In fact, action under Section 292 IPC should also be taken against all of them.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(ii) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu to solve the problem of scarcity of drinking water in Palani Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, in my Palani Lok Sabha Constituency, there are four assembly segments out of which Vendasandhur and Oddanchatram are having acute drinking water shortage. People have to go to far off places to fetch water and that too in a very little quantity. Nearly six lakh people are living just in these two assembly segments. Here, the situation is the worst, people have to dig bore wells very deep and even with thousand feet bore well, water is not available. Even if water is available, the chlorine contents are huge and it results in so many diseases. The situation is getting into an alarming proportion and people have often fallen sick due to the poor quality of water. People do not have access to safe and potable drinking water.

Tamil Nadu is a potentially drought prone area with no rains in sight and the situation has taken a turn for the worst. Unless some urgent steps are taken, the situation will go beyond control and six lakh persons will be affected. In this regard, people have represented to the State Government number of times. But there is no response from that side. The leaders of local bodies also tried their best but that has not served the purpose. Both these constituencies are very much near to Cauvery River. From that water can be taken through pipeline and supplied to all villages.

Therefore, I request that adequate funds should be released for drinking water projects in my Palani Constituency and particularly in Vendasandhur and Oddanchatram so as to save the lives of nearly 15 lakh people.

(iii) Need to grant funds from the Sagar-Mela scheme for the development of Kakinada Port and its surroundings

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU (Kakinada): Kakinada Port in Andhra Pradesh has been developed into a deep water port by the State Government with loan assistance of Rs. 350 crores from the Assam Development Bank. It has been subsequently leased to a private consortium.

Traditionally, for a long time, the Port has handled as much or more cargo than any major port. The Port consists of an anchorage port from where the traditional agriculture cargo is handled and industrial cargo like phosphoric acid is handled from deep-water port. Ammonia

(for the fertilizer plants located there) and edible oil cargos are also handled. There is growing economic importance of the region, especially after the discovery of substantial gas reserves and a lot of development is expected in the district. Keeping in view of the above developments, the infrastructure in and around the anchorage port and the deep-water port have to be drastically improved. I request the Government to grant some funds immediately from the Sagar Mela Scheme for the development of the port and its surroundings.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for extending help to FCV tobacco cultivators

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): The State of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to provide a relief of Rs. 2000 per hectare, which was affected under FCV tobacco cultivation due to unseasonal rains in Andhra Pradesh and also intervene to stabilize prices.

There was a cyclonic storm during the middle of December, 2003 which played havoc with the agricultural production. The Government of Andhra Pradesh provided relief to an extent of Rs. 2000/- per hectare in respect of areas under cultivation of all crops except FCV tobacco and the FCV farmers demanded similar kind of relief from Government of India.

The Minister for Commerce and Industry of the Government of India was requested to consider favourably the following steps immediately to help the FCV tobacco farmers.

The Tobacco Board may be asked to provide a relief of Rs. 2000/- per hectare in respect of area under FCV tobacco cultivation that was affected totally, due to the unseasonal rains in Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of India may take necessary steps to immediately enter the Tobacco Auction Platforms to stabilize the prices and suitable orders may be passed at the earliest.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into the demands of Tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh.

(v) Need to look into the problem of increasing incidents of desertion of girls from Punjab married to Non-Resident Indians

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Non Resident Indians come to Punjab from abroad and lure

innocent girls on the pretext of marriage and take hefty sum from their parents, stay with these girls and then flee to foreign countries. Later on, neither these girls are called by them abroad nor they give their addresses. Lives of hundreds of such girls have been ruined who are running from door to door.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government for taking immediate steps to overcome this problem.

- (vi) Need to declare Rajasthan as a special category State and provide funds for its development**

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States have been placed under special category States. These States are, therefore, entitled to more liberal norms for the purpose of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and several other programmes in comparison to other States. According to the norms, hilly region, backwardness or State prone to terrorists are treated as special category States.

Conditions in Rajasthan are far worse than the special category States. Two third of the area of the State is part of the Thar desert which may be declared as drought prone areas. Besides, the tribal area forms a major part of the State. Due to Common International Border, which is 1000 km in length, the threat of war is always there. Furthermore, the State is experiencing some kind of natural calamity or the other every year.

In order to give impetus to the development of the State, I demand that the State of Rajasthan be given the status of special category State similar to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States.

- (vii) Need to conduct a fresh survey to identify people living below poverty line in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP KOLI (Bayana): Sir, there is a need to conduct a fresh survey to identify people living below poverty line in Rajasthan as it has been observed that many people, who are in fact living above poverty line are availing all the facilities meant for poor people living below poverty line. Whereas, people who are actually poor and living below poverty line and are eligible do not get such facilities.

I am sure that the Government would urgently look into it and take action without any delay.

- (viii) Need to take steps to check the menace of Sickle Cell and Thalassemia diseases in Maharashtra**

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): It is evident from the figures made available by the Government of Maharashtra that around 2 crore people are suffering from Sickle Cell, Thalassemia and Beta Thalassemia in the State. Majority of such patients hail from 20 districts of the State. Maximum number of patients are from Chandrapur, Gadchiroli distt. in Vidharbha region. In absence of proper treatment people suffering from these deadly diseases are forced to die.

Patients suffering from Sickle Cell and Thalassemia are unable to avail benefits of latest research work being carried out in the world over for its treatment. Hence, the Central Government should take steps for providing proper training to the doctors treating such patients and also for providing sufficient medical facilities in the hospitals so as to eradicate this disease, and also provide financial assistance so that effective treatment facilities can be made available.

- (ix) Need to set up an Information Technology Development Park at Madurai, Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Madurai is the second populous city next to Chennai and centrally located in Tamil Nadu. In and around Madurai as well as in Southern districts there are more than 40 engineering colleges. At an average 2000 engineering graduates from each college come to employment market every year. Similarly there are equal number of polytechnic colleges which produce a sizeable engineering diploma holders. As we live in the era of Information Technology, youngsters mostly prefer Information Technology, which easily gets them overseas placements. Mostly affluent students can go abroad. Others end up in IT companies in metros. In general their talent and expertise either go waste or benefit the foreign countries, since we do not have proper mechanism to harness that power en masse for the development of our nation. For the entire Tamil Nadu, there is one Information Technology Development Park at Chennai. That is quite insufficient for the rest of the southern districts. So I request that one Information Technology Development Park to be sanctioned for Madurai city. This could provide employment opportunities to qualified personnel. As Koodankulam Nuclear Project, Nankuneri Export Promotion Zone are fast coming, upgradation of Madurai Airport and also opening High

Court Bench at Madurai city, Information Technology Development Park at Madurai will have a great role to play. Further it could get outsourcing from abroad and this activity would generate more forex.

- (x) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of Tourism at Estate Charkhari in Mahoba**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Estate Charkhari at Mahoba under my Parliamentary constituency Hamirpur is a place of historical importance. There are several old natural lakes in Mahoba which occupy important place on tourism map of our country. Thousands of tourists from within the country and abroad throng to these lakes daily. In absence of its proper development from tourism angle, tourists have to face lot of problem. The Central Govt. have formulated many schemes for promotion of tourism.

Therefore, I urge hon. Minister of Tourism to take necessary steps for allocating maximum funds for development of tourist centre and lakes at Estate Charkhari in Mahoba of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xi) Need to send a central team to Bihar to assess the damage caused by recent floods and provide relief to the affected people**

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV (Gopalganj): Main rivers of North Bihar, such as Gandak, Mahananda, Sabarmati and Bagmati originate from Nepal. Every year, uncontrolled quantity of river water is released from them during monsoon season causing floods in Bihar. Floods become so devastating that every year hundreds of people lose their lives and thousands of villages get totally ruined. Recent fury of floods in Bihar is a glaring example of it. Sir, predecessor NDA Govt. took no pains to overcome this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge the Government to hold talks with the Government of Nepal for the permanent solution of this problem and send a Central Team to Bihar to assess the damage caused by recent flood there as soon as possible. The affected people should be provided with all kinds of possible help and economic loss suffered by the State Government should be compensated.

- (xii) Need to set up Rashtriya Gramin Bank in the Public Sector for the benefit of rural people**

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present system of 28 promoter banks for the integrated and centralized operation and direction

of 196 regional rural banks, which also includes private banks and state cooperative banks, should be done away with. In the present system of 28 promoter banks for regulating the operations of the banks, are being framed 28 types of rules and regulations for achieving one target, which is hindering the integrated operation completely. The most important fact is that the said 28 promoter banks are the one which are the main business rivals of all these regional rural banks and thus are creating hurdles in the progress and independent operations of these regional rural banks.

I demand from the Government that a public sector financial institution called the Indian National Bank at central zonal or State level should be set under the control of any public sector financial institution, or holding company or NABARD in which 50 percent share of the Government should remain vested with such financial institution/holding company/NABARD.

- (xiii) Need to increase the pension payable to the retired employees under Workers' E.P.F. Pension Scheme**

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): The Workers' EPF Pension Scheme was brought out in the year 1995 to give pension to those workers who were not covered by the Pension Scheme of the employer. From 15.11.1995, pension is given to retired employees under this scheme. 8.33% of employees contribution to Provident Fund is being transferred to this Pension Fund. For implementation of the scheme, a task force committee was constituted. Considering the meagre amount of pension being given to the retired employees, the Committee recommended that the pension amount should be gradually increased. From 1.4.1998, pension was raised to 4% and from 1.4.1999, it was raised to 5.5%.

However, from 2000-01, it was not increased, and the retired employees continue to get the meagre amount, despite rise in prices. Even the increased Dearness Allowance based on the rise in CPI Index was also not included in the Pension Scheme.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to increase the pension amount of the retired employees commensurate with the percentile increase as recommended by the Committee and also to include DA increase percentage based on CPI in the Workers' Pension Scheme.

- (xiv) **Need to undertake construction of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line via Sonpeth in Maharashtra**

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL (Parbhani): Sir, the construction work of Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Railway line is in progress. There are number of rivers under this Section. Hence would due to the additional work of constructing bridges over this line the cost increase to a great extent. Therefore, if this line is constructed via Sonpeth, not only it will minimise the cost of construction but also will reduce the distance. Besides that Sonpeth produces a lot of agricultural products. However, due to the non-availability of transportation facilities the farmers are unable to get the remunerative price of their crops and this is the place where the finest cotton is grown for export. If this railway line is constructed via Sonpeth then it will not only benefit the farmers but also bring revenue to the railways.

Sir, through this august House, I would like to request the Government to construct Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli railway line via Sonpeth.

- (xv) **Need to ensure that the Tea estate workers and coolies of Valparai hill area in Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu are paid increased daily wages at Rs. 82 per day**

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Sir, I am raising this matter on behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam of Tamil Nadu headed by Thiru Vaiko.

Valparai hill area consists of tea estates in my Pollachi constituency. The poor tea estate workers and coolies are starving due to poverty as the daily wages are not fixed uniformly. The daily wages range from Rs. 65 to Rs. 69. The big companies are paying Rs. 72 as the daily wage. The same big companies are paying in the same hill area which is nearer and in Kerala State at Rs. 82/- per day. Some of the estates like Kavarkal and Waverly have not paid the wages for the past five months. The wage board, Tamil Nadu State and Government of India should come forward to provide higher rate of daily wages at par with big companies at Rs. 82/- per day to save the poor Tea Estate Workers and Coolies of Valparai, Pollachi in Coimbatore District.

12.11 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER Business of the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that in the Leaders Meeting held on 19 July, 2004, the following decisions were taken:

1. Members may be allowed to raise matters of urgent public importance in the House up to 12.30 p.m. today. Thereafter, further combined discussion on the Budget (General) and Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-2005 and Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2001-2002 may be taken up and the discussion concluded by 9.30 p.m. by sitting late; and
2. In order to enable more Members to participate in the discussion the Lunch-break may be dispensed with today.

However, subsequently, it has been agreed that the hon. Minister will reply to the discussion tomorrow at 2.00 p.m.

I hope the House agrees to this proposal.

The Hon. Minister may make suitable arrangements for the late sitting.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly extend zero hour by another 10 minutes because it is already 12.00.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. It is extended by 10 minutes.

[English]

Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am obliged to you.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to scanty rainfall the situation of severe drought has arisen in entire Madhya Pradesh specially in district Rewa. All those farmers who had sown crop after first rain are also on the verge of destruction. If the rains do not come for some time the cattle will also starve for want of fodder. The life line project of Vindhya i.e. Bansagar Project are lying incomplete for the last 26 years. The non-availability of drinking water will also become a grave problem. I urge upon the Government to announce a special package for combating the problem of drought and drinking water in the Rewa Division and Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got a list in my hand. There is only 10 minutes time. I am trying to give opportunity to all.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the incident which took place in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir where a bomb exploded in a rally of the Deputy Chief Minister. In that explosion 5 persons have been killed whereas about 35 people are seriously injured. The entire nation is condemning this incident. I would like to request the government that SARRC summit is underway in Pakistan and at this juncture Pakistan should be strictly conveyed this message that massacre of this kind should be stopped immediately and all the families of deceased and injured should be given proper compensation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are 48 different matters to be raised. I am trying to give one opportunity to every Party.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, the disinvestment of Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel to Shri Ajit Kelkar, proprietor of Tulip Hospitality Services Ltd. was a highly questionable sell out. Every stage of the disinvestment was dubious. It was sold at a throwaway price. Sir, the market price of this hotel today is Rs. 350 crore and this was sold out to Shri Kelkar, who was a member of the Air India Board as well as a member of

the sub-Committee which was constituted to disinvest the Hotel Corporation of India. That person was given this hotel at a throw away price. Moreover, he was the only bidder. He was to deposit the amount by 31st December but that was extended. You would be surprised to know that he had no funds. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am only concerned with running the House. I forgot to set it right.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is very important. How had the Minister of Disinvestment held the meeting with these persons—Shri Kelkar along with the bankers? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you disturbing him?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Money was arranged from the bankers. How was the Minister of Disinvestment present in the meeting when the meeting was held with the bankers to provide loan to Shri Kelkar. This is a fraudulent disinvestment of the Centaur Juhu Beach Hotel. ...(Interruptions)

I, therefore, demand an inquiry by a JPC. So, a JPC should be constituted to inquire into such a fraudulent disinvestment of the Centaur Juhu Beach Hotel. ...(Interruptions) We want a categorical reply. ...(Interruptions) This is the most irregular disinvestment. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): We support this. An enquiry should be conducted ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They are not in a position to reply to this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, all the agreements were being violated by the Tulip Hospitality Services Limited. We want a response from the Government. We would like to know whether the Government will constitute an inquiry in this matter. This is important. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you speak together, nothing is being recorded. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I am requesting you to be brief. Please conclude it because only 15 minutes are left.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How was the Disinvestment Minister present in the meeting? We want a response from the Government. The hon. Home Minister is here. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have finished it. You have asked for an inquiry. It is very well. The Government will decide about it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Shailendra Kumar to speak. Nothing else will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: He is referring to a former matter. Shri Acharia, please cooperate with me. You have made your statement. You have made your remarks. But you cannot get a reply now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a complaint of Uttar Pradesh, which I would like to put before the Government through you. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. I will not allow you any more. You have made your statement. It is all in the record. Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not obliged to respond. If you do not cooperate, I am sorry, I will have to adjourn the House. Nothing else will go on record but for the version of Shri Shailendra Kumar.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I will adjourn the House if you behave in this manner. You have made your statement. I cannot compel the Minister to respond to it. If he does not respond, what can I do? You must sit down. I am on my legs. First, please sit down.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded. Shri Shailendra Kumar, please go ahead.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that with regard to the Punjab dispute the matter of water distribution of Yamuna is very serious. Uttar Pradesh is not getting its share of water. In all the agreements made during the last five decades whether it was of 12 March, 1954 or the one which was made in 1994 it was decided that one third water will be given to Uttar Pradesh and two third to Haryana, Saharanpur, Muzzafarnagar and Gaziabad districts of Uttar Pradesh are being effected by this. The farmer is unable to irrigate the fields and are on the verge of famine. The Yamuna canal flows from Tajewala dam constructed in Haryana. Haryana utilizes the entire water supply and does not allow water to be supplied to Uttar Pradesh whereas Uttar Pradesh needs 4285 cusec water but it is getting only 65 cusec water. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, if you are brief and speak to the point, we can cover many issues.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Delhi are not being supplied water. Uttar Pradesh, Muzzafarnagar, Naghpat, Doaba region of Hindon river has dried up. A canal has been constructed there by spending Rs. 3924 Lakhs. Through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Irrigation that Uttar Pradesh should be supplied one-third water i.e. 4285 cusec so that the farmers could improve their condition by proper irrigation of his crop.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Shri Kailash Meghwal and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat also associate themselves with this matter.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAILASH MEHWAL (Tonk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my issue is very serious. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody's issue is serious.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given chance to one Member of your party. I am trying to give chance to each party. I have given chance to only one Member from the Congress Party. This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, the situation in Bihar specially in North Bihar has become horrible due to floods. Many districts have been affected terribly by flood. People are confined to the roofs of their houses. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lalan's statement will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the horrible situation of floods people are confined to the roofs of hostels for four days without food and water. The relief works being undertaken by the Union and State Government are not sufficient. The Rs. 30 crore given to Bihar by the Central Government for the relief works are not enough. Through you, I urge upon the Government to release sufficient funds for providing assistance to the flood hit people of Bihar and also to constitute a flood relief committee under the Chairmanship of the Governor of Bihar in which all the social and voluntary organizations along with political parties should be included.

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganesh Singh and Shri Prabhunath Singh also associate themselves with this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate. Otherwise, how can we go on?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Sir, my issue is related to both floods and drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have allowed your party Member to speak on the flood situation in Bihar.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the Members of our Party whom you have called have not given their speech then how could we associate ourselves with this matter. Therefore, kindly give them some time to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She cannot read one page statement. I will not allow that.

[Translation]

I am allowing the Members of your Party also but do not make it long.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are all dictating to me. Do not dictate to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the matter of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link, the hon. Supreme Court had given a direction to the Government of India to initiate specific action for the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link. The deadline fixed by the hon. Supreme Court was 15th July, 2004. This deadline is over.

It is understood that the Government of India has filed a Status Note in the hon. Supreme Court regarding action taken by the Government of India. In this, they have also mentioned the recent law passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief and just associate yourself with the matter. If you go on making a statement, this is not fair. Your own party Members wish to raise many urgent matters. I want to call them.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: The Government of India have sought directions from the hon. Supreme Court.

It is apparent that, in its application to the hon. Supreme Court, the unconstitutional law enacted by the Punjab Legislative Assembly has not been categorically challenged by the Government of India whereas, considering its implications and ramifications, the Government of India should have, on its own, strongly come out against the law enacted by the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

Sir, we the Members of Parliament from Rajasthan want to seek clarification from the Government whether the law enacted by the Punjab Legislative Assembly has been specifically challenged by them in the hon. Supreme Court and, if not, then, why not. It may also be mentioned that the recent Punjab legislation annuls the 1981 Agreement on sharing of water signed by the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Ganesh Singh to speak. Only Shri Ganesh Singh's statement will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, an Indian Oil Depot had been constructed in my constituency

Satna, M.P. long back. Another depot is being constructed in Bagha village for locational reasons as the present is in the middle of the city, in which crores of rupees have been spent till date. It has come to our knowledge that said depot is being shifted. If this will happen it will go against the feelings of masses. All the political parties, social organizations of the district do not want this depot to be shifted from Satna. If it happens then the supply of oil will be made from Tadel Depot, Jabalpur which will put the burden of surcharge on people ...(*Interruptions*)

Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to shift the said depot.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your Member's statement will not be recorded if you behave like this.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I am raising a very important matter today in the 'Zero Hour'. It has appeared in the Press that the hon. Supreme Court has asked the Centre to disburse the relief amount of Rs. 1,503 crore (with interest) lying with the Reserve Bank of India amongst the five lakh Bhopal was victims.

Sir, it has also appeared that the money given by the Union Carbide, under the settlement with the Government of India, amounts to \$470 million. The hon. Supreme Court has directed that the money be kept in a dollar account. This money, with interest, has now accumulated to Rs. 1,503 crore.

The Union Government should respond to it and I urge upon the Union Government to take initiatives so that the said amount is disbursed among the Bhopal was victims.

Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhu Nath Singh. Only Shri Prabhu Nath Singh's statement is to be recorded and nothing else.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people are not allowing me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You please go ahead.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only your statement will be recorded. If you do not want to speak, then you please take your seat. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the flood hit and drought hit people of Bihar. Sir, on the one hand the Bihar is facing the fury of floods and on the other hand people are in distress because of drought. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are many such districts such as Darbhanga, Samastipur etc. where people had been asked to leave for safe places but in this regard no arrangement has been made by the State Government. Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Union Government is keeping mum over it and the facilities provided to the flood hit people of Bihar are not sufficient. People are in great distress. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, till date 150 people have died. ...(Interruptions) is there any question which is more serious than this?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge upon the Government to take it seriously ...(Interruptions) separate arrangements should be made for the flood hit people of Bihar. ...(Interruptions) Sir, on the one hand Assam has been given Rs. 160 crore whereas Bihar has been provided with only Rs. 30 crore. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji you are in the Government, kindly understand the suffering of Bihar. Kindly request the Government to give assistance to the families of more than 150 people killed in Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Karan Singh Yadav. Please be brief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is becoming too much. I am sorry. I cannot allow. Only Dr. Karan Singh Yadav's statement will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through a decision of the Delhi High Court reservation in jobs and in other civil services in Delhi has been abolished. ...(Interruptions) last year as per the notification of the Union Government the benefit of reservation was extended to the people of Scheduled Castes. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing? Nothing is being recorded. You are shouting. Is this the way to behave in this House?

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: As a result of this decision of the High Court the people of Scheduled Castes and those belonging to Meena, Ahir and other communities are being deprived of the benefit of reservation policy ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Every day you are being allowed to speak on Bihar. Now all right, please sit down.

[English]

You do not interrupt like this. This is very condemnable. I strongly object to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Karan Singh Yadav, please be brief. Everybody wants to make a speech.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV: I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment and the hon. Minister of Law and Justice to move to the double Judge Bench of the Delhi High Court or to the Supreme Court to challenge this decision so that 7.5 percent reservation could be provided to the Scheduled Castes in Delhi. ...(Interruptions)

Throughout the country reservation policy is being followed whereas the abolition of reservation policy in Delhi is not good.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Special mentions is over. All parties have decided to take the debate on the General Budget at 12.30 hrs.

12.32 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET— 2004-2005 GENERAL
DISCUSSION—*Contd.*
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
(GENERAL) 2004-2005—*Contd.*
AND
DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—
(GENERAL), 2001-2002

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Vasudevan Nair, who was on his legs, to continue his speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The time for Special Mentions is over. You are aware that all Parties have decided on this. I cannot allow you to speak. Nothing will be recorded. Why are you shouting? Only Shri Vasudevan Nair's speech will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to speak for a minute. ...(Interruptions)

12.32½ hrs.

(*At this stage Shri Chandrakant Khaire came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not at 12.40 but at 12.30 hours.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very important debate on the General Budget. All the hon. leaders including your leader have agreed that at 12.30 hours the discussion on the General Budget would start.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot decide one thing inside and do another thing here.

Now, Shri Vasudevan Nair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot hold the House to ransom. The House cannot be held to ransom by any hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandrakant Khaire, tomorrow you will be allowed to speak at number one. I have committed this. But not now.

12.33 hrs.

(*At this stage Shri Chandrakant Khaire went back to his seat.*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly co-operate. The House is not of the Chair alone.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is the debate on the Budget not a serious debate? I am trying to regulate the proceedings of the House with your co-operation. If you do not want to run the House, please tell me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I request you to cooperate in running the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please do not cross the limit. Nobody on either side should cross the limit.

I am watching that some hon. Members are particularly trying to disturb.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is a very serious discussion. We are taking up the financial business—the debate on the Budget of the country. You have no patience to hear the debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. No running commentary please.

Shri Vasudevan Nair.

SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR (Thiruvananthapuram): Sir, last time when I was speaking about the implications of the verdict of the people in the last elections, I said that that verdict was definitely against the economic policies of the NDA Government.

People rejected it. Those people, who would like to make some soul searching, should do it for their own good. But, Sir, I should like to add that the verdict was against the economic policies of the NDA Government. As far as the economic policy is concerned, many State Governments were following the footsteps of the Central Government. ...(Interruptions) The election results go to show that in almost all such States, the people gave a verdict against those Governments. Some of those Governments were led by the Congress Party, as in Kerala, my own State, where the Congress Party-led UDF was routed in this election. Again, in Karnataka, it was led by the Party of Shri Chidambaram. Of course, in Andhra Pradesh, there was another Party. We find that in State after State, including Punjab, people were not happy with the performance of whatever the Party that was ruling the States, mainly with the economic policy of those State Governments.

So, I think this experience in the various States in the last elections will be taken into account, especially by the Central Government because they initiated an economic policy in 1991 also. Even now their tendency is to harp too much on reforms and forget the people. So, this is a big lesson for them also to take into account.

Sir, I was supporting the Budget when I began my speech last time, but now with a little time at my disposal, I should express my disagreement, my differences with the Budget and my reservation on certain issues. That is known to everybody. It is nothing new. It is not a matter of detail. It is a basic question.

Why are we, the Left Parties, against this FDI hike in strategic sectors like civil aviation, telecom and all

that? There is a debate going on in the country. In the media, there is a lot of discussion about it. So, I do not want to repeat the arguments for our objections. I only wanted to say this. Was it wise on the part of the Finance Minister and the Government to include those proposals in this Budget at this juncture? Was it a good tactics? I think it was not at all a good tactics. A debate has started by that step of the Government. When we want to go together as much as possible, unnecessarily a difference of opinion is projected, especially in the media and among the people.

Sir, my personal opinion is that if I were in the place of the Finance Minister, I would not have announced such a proposal at this point of time. They could have discussed the matter before announcing it. They know our position. Shri Chidambaram knows very well our position. He was the Finance Minister in another Government. So, he should have taken patient steps to discuss with the Parties which are supporting him and the Government from outside. So, now an unnecessary difference of opinion is projected, especially from in the media and also among the people. We have expressed our views both inside and outside the House. Whoever is concerned with it knows everything. The ball is in their court. They should decide whether they should go ahead with these proposals or they should withdraw them or modify them or they should come to some understanding or whatever it is.

Now, apart from this, as the hon. Minister knows, there is another important issue. The working class is very much agitated about this question of interest rate of the Provident Fund.

I think, irrespective of party affiliations, almost all the Central trade unions have taken a position that the Government should revise its stand and should rethink about it. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance would pay attention to that.

On another issue, our Chief Minister has already written a letter to the hon. Minister. The MPs from Kerala, are also informed by the Government of Kerala that there is a proposal to impose a new income tax on NRI deposits. What would be the impact of it? Has a study been made about it? Anyway, the Government of Kerala and the Chief Minister have informed us that according to their assessment this would adversely affect NRI deposits in the first place. In Kerala, the hon. Minister knows, we have the greatest contribution as far as NRI deposits are concerned. So, this is not a wise step according to our Government. Now, the hon. Minister can enlighten us why this step has been taken, whether it

would adversely affect NRI deposits and also the economy of Kerala. The Government of Kerala is naturally worried about that. Suppose NRI deposits are withdrawn or there is a tendency to put the money somewhere else, what will happen? This is an issue that should be considered by the Government seriously.

I welcome the Budget because there is a real change in direction, especially in favour of the agrarian scene but the hon. Minister has not mentioned anything—though it is in the Common Minimum Programme—about the problems of the agricultural workers. The agricultural workers and their organisations are demanding for a long time a national legislation for taking care of their welfare in respect of minimum wages and many other things. My State has got an excellent law as far as agricultural workers are concerned. We are pioneers, I should say, in this field but somehow or the other the Central Government is evading the issue. I know, there is a lot of opposition to it whenever the Government tries to bring in a legislation in favour of agricultural workers. I think, the hon. Minister forgot to mention about the problems of agricultural workers in his Budget Speech. I hope, he would seriously give a thought to this matter and the Department concerned in the Union Government would come forward with a legislation.

All the declarations made by the Government are good on paper but the main question is how they would be implemented. Which Government does not say good things for the people? But there is such a divergence between words and deeds that those declarations do not get implemented. This is a big problem in this country. So, the Government has to be very serious about implementing what is stated in the Budget and also in the Common Minimum Programme.

This time, our electorate has behaved in a very mature manner. I am sure, my friends on my right never expected something like this. They never understood the mood of the people. So, the verdict of the people has to be taken very seriously. This Government should take care that they do not fail in keeping their promises, in doing what they declared. Performance is the main thing. It is not an easy matter. Everybody knows that it is a Herculean problem, a very big task, and a very big challenge. The Government should be serious about implementing the proposals which are in favour of the agriculturists, the rural economy, and the traditional workers. I should thank the hon. Minister for making a mention about traditional industries like coir. He has allocated Rs. 100 crore. Of course, I am thankful to him

for making that allocation but he would have to revise it because it is a big area. He has not included here cashew, which is a very vital traditional industry at least of my part of the country and also of his State. There are lakhs of women who are working and their plight is very bad. So, you will have to do something about the regeneration of such traditional industries. Regeneration of traditional industries is a task which should be taken very seriously. If the Government comes forward with proposals and take steps to implement these proposals, we, on this side of the House, say that we will give our fullest cooperation in the implementation of the proposals. Proposals alone are not enough. We have seen promises for so many decades and years. So, we should break the record not in announcing programmes but in performance. The record break should be in performance.

With these words, once again, I would like to give my general support to the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with strong objection and unhappiness over the Budget Estimate 2004-2005, I would like to place my views in this House with your permission. For the last 15 years I have gone through the several budget estimates and have also participated in the discussion. I have witnessed several revised estimates, however, the hope cherished by the poor and exploited people of the country due to the illusory figures of this budget is going to be shattered when they will face the situation to be emerged before the country in the next seven months after presentation of this Budget Estimate. I feel it is my duty to draw the attention of the House especially the attention of hon'ble Finance Minister towards it.

Personally, I am great admirer of hon'ble Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier he was in opposition, only for the last four months he is in ruling party. Despite being in opposition he was not with us. I do not want to discuss politics here but I really admire his politeness and his unmatched command on the economics. But a company certainly affects a person. ...*(Interruptions)* He remained dissociate from the company for same time. But now he has again associated with the same company. Due to which he has deviated from his ideology. Congress has formed UPA Government and it is their characteristics. If I level some allegation, some members would say that I am doing so because we have been defeated. However, Congress—the main component of UPA Government has a history of 45-47 years old of Governance.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

[English]

For long 47 years we have seen so many learned hon. Ministers' of Finance who presented Budgets in this august House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARAT SINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI
(Anand): They were from Congress Party. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Yes, they were from Congress Party, that is why, I am saying that the work which could not be accomplished in 47 years, would be done in the next seven months. At least they should not mislead the country. They had got the opportunity to eradicate poverty from the country for 47 years but did not accomplish that task. ...*(Interruptions)* Salim Ji, they did not do that. You were also present there, I agree to it. There are several things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur):
What has been done in their 6 years regime.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We did what we could do in 6 years. Shri Ramdas Ji does not feel comfortable on some subjects. This is one of those subjects. He may speak on some other issue. This discussion is on finance. He may face some problems and I will also not be able to understand him. This budget is only a bundle of hopes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, are we listed? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you please address the Chair.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Yes, sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, what about BJD's time?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Satpathy, this is not the time to find it out. This is not the manner to make a request. You are interrupting another hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I do not want to go into that as a detailed discussion has been held on the mandate. The member speaking prior to me said that this mandate is against the economic policy. Some says that it is against the communal forces. I would like to know something from the hon'ble Finance Minister and hon'ble Prime Minister. I have been the student of science just for two years, I have done my graduation and post-graduation with literature.

145 seats were considered as mandate? Elections were conducted in the country, and they did not get even 50% of seats. If it was mandate, they would have chalked out a prior programme. They contested elections in West Bengal but did not decide at that time that all the political parties should stand untidily to fight against the communal forces of the country. They did not fight the election against communal forces, instead they fought election on the plank of economic policies. This is the nature of Congress. Therefore, I say that this budget is no way beneficial to the people. They misled the country in the name of a person and policy before election. When they got some seats, they started talking about mandate. I do not want to mention the names here but I had seen the interviews of various prominent leaders on T.V. at that time.

[English]

Most of the leaders now sitting on the Treasury Benches were forcefully telling to the people and the nation that if NDA would get less than 245 seats, they have no moral authority to form the Government.

[Translation]

It is true that everyone stated that even if NDA would get 242 seats, they have no moral right to form the Government. Then how the Government was formed by 145 seats, even if it is 228, how the Government was formed.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Just like they formed previously.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We formed the Government with 272 seats and we did not claim that it was the mandate. Therefore, it should be clarified first. I was not intending to go into that but they interrupted me, that is why I am saying so.

[English]

Otherwise I would have definitely come to the budgetary provisions and my reservations on the Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are now coming to the Budget.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Yes, Sir. I am coming to the Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): You please come to the Budget. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: This Government is a compromise. The Minister in their Government Shri Lalu Ji gives the lesson of sycophancy to serve his purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a member of Parliament for the last 15 years. Do not get upset.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: No, Sir. I am not upset.

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair. I want to listen to you very attentively.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Why should I be upset? I am not upset. Why would I get upset, I am the member of Parliament for the last 15-16 years. However, they get upset when hear the truth. Hon'ble Railway Minister had talked of flattering budgetary speech to achieve his target. But this is not the mandate of the country. People of the country stated that the economic policies were wrong. I do not want to go into the detail of the issue.

[English]

Definitely, with all respects to the hon. Minister of Finance and affections personally to you, this Budget will create confusion, is going to create confusion. This Budget is directionless. It will increase inflation. This Budget is such a document, it is a document. I would rather say that this is a Budget in which it is over-estimated in revenue and under-estimated in expenditure.

[Translation]

Because this budget has been prepared in a haste. I wonder how he put all the figures in this budget for 7 months.

[English]

I would definitely now come to the specifics since I remarked that this Budget is over-estimated in revenue and under-estimated in expenditure. I would, through you, draw the kind attention of my learned and beloved hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram to page 4 of the 'Budget at a Glance.'

Let us look at direct taxes and indirect taxes. It is surprising to see that the increase the hon. Finance Minister expects in collection during this short span of seven to eight months is what was never seen in the last 45 or 50 years. First, I come to indirect taxes. The revised estimates for the year 2003-2004 for Union excise duties is Rs. 92,379 crore. Now, this Government, this learned Finance Minister is so much hopeful and optimistic that he has mentioned in *Budget At A Glance* that he is expecting this to increase to Rs. 1,09,199 crore. So, the increase expected in the Union excise duties is Rs. 16,820 crore and the percentage of increase is 18.20. Now, we see customs duty. The revised estimate for 2003-2004 is Rs. 49,350 crore and the hon. Minister is expecting it, within a span of seven months, to increase to Rs. 54,250 crore. That is an increase of Rs. 4,900 crore.

Now, I come to direct taxes. For corporation tax, the revised estimate for 2003-2004 is Rs. 62,986 crore. How much is the hon. Finance Minister expecting to get within seven months? It is Rs. 88,436 crore. It comes to an increase of Rs. 25,450 crore, that is, 40.40 per cent.

[Translation]

Please tell me whether such a rise in taxes has taken place in the last 45 years. That is why I am saying that budget has illusion figures. Which magic wand would make a rise of 40% in seven months.

[English]

He is expecting a total increase of Rs. 57,830 crore and it had been nowhere mentioned in any of the documents from where it would come.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

[Translation]

I have been the Member of Lok Sabha for the last 15-16 years.

[English]

Before that, I was in Ahmedabad Corporation for 17 years and preparing Budget as a member of the Standing Committee. As per the Corporation Act, you cannot make a deficit Budget in the Corporation.

[Translation]

In corporation's budget, adjustments are to be made regarding the income from tax, octroi, house tax etc. because corporation's budget cannot be a deficit budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister has made this budget just like the corporation budget. Please tell us from where such a huge amount would come. He has mentioned it anywhere.

Now I would come to the page 24 of the hon'ble Finance Minister's speech. Here he is expecting an increase of Rs. 5700 crore i.e. 26% in total.

[English]

I come to end of his speech, para 152 and para 153. That is why, I say that the Budget is a confused document.

[Translation]

I have been the student of economics but I could not get anything when I read para 152. I would not use the words like corporation but hon'ble Finance Minister has created bogey.

12.59 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

I quote para 152 of his Budget Speech. It says:

"Besides my tax proposals, I have looked at another source of revenue. There are large recoverable arrears both in direct taxes and indirect taxes."

[Translation]

He says that huge income can be earned through direct and indirect taxes.

[English]

"Even the undisputed arrears are quite substantial. I have, therefore, assumed that I would be able to recover a tidy sum this year."

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I failed to understand the source and the manner to raise the huge funds required. There should be some estimate in this regard. Such a budget has been presented in the House. The account of single penny of the 100 crore people of the country should be given and it should be clarified how the funds would be raised.

[English]

How much money will you get by doing so? Budget should not be based on hopes only. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to refer to para number 153 on page 29 of the Budget speech made by Shri P. Chidambaram in this House.

[Translation]

I got confused after reading para 153. Sir, I need to understand it through you.

[English]

On the one hand you expect to raise Rs. 57,000 crore by having an increase in the direct and indirect taxes, and on the other hand in your own speech you say, and with the kind permission of the Chair I would like to read para number 153. It says: "My tax proposals on direct taxes are expected to yield a gain of Rs. 2,000 crore." I fail to understand it, and I would request you to kindly explain it to me later. Then, it is further stated in the speech: "On the indirect taxes side, they are broadly revenue neutral." On the one hand you say that you are going to increase about Rs. 21,000 crore, and on the other hand in your own speech you say that the indirect taxes revenue will be neutral. It is quite confusing for us.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

People of the country want to know whether the budget fulfils the commitment made by them. As I have stated at the outset, only a ray of hope has been shown to the people of the country. ...(*Interruptions*) He has rightly stated that it is an illusion only. It seems that he belongs to Gujarat. He is sitting on wrong side. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, their Government was in power since 1991 to 1996. A commitment was made at that time that one crore people would be provided with jobs every year. ...(*Interruptions*) All right, we have also said so. But this is not my budget. Anyone can speak on our budget next time when we will come to power. At present, it is their budget. I would like to know how they will generate job opportunities for one crore people. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I will tell when the Government of our party would come to power in the next 6-8 months. Just now this is their budget. It is in the agenda of UPA Government to provide jobs to one crore people in five years. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

One of the objectives spelt out by the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is that: "Assuring 100 days employment to the breadwinner in each family at the minimum wage."

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Do you oppose it?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: No, I do not oppose it. But, do you know how much money would you need to implement it? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not indulge in running commentary in the House.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, it is not running commentary. He does not know his finance. ...(*Interruptions*) I am sorry. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister as how much money would be required to give assured 100 days employment to the breadwinner

*Not Recorded.

in each family at the minimum wage? It will come to Rs. 50,000 crore. You have not mentioned that in the Budget.

[*Translation*]

They are misleading the people.

[*English*]

Do not mislead the nation. You would need Rs. 50,000 crore, and you have not mentioned from where you will get Rs. 50,000 and odd crore for implementing this objective. There are five crore people who are living below the poverty line in our country.

[*Translation*]

People of the country want to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister. Mr. Finance Minister, people of the country have great expectations from you. Personally, I am great admirer of him. He should drive the country to a right direction. He has mentioned the target of 8% growth rate. I want to know how it will happen.

[*English*]

The question is about implementation of the policies. The policies are always framed with good intentions only.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, no running commentary in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: In 1984, a former Prime Minister of his party made a speech in Rajasthan.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind that.

[*English*]

In 1984, the late ex-Prime Minister addressed a public meeting.

[*Translation*]

There he stated that if Rs. 1 is drawn from Government exchequer, for the poor people, only 15 paises reach to them. Remaining 85 paise is devoured before reaching to them. Now how much money would reach to the poor people—15 paise, 10 paise, 7 or 6 paise. ...(*Interruptions*) We had not said so. This was stated publically by Shri Rajiv Gandhi the ex-Prime

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Minister of Congress party. Prior to this Government, NDA Government was in power but a party remained in power for 47 years which formulated several policies and schemes for the poor people but could not implement them or the poor people remained deprived of these schemes. I humbly request the Finance Minister to implement all those schemes. We made efforts to improve the situation of tanks and ponds in Gujarat.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would not allow any running commentary to go on. Please be silent. Please sit down, Shri Ramdas Athawale.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: He remembers Modi Sahab very much so he comes in his dream. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These interruptions will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I do not make mistake. He may speak after me. Regarding ponds and tanks, I would like to tell him that.

[English]

There are about one million and fifty thousand ponds and tanks which are lying unutilised.

[Translation]

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Finance Minister that he has made provision for ponds and tanks but when there is no water, what would be the use of repairing them. There is a saying in Gujarati "kuenye maiy hoga to avara ka ayega". It means the bucket would be full of water only when there is water in the well.

*Not recorded.

[English]

Where is the water?

[Translation]

Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had formulated a scheme to link up the rivers for the betterment of water situation in the country but the present Government has forgot that scheme. They will repair the ponds and wells but from where the water will come. First improve the water situation in the country. Such a good scheme has found no place in the budget.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

When there is no water, I am sorry to say this, I protest with all the strength at my command.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they are unable to digest some of my views. I do not want to take much time of the House. I would like to mention about the views expressed by my previous speaker.

Now, I would like to request about a very sensitive matter of NRIs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Party has given you only 15 minutes time.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I will complete my speech within a few minutes.

[Translation]

The issue of NRIs is connected with our seelings. Since the formation of our Constitution.

[English]

They helped us and they are our real brothers. You may remember as to what happened in 1991.

[*Translation*]

Earlier when their Government was in power, foreign reserves exhausted completely. ...(*Interruptions*) This matter is related with the feelings of people of Gujarat, Kerala and other States also. They have also been brought in the taxnet. When there was a situation to sold off the country's gold reserves, they create the feeling of patriotism in NRIs and asked them to provide money to the country. They helped the country. The Congress Government in 1991-1992 had introduced various schemes like India Development Bonds 1991 and Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme, but, how the funds would be raised for these schemes. The country is in need of funds. During the region of NDA Government, Shri Yashwant Sinha introduced India Millennium Bond. America imposed sanction on us after Pokharan test. At that time, several NRI brothers stand untidily with us but the present Government is saying that tax would be imposed if their deposits increase after 1.9.04 Suddenly, the Government says that.

[*English*]

After 1st of September, any deposit, either in currency or in terms of money, will be taxed.

[*Translation*]

This is injustice to the people of our own country. Whether they will hurt their sentiments? Today, China has acquired a position.

[*English*]

It is only because of the Non-Resident Chinese.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Government has very cleverly made a provision to provide a relaxation of Rs. One lakh to Government employees on their income. It is neither going to benefit the women employees nor other employees.

[*English*]

The senior citizens are already covered because their exemption limit is 1.5 lakh.

[*Translation*]

Two crore people will have to file the return. This will also increase the work of the employees of Income

Tax Department. In this way, there will be not tax up to the income of one lakh but will have to be file the return. If the income will exceed the limit by Rs. 10, the employee will have to pay the tax of Rs. 9180.

[*English*]

This is totally irrational.

[*Translation*]

It has never happened that an increase of Rs. 10 in income will come under such a heavy slab of tax. I request the hon'ble Finance Minister to consider about NRIs, senior citizens and share market.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one good work has been done by the Finance Minister.

[*English*]

The Finance Minister has given exemption to the automobile industry to the extent of 150 per cent of their spending on R&D.

[*Translation*]

Such exemptions will help the automobile industry but how the Finance Minister will run the Government. Three people are on the driving seat of the Government. How the Government will run? As you have just listened, there are six people to control the Government. Economic crisis and utter chaos is going to happen in the country.

[*English*]

Nobody knows where the accelerator is.

[*Translation*]

Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to ponder over the issues which I have raised. I oppose the budget which is going to play with the sentiments of the people.

[*English*]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise in support of Budget 2004. This Budget statement is a reflection of the mandate awarded by the people to the Congress-led coalition.

[Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia]

We are a welfare State where the Government cannot, I repeat, cannot abdicate its responsibility towards the weaker sections. The focus on agriculture, the focus on the physically handicapped, the focus on education, the focus on women, the focus on irrigation is the reaffirmation of the Congress' slogan to be on the side of the common man, the teeming millions that constitute the *asli Bharat*.

There are three important qualifications of this Budget statement. First: The content and phasing of capital expenditure will depend upon the absorptive capacities of each of these sectors. Second: Efficiency and equity would be promoted while maintaining fiscal and financial discipline. Third: Macro-economic policies will balance stability, growth and most importantly, social equity.

The Finance Minister in his Budget Statement said and I quote:

"The poor shall have the first charge of resources."

Indeed it is a dramatically different statement from the past NDA Government. The Finance Minister, under the able stewardship of Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji has taken up the challenge of strengthening the third tripod of the economy, that is, agriculture, in addition to industry and services. This Budget, Mr. Speaker, Sir, brings cheer to 65 per cent of our population, lays down the roadmap for their betterment. This Budget looks at emphasis on health, on education, on the service sector, sectors that were crying for more finances.

I would now like to talk a little bit on the backdrop of the economy.

[Translation]

Today hon. Member has expressed his sentiments about the Mayajal *i.e.* illusive trap of false economic figures. However if we look at the six year's history of NDA rule—

[English]

From 1999 to 2004 it is commulative, including this bumper year of growth. Agriculture has grown only at a measly 2.1 per cent, industry only at 5½ per cent, GDP growth rate is only 5.6 per cent. In contrast—this is not a statement but the fact—the Congress-led Government of Rajiv Gandhi Ji, from 1988 to 1991 delivered a 7½ per cent of GDP growth rate on an annual basis over the previous years. The 1994-97 Government where the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister and so was Shri Chidambaram, delivered 7.4 per cent GDP growth. Now, with the original reformers back in the saddle, we are confident that we will do it

again to achieve a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent. Agriculture must grow at 4 per cent, up from the 2 per cent low level that we have experienced over the last year. In order to do this, the Finance Minister has taken up right action of concentrating on rural capital formation and credit.

My esteemed colleagues on the other side keep mentioning time and again about the fact that they had given the economy on a silver platter to our Finance Minister. Let us look only at the last year—8.1 per cent GDP growth rate. It is agreed. Growth rate in agriculture was 9.1 per cent. It is agreed. Growth rate in industry was 6.7 per cent. It is agreed. but let us look at this year in isolation. There have been ten times, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this country has faced severe drought and every year afterwards there has been a bumper growth for agriculture and bumper growth rate for GDP. This is merely a statistical blip.

Let me give you a couple of examples. 1966-67 was a great drought year in this country. There was severe drought. In 1967-68, agriculture grew at 14.3 per cent and GDP grew at 8.1 per cent. In 1975-76, agriculture grew at 12.9 per cent and GDP grew at nine per cent. Then in 1988-89, agriculture grew at 16.3 per cent, resulting in a 10½ per cent GDP growth rate. All these three years, the previous years were bad years. So the important thing is not to talk about a year. In India we still have to experience the magic of compounding. Small differences in GDP growth rates over a larger period of times can create magnitudes of differences. We must try for a continuous eight per cent GDP growth.

Therefore, I shift the focus from industry to agriculture. Equal focus is not only on political necessity, it is an economic one. The gap between the new and the old economy has only widened. Metropolitan India has started pulling away from the rest of the country. Emotionally, our country has started to become divided into two areas.

This past NDA Government, I am sorry to say, Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, concentrated too much on 'India Shining' and left our India behind.

Let us look at some macroeconomics indicators. From the heady heights when industry grew at 12 per cent, we are now euphemistically, what we call, recovering when industry has risen from 3.3 per cent growth rate in 2001-02 to 6.7 per cent today. The situation is, indeed, alarming. The fiscal deficit is at 4.8 percent of the GDP. If we combine that with the State deficit, we are looking at 9.1 per cent of the GDP. If we look at the revenue deficit figures, they have risen from 1994-1997's 2.6 per cent to 3.6 per cent today. This is clear that this past NDA Government was financing consumption expenditure by raising the debt rate, which is why 70 per cent of our tax revenue goes towards meeting debt servicing. Our

national debt, as it stands today, is 85 per cent of the GDP, which is not below Pakistan's 105 per cent. We must learn to look across our borders.

If we look at China, China has experienced the growth rate of eight per cent. The success story there lies in a high investment and savings growth rate. It has an investment rate of 36 per cent and a savings growth rate of 40 per cent. In India, unfortunately, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are still at 23 per cent to 24 per cent. If we have to reach the target of eight per cent GDP growth rate, our investment and savings rate must increase to minimum of 34 per cent to 35 per cent. The reason why my esteemed friends from the Opposition benches are a little confused is because in this Budget, our esteemed Finance Minister has very well combined the fiscal rectitude with higher capital plan outlay. The capital plan outlay in this Budget has grown by 15 per cent. The deficit reduction has not come at the cost of reduction in the capital expenditure. The programmes that have been put in place are for the betterment not necessarily of our generation only but of the coming generation, betterment of the future of India.

Subsidies have been controlled at their previous levels. If we look at the expenditure and income targets, they are realistic. My esteemed colleague Shri Pathakji just pointed out how we are going to meet these targets. I would like to elucidate to him that industry grew only by 1.5 per cent last year but that resulted in an increase in tax revenues of 18 per cent. Therefore, if we are able to meet our target of nine per cent industrial growth rate—which we should be able to—even the 24 per cent tax target that we have put forward may be a little too conservative. Also, the revenue expenditure has been capped at six per cent with an increase in nominal GDP growth rate of 12 per cent. This will result in a greater taxation to the GDP ratio and lowering of the revenue expenditure to the GDP ratio. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have channelised resources from unproductive uses to more productive ones.

I would now spend a little time on agriculture. Indiraji launched the Green Revolution. In 1988-89, Rajiv Gandhi gave a new fillip to agriculture with his five Technological Missions and his White Milk Revolution. As a result of that, we hit the agricultural record growth of 16.3 per cent translating into 10.5 per cent GDP growth rate. So, the farm sector is critical to our growth. Under the past NDA Government, if we look at three heads—rural development, agriculture and irrigation, the plan outlay has been reduced annually from Rs. 12,834 crore to Rs. 8,181 crore, which is a reduction of 36 per cent. The share of public investment in agriculture has declined from the 1994 level of 33 per cent to 24 per cent today. This had led to widening of the GDP between not only rural and urban areas but also between the rural poor and the urban poor.

Correcting this, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, requires a re-orientation of our economy. Agriculture, today contributes almost 20 per cent of our GDP. But what I think is more important that 60 per cent of our country's population survives on agriculture. The total investment, however, is only 1.3 per cent of the GDP. This must be raised to five per cent.

Irrigation is extremely important. Pathakji just now pointed out that the real success story on irrigation lies not in collective increase in water bodies but river linking. I would humbly beg to differ. If you look at the success stories of Israel and if you look at the success stories of the US, it is re-charging the existing water bodies, water harvesting of the existing water bodies that has prevented the severest droughts in all those countries. It is not that linking is not important; that is important as well. But let us not under-estimate the importance of re-charging of our existing resources.

One of the biggest contributions in this Budget has been to take the benefit of economic reform to our farmers. Today, we have de-regulated industry. But the farmer still cannot sell where he wants to and at the price he wants to sell. He still is at the back and call of the trader in the *mandi*. He cannot engage in contract farming, even though it may be more remunerative. He cannot go to another State where he can discover a better price. Therefore, it is truly landmark step by our Finance Minister that he has the new agro-marketing law that will replace the APMC. It is truly revolutionary. I would like to commend him for that.

The Finance Minister has put together a special task force for cooperatives. We must check the indebtedness of our States. But it pains me to see the position in Madhya Pradesh of the cooperative network.

[*Translation*]

The cooperative system is being destroyed.

[*English*]

It is giving a body blow to democracy. I am sure that this present Government will look into the matter and give justice to our area.

Crop diversification is another step that has been taken through National Horticultural Mission. Four to four and a half per cent growth in agriculture is of course possible, but we must also concentrate on taking care of the excess labour in our agricultural areas. Therefore, setting up of agro-processing industries, closer to the agricultural areas will go a long way in taking care of this excess labour and also, the five-year tax holiday.

Agriculture has got a never-before thrust in this Budget. Allocation is up from Rs. 4,600 crore to Rs. 6,500 crore, up by 37 per cent. Also, the excise duty

has been waived on tractors, farming machinery, dairy equipment, etc.

I would take another five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are many hon. Members from your Party who are to speak.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Agriculture stands on five firm legs like credit, water, rural remuneration, rural incomes. The Finance Minister has strengthened each of these legs.

Now, I like to talk about fiscal consolidation. If only half of the fiscal deficit releases an amount of another Rs. 1,00,000 crore into the economy per annum, then that will allow us to build 8,000 MW of power per annum, 1000 km. of road per annum and then, an amount of Rs. 60,000 crore will be left over, which will be for education and health. The Finance Minister has taken the right step of reigning in revenue deficit, cutting the fiscal deficit to 4.4 per cent of GDP.

According to the AFRMB Act, this will release three per cent of fiscal deficit to be used for capital expenditure which will result in an amount of Rs. 3,00,000 crore for the Plan period. This is why, the Standard and Poors Agency has commended our Finance Minister. No less daunting is the challenge of implementation. The previous Government announced numerous schemes, but it did little to implement them. We must target and we must eliminate duplicity. Let me give you an example.

I will take another 2-3 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up. Your Party has given me a list of 31 hon. Members.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: All right, please give me a minute more.

An amount of Rs. 17,000 crore is the target for rural development. We have seven lakh villages in our country. That comes to Rs. 2 lakh per village per year. With an amount of Rs. 10 lakh in a five-year period, can we not change the face of our villages? It is important, therefore, to target better. I would commend the Finance Minister on his ability to do that.

The fact is that he has looked at the 'bottom-up' approach—whether it is the initiatives that he has taken or the 100 districts that he has targeted. I would like to commend him for that.

In summary, this is a balanced charter of action. It speaks of economic reform, but with a human face. It speaks of massive investments in agriculture and irrigation, but does not forget industry and exports. It speaks of public and private sector partnership, but at the same time strengthens our profitable public sector undertakings. I would like to say that this is a Budget that gets removed from the Ivory Tower of the last Government; it is a Budget that concentrates on 'Bharat Awakening', rather than 'India Shining'. This Government stands here today

to right those wrongs, to re-define our priorities, to bring back India on the path of growth and also to shake the burden off youth and the poor.

I would like to conclude by quoting Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on that historic night of 1947. What he said on that day still stands for us today.

I quote:

"That future is not one of ease or resting but of incessant striving so that we may fulfil the pledges we have so often taken and the one we shall take today."

That service of India means the service to the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity."

The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye. That may be beyond us but as long as there are tears and sufferings, so long our work will not be over and the UPA Government stands by that.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister in the House. Right now, Shri Harin Pathakji and Dr. Vijay Kumar Malhotraji have spoken (criticised) the budget. Though I did not want to refer them by name yet I fail to understand as to why they are opposing the budget and what has gone wrong with them. Now as they have expressed their views on the budget; I too would like to respond to what they have said. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Your name was not mentioned.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You have referred to Shri Lalu and Soniaji. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It was said that we should have paid our reverence to her. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You have been afflicted with phobia. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You try to speak about budget.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will speak on the budget only. ...*(Interruptions)* The Opposition Members are getting panicky. Those remarks about Soniaji. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You talk of bowing before her Soniaji has added to her dignity and left her persona by renouncing the post of Prime Minister. You should learn lesson from her. ...(*Interruptions*) I do not know from which disorder the Members of BJP are suffering. Sonia Gandhi, Lalu Yadav. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, you are wasting your own time. Do not waste your own time.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they should respect the mandate of the people. ...(*Interruptions*) The people of the entire country have rejected them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allotted seven minutes for you and you have already wasted two minutes.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, why has this budget been prepared? ...(*Interruptions*) It has been proposed to respect the mandate of the people. ...(*Interruptions*) The mandate of the people of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Last year, you were with us. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You should respect the mandate. ...(*Interruptions*) I did not agree on one of the issues. ...(*Interruptions*) As you did not pay heed to my advice you should face the music now. ...(*Interruptions*) You have been given the mandate to sit in the oppositions and the people have forced you to set in the opposition. So you should sit on the opposition benches and listen to me carefully. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, you are wasting your time.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the budget only. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not give a running commentary.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have been allowed to speak on the mandate and nobody is interrupting them to speak in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*) The Members of the opposition have very clearly said that this is not the mandate of the whole country, they call it agreement of the States mandate. ...(*Interruptions*) UPA Government have been formed and they are saying it as the agreement of the States mandate and are trying to deny and denounce this mandate. They should accept this mandate and hence their defeat. In a democratic system one must have the courage to accept one's defeat. They should accept our victory. This is a mandate for a change in all spheres of life. This budget seeks to bring a clear cut policy shift and change in all spheres of life be it social, political or be it the field of agriculture or labourers as this budget seeks to reverse the anti-people, anti farmer and anti-rural policies implanted during the NDA's rule. This budget has been prepared by the Minister of Finance with great diligence and meticulous planning under very precarious conditions. Hence I support this budget that has been brought in a critical situation complying with the agreed principles of the Common Minimum Programme. This is a pro-farmer, pro-agriculture and employment oriented budget. In which attention has been paid towards the real India. They kept on indulging in rhetorics of feel good and shining India. What was this all about? They concentrated on the welfare of only two percent of the such Indians and their attention was confined to the elit... of the Indians. I would like to thank hon'ble Chidambaramji for his efforts to reach out of lakhs and crores of farmers and rural folks through this budget. The two percent of the Indians are in possession of al the wealth of the country. It was in context of the these people that comprise the rest of the Indian population who dwells in villages it was remarked that the true India lives in villages. I would like to support this budget as attention

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

has been paid towards the people of the rural areas in this budget. Common man was exempted from the burden of the taxes. A large section of the society was apprehensive that the Chidambaram might impose heavy taxes but their fears and apprehensions have proved baseless as the burden of tax did not increase on common man. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Two percent cess has to be paid on every item.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not record those hon. Members who speak without the permission of the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: You would get an opportunity to air your view on behalf of your party. Hon'ble Finance Minister has given this indication.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. D.P. Yadav, address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Now do not challenge his prudence. It is indeed his fiscal prudence that he is committed to reduce the fiscal deficit. You should look at the orientation and approach of the Budget.

Hon'ble Minister has indicated in the budget that Planning Commission is likely to be restructured. This has created a new faith among the masses. Restructuring of the Planning Commission was necessary. You have made an allocation of Rupees 25 thousand crores for backward States. However the point of concern is that while mentioning about restructuring of the Planning Commission question arises as to how justice can be done with the backward States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh if the Plan outlay is made on the basis of the Gadgil formula that seek to provide funds on the basis of natural resources, on the basis of needs and on the basis of population. I would like to know as to how can the backwardness of these States could be removed

*Not recorded.

if the plan outlay of the said States is made keeping in view the above said criteria. Some hope is there on account of the some attention being paid in this regard and also with the indication of this proposed restructuring of the Planning Commission. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to think over it thoroughly and innovatively because the State like Bihar has not been left with any internal serflovces mobilisation capacity ever since the carving out of Jharkhand from it. At present, people in my State are drowning in flood water. Sometimes, we face drought and later we face floods i.e. for six months we have floods and then for remaining six months we face drought. This is the fate of backward States like Bihar. What should be the criteria to be followed while finalising plan size of these States and granting assistance by the Centre. This criteria should be ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: There is grid also, all of it would be included in it. I am talking about all backward States. I have referred about Bihar to cite an example. It includes Orissa and other backward States also. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance that justice be provided to these backward States even if some basic deviations are made in Gadgil formula. This formula is being implemented over the years and his attention and approach towards it indicates that he has given some weightage to the population etc. while making allocations and funds worth Rs. 25000 crores have been earmarked for five years. However

[English]

On the basis of the needs of the concerned backward States, on the basis of the poverty of the concerned backward States and on the basis of the population of the concerned backward States, and on the basis of the natural calamity.

[Translation]

If the plan is finalised on the basis of the climatic conditions of the States, only then a positive start can be made to remove the backwardness of these States. Hence I would like to suggest the hon. Finance Minister that though he is already thinking in this direction, he would have to pay more attention towards this aspect.

My second point is regarding the C.D. ratio of the banks. The C.D. ratio of the banks in the backward States of entire country would be taken into account. It is 35-40 per cent of the total deposits in the agriculture sector be spent there itself.

In a State like Bihar only 15-16 per cent of deposits are spent in the rural agricultural zones and the remaining deposits go to the metropolitan cities. The hard earned money of the poors, farmers, landless labourers, rikshawpullers etc. of the State. That is deposited in banks as savings in the form of term deposits of Rs. Five or ten thousands, is siphoned off to other States? This is one of the reasons of the backwardness of these States. Unless major changes are made in this regard and RBI guidelines are followed strictly, backward State can never make it to the league of prosperous States. This is my apprehension. I hope that hon'ble Finance Minister would certainly address this apprehension of mine when he give his reply.

Right now, a lot of discussion over economic package has taken place in the House. I wanted that Members of each State should discuss about the economic package of their respective States. One of the Members of Uttar Pradesh talked about it and I felt good about it. Some Members of Orissa also raised this issue. Now Bihar has got the economic package. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing except what Shri Yadav is saying would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is a good step. I welcome it. ...*(Interruptions)* If you also share this sentiment, it is so nice. ...*(Interruptions)* It is what I wanted to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all hon'ble Members said that they do not have any objection over the proposed economic package to Bihar but their State should also get. It is right but I want to know as to what did Bihar receive? ...*(Interruptions)* It is said that Bihar has been given an economic package of Rs. 3325 crore under the Rastriya Shram Vikas Yozana. The issue of economic package for Bihar was discussed here. I would like to

thank the hon. Minister of Finance for his liberal step of providing a package of Rs. 25000 crores. I had raised the issue of Rastriya Shram Vikas Yozana during the previous Lok Sabha through the device of Calling Attention Motion. The then hon. Prime Minister had replied to it on 17th December, 2003 as I wanted its reply from Prime Minister himself. At that time, Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji had also asked this question in his Calling Attention Motion. In the reply it was stated that an additional central assistance has been proposed to be given to Bihar for the current financial year. In fact 83 percent funds of the planned outlay of Rs. 3320 crores were released as central assistance. This was stated by the hon'ble Prime Minister. I would like to quote one thing here. ...*(Interruptions)* You should try to understand the subject first. ...*(Interruptions)* It hardly makes a difference as to whether I was in NDA or in opposition then. You may also become our ally one day. ...*(Interruptions)* BJP is likely to be reduced to only two seats in the next five years if they continue to speak like this. You should join your Members. The then, Prime Minister had stated that a projects involving Rs. 2531.35 crore would be floated for Bihar under the Shram Vikas Yozana during the Tenth Five Year Plan. An annual financial central assistance of Rs. 1000 crores be provided to Bihar during the Tenth Five Year Plan provided it is utilised for the said purpose. This was the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister of NDA Govt. in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, you conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: No member from our party has spoken so far. You may have a look at the strength of our party. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you the only speaker from your party.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Besides me, other Members would also speak on this subject. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you more than 15 minutes. Hence you conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put up my point. The apprehension in the mind of the people regarding the economic package to Bihar is. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have no objection if anyone else from your party does not speak on this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I would like to say only this much to the Finance Minister that funds could not be released during year 2002-03. I am saying after the announcement that has been made. He replied on 17 December, 2003. No funds were released for Bihar in 2002-03. I want to know the details of funds released for Bihar in 2002-2003 from the hon. Minister. I want to know the amount spent by the State Government. Please give me this information in your reply.

How much is the amount that has been earmarked for this year and how much is the money that has been carried forward from the last year in Rs. 3225 crore that have been mentioned in the general budget of 2004-2005.

Out of the money what is the share of Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States and if not then please clarify it.

I want to know the criteria on the basis of which money from backward State grants fund of Rs. 25,000 crore which is to be spent in five years, is to be given and the States to which money would be allotted from this fund.

In the end, as the said money is put in non lapsable fund for the development of North-Eastern region, similarly it is my suggestion that in case of other backward States like Bihar, the remaining unspent allocation of all the schemes should be put in non-lapsable funds.

Sir, you must be aware that as foreign direct investment in Telecom Sector has been increased from 49 per cent to 74 per cent from 26 percent to 49 percent in Insurance Sector, similarly it has been increased in the Civil Aviation also what was the need to do so? If foreign investment is increased then profit will also go there. That is why, I strongly opposed disinvestments. I had said that this Ministry should be dismantled and national property should not be sold. The Government has wound it up I welcome this-but why do you promote disinvestments. The committee, which is being constituted should reconsider it. Foreign capital should not increase.

As far as floods and droughts are concerned, the situation that has risen due to floods is really grim. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your Party has given a list of five Members.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, the Finance Minister allocates funds for natural calamities every year. I want to say that there is no need to allocate for natural calamity. The Government should spent this money in finding a permanent solution for the flood affected seven States of Assam, West Bengal and Orissa etc. Making mandatory allocation for natural calamity every year is making people less inclined to work. Relief is not the solution. I do not talk of begging. People talk of relief as there is immediate danger to lives and property. There is a need to find a permanent solution. Permanent solution can be found if there is water management. A country can not make progress if it cannot make use of its water resources properly. It is my submission that a high level dam should be constructed after holding Indo-Nepal dialogues. Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs and Water Resources should jointly set up a JPO as stated by them. DPR should be set up and then you can solve the problem permanently by allocating Rs. 25,000 crore. A high level dam should be constructed after holding dialogues with Nepal and we should get the hydro-electricity which would be generated at the rate of 25 paise per unit. Right now it is 3 to 3.50 paise per unit which the farmers cannot pay as they are financially crippled. The Government should release Rs. 25,000 crore which are needed for constructing a high level multipurpose dam so that the problem can be solved permanently. Unless the problem of floods and drought in Bihar is solved permanently, the states financial backwardness cannot be removed. Every year we get information of thousands of people getting killed. It is a very sensitive issue. I request the Government to pay special attention to this.

Reply to all the issues I have raised should come.

[English]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen here to oppose this Budget. But, I am a bit hesitant to reject this Budget in toto. As you know, one section of the opinion here also

is that this Budget is a continuation of some of the policies of the erstwhile NDA Government.

I think there are reflections in the Budget of some of the policies pursued by the erstwhile NDA Government. Therefore, I would try to be very judicious in evaluating this Budget. I would not hesitate to compliment the Finance Minister where I think this Budget is pro-people. But I would like to tell one thing. The Finance Minister is not present here, but the Minister of State for Finance is present here. I hope they will agree that microeconomics indicators have never been so sound in the last fifty years. I am afraid the hon. Finance Minister has not fully utilised that great opportunity in making this Budget 100 per cent pro-people, pro-poor and at the same time growth-oriented. I think the Finance Minister has lost a golden opportunity in utilising the privileges that have been provided by the erstwhile NDA Government in boosting the economy of this country during the last six years of its tenure.

I would certainly compliment the hon. Finance Minister because, as he has said in his Budget speech, he has laid much emphasis on the agriculture sector. He has decided to increase the credit facilities by two-fold in the coming three years. It is no doubt a welcome proposition. But I would like to point out one thing. Through which agency does the Finance Minister propose to extend this credit facility to the poor farmers of this country? It is basically through two arms of this Government. One is through the cooperative banking system which is primarily operating in the rural areas of the country and another is through the RRBs which are also basically operating in most parts of the rural India. I would like to say one thing. What is the condition of the cooperative banking system in this country now? I know particularly of certain cooperative banks, apex banks which are diverting their funds meant for agriculture sector to the non-agriculture sector. There is nobody to check it. If this is the behaviour of some of the cooperative banks, what is NABARD doing? I am surprised by that. Certainly, the cooperative banks are supposed to function under the leadership, under the guidelines and guidance of NABARD. I hope the Finance Minister will take a serious note of this thing.

The RRBs are functioning in the rural areas. Out of 195 or 196 RRBs, four or five years back, most of the RRBs were provided with financial assistance for restructuring. But some RRBs were left. No financial assistance has been provided to those RRBs for financial restructuring. Heavy cumulative losses are hanging over their heads. Under this poor financial condition, those

RRBs cannot come to the rescue of the Government in providing financial credit to the poor farmers in the rural sector.

The Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has proposed that he would hold the sponsor banks responsible for the malfunctioning of the RRBs. I want to bring it to the notice of the Finance Minister that in some cases, it is these sponsor banks which are creating bottlenecks in proper functioning and proper growth of the RRBs.

I would like to give certain suggestions. The RRBs should be amalgamated. Or State level banks or regional zonal banks should be constituted under which small RRBs should function. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will certainly take into consideration this proposal of restructuring of RRBs. When you put money in the agriculture sector, when you attempt to push the growth of agriculture sector, one thing is very important. I think the Government is not laying proper emphasis on that. Whatever production the farmers are making, whatever produces are there with the farmers, are they purchased properly? What steps or that infrastructure does the Government propose to build up to see that the products of the farmers are sold in the market at least at the Minimum Support Price. So, Mr. Minister, whatever amount you are flushing into the agriculture sector, how many times you may extend the credit facility to the farmer, unless you are able to purchase the produces of the farmers, be it paddy or wheat or sugar-cane or oil-seeds or whatever produces they may be, that will not be helpful. If the farmer is not in a position to sell his products in the market at the Minimum Support Price, you cannot expect a growth in the agriculture sector. I think, in this Budget, the Finance Minister has very conveniently forgotten this. What are the provisions he has made in the Budget to create infrastructure for the storage facilities in this country?

I would like to cite one example. I would like to cite the example of my own State of Orissa which is a poor State. The point is that 70 per cent of the people depend on agriculture there. On the one hand, the Food Corporation of India does not procure rice, paddy from the farmers on the plea that there is no storage capacity in the State, and, on the other hand, wheat and paddy procured from comparatively other rich States are poured into the State of Orissa for storage at the cost of the poor farmers of Orissa! What type of a policy is this? I

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

hope the Government will take care of this problem. I also hope that the Government will take into consideration the vital problem in the agriculture sector.

Sir, I am happy that the Finance Minister has mentioned about drinking water in his Budget Speech. It is a fact that there are many villages in this country today in the remote areas of India where my sister and my mother have to walk a distance of eight to nine kms. every day to fetch a bucket of drinking water during the summer season. There is no ground water. There is no tube-well. If at all any tube-well is there, it is defunct. It is not functioning. There is no tank. The ponds are dry. The level of the ground water is going down every year. I am happy that the Finance Minister has paid his attention to this problem. But, at the same time, I am surprised to find one thing. The erstwhile NDA Government, during Shri Vajpayee's time, started a very unique programme called the Swajaladhara Yojana. Mr. Minister, I am happy that you are still continuing that Yojana. You have not abandoned that Yojana. The point is that you have decided to bring under one banner all the drinking water projects. I do not bother after whose name you are going to name the project. ...*(Interruptions)* I say this because within 24 hours of your coming into the Government, all the hoardings on the national highways bearing the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee were removed. Do you think that by removing the hoardings on the national highways, you will be able to remove the name of Shri Vajpayee from the hearts of crores and crores of Indian people? You cannot do it. So, this is wrong politics. Whichever side has done it, it is wrong. I do not agree to this. So, I do not bother after whose name you are going to name the water project. But one thing is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): They are going to name it after Rajiv Gandhi. He has already said so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I was talking of the Swajaladhara Yojana. I have come to know that the Government has sent a circular to the State Governments. It wants that the State Governments should sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the conditions: (1) that 10 per cent of the expenditure required for the Swajaladhara Yojana in a village has to be borne by the villagers, and (2) the State Governments cannot come to the rescue of the villagers and cannot, out of their own funds, fund the 10 per cent money or make up this 10 per cent. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has admitted that people are starving for drinking water in the remote village areas. As I said earlier, to fetch a bucket of drinking water, my sister and my brother in the

remote area in a village has to walk a distance of eight to nine kms. in the scorching sun.

14.00 hrs.

But when the poor villager does not know whether he will get his full bowl of meal in the evening, how do you expect 10 per cent of funding for this programme to come from the villagers? ...*(Interruptions)* Why do they not change it? If our scheme was wrong, why do they not correct it?

Sir, we are getting Rs. two crore per annum as MPLAD fund. Will the Finance Minister allow Members of Parliament to allocate, at least, 10 per cent of their MPLAD fund for this programme? I think he will agree to this suggestion because I know and everybody in this House knows that there are villages in this country where the common man does not get two square meals in a day and in such a situation, how can the Finance Minister expect 10 per cent funding for this programme to come from poor villagers so that they get a bucket of drinking water? I think the Finance Minister will take care of this problem.

Sir, I compliment the Finance Minister for one more thing. As I said at the beginning of my speech, I am not going to outright reject all the proposals that the Finance Minister has made in his Budget speech. Of course, there are some good proposals. I support his proposal to renovate ponds, tanks and other water reservoirs in the villages. I remember that during those days when kings, zamindars and village lords were ruling, they dug up ponds and tanks out of their fund and that helped in preserving the ground water level. I compliment the Finance Minister for this proposals, but I am surprised to see that he has allocated only Rs. 100 crore for this programme. How many lakhs of ponds are there in this country? This is a very meagre allocation.

[Translation]

As you say allocation should not be made only for the sake of making it so please stop such allocations.

[English]

It is a good programme that he has taken up. I support this programme. I would urge upon the Finance Minister that he should allocate a good amount in the Budget to implement this good programme. This is my sincere request to him.

Sir, the Finance Minister has mentioned about flood control in his Budget speech. I am happy for that. Every year, one State or the other in this country is affected by flood. Now also, the flood situation is very serious in Assam and Bihar. There is a scanty rainfall in Orissa and we are afraid whether Orissa is going to face drought situation during this year also. But who knows, tomorrow there may be heavy rains and many parts of Orissa may be flooded. I am sorry to say that the Finance Minister has very well kept the tradition of forgetting the poor State of Orissa. In his Budget speech, when he was speaking about flood control programme he mentioned many States, but forgot to mention Orissa. Orissa is a perennially flood affected State. I urge upon the Finance Minister not to take any decision based on political considerations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude soon.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I think I am the only speaker from my party and I hail from a poor State. Please give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Please continue.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I now come to the tax portion of the Budget. I know you will not allow me to make a very lengthy speech. So, I will try to mention my points in a nutshell.

I would like to talk about textiles. Next to agriculture, it is the textiles sector which generates maximum employment opportunities in this country. The Finance Minister has decided to do away with the CENVAT system and it is very welcome suggestion. He wants to propose a different system of taxation. I also welcome his decision of withdrawing excise duty on pure cotton and pure wool. I am sure all the weavers will get a boost by this measure. But, I think, one important point has not come to the notice of the Finance Minister. The handloom sector generates a number of employment opportunities in this country. Most of the weavers in this country belong to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the downtrodden sections of the society and they live below the poverty line.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister one very important problem that has not come to the notice of, I think, any of the Governments or any of the previous Finance Minister also. There are good designs and good designers in the handloom sector. I hail from an area which is dominated by weavers and

this area Sambalpur is famous for this handloom tie and dye trick. Of late, what is happening is that the same design, manufactured by the weaver very skilfully in the handloom sector, is being copied, is being emulated exactly and being printed in huge quantities in the powerloom sector. A heavy quantity of such sarees, *sardoski* and *suprabhat* are flushed into the handloom market. Ultimately what is happening is that it is affecting the handloom market and because it is printed in a huge quantity, it is cheaper in production and the handloom sector is not able to compete with such printed designs which are emulated from the handloom weavers. The Government has to take care of this problem.

I know, in many parts of Orissa, in Erode in the State of Tamil Nadu, in Pali of Gujarat such printing is going on heavily and it is being flushed into markets of Orissa and some parts of Chhattisgarh and Bihar, as I know. It is seriously affecting the handloom weavers. Why not the Government come out with an Act to prevent this? The hon. Finance Minister has given some security to the small scale industry. There are certain items which he does not allow in the big industry because he has to protect the small scale industry. Accordingly, my proposal is that let the Government come out with some law to give some protection to the handloom weavers.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned about upgradation of 500 IITs phase-wise. It is no doubt a welcome suggestion. But he has very conveniently forgotten about the IITs. He wants to upgrade the technical education in the country and the IITs are famous for their high quality and high standards of technical education. The NDA Government had decided to come out with six new IITs in different parts of the country. Those States where the erstwhile Government had decided these IITs are mostly backward States like Orissa. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister how much fund he proposes for opening up of these IITs, which as a nature of policy the erstwhile Government had already approved. I hope the Finance Minister will, during his speech, at least clarify on this point.

The earlier Government had decided to open six AIIMS type hospitals in six poor States of this country. In the last Interim Budget, a sum of Rs. 60 crore was provided. I think, in this Budget also for the Demands for Grants on Health around Rs. 500 crore or something he proposes to provide. But, I think, it is not sufficient and the opening up of six new AIIMS type hospitals is very important.

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

I am coming to my last point, which is the most vital portion of my speech, because it concerns my own State, Orissa. As Shri Yadav was saying, we do not oppose declaring of a special package for Bihar. I reiterate that none of us opposes the announcement of a special package for Bihar. We compliment the hon. Finance Minister for declaring a special package for the North-Eastern States too. I further compliment the hon. Finance Minister for declaring financial assistance for the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The day this Government came to power, it extended a sum of Rs. 500 crore to Maharashtra to deal with the drought situation. I compliment the hon. Finance Minister for that and we all support it. But my only submission to the hon. Finance Minister is that when he was the Finance Minister in the United Front Government my impression was that our hon. Finance Minister never takes a decision on political considerations. He always takes decisions on ground realities, but alas, I am bound to say that my impression on him has been shattered. Sir, you are considered to be one of the best Finance Minister of this country. I would not mince my words while saying this. But, Sir, I know your political compulsions when you are taking such steps. I know this is—I cannot say it is a *khichri* Government because the politics of coalition Government, the era of coalition Government has come—a coalition Government. I know about your political compulsions. I am confident that a Finance Minister of your calibre should not only be guided by political considerations but also should be guided by economic realities.

Sir, what are the economic realities in Orissa? The highest percentage of the people living below poverty line is in Orissa, that is 47 per cent. It is higher than Bihar. In Bihar, the percentage of people living below poverty line is 42.60 percent. The all-India average is 22.33 per cent. Do you know, Sir, the highest percentage of SCs and STs is in Orissa? If you take together the SC and ST population of Orissa, it is 42 per cent of the total population of Orissa. It is the highest in this State.

Sir, what is the literacy percentage in Orissa? In Orissa the literacy percentage is 63.61 per cent. The *per capita* income of Orissa is the lowest in the country, perhaps next to Bihar. It is a little bit above Bihar. What is the economic growth? You go through your *Economic Survey* of this year of 2003-04, which has been provided to us just a week ago. What is the national economic growth last year? It was 8.2 per cent. To what extent did the economy grow in Orissa during that period? It grew by 0.63 per cent. You just compare all-India economic growth of 8.2 per cent with 0.63 per cent economic growth

of Orissa during 2003-04. This is a pitiable condition. During the last five years we have been suffering from natural calamities like the super-cyclones, droughts and unprecedented floods. This is the condition of Orissa.

Sir, the Eleventh Finance Commission did not do justice to Orissa. We incurred a loss of Rs. 7503 crore due to the wrong assessment of the position by the Eleventh Finance Commission. There was nobody to hear us. We petitioned, the State Government petitioned, and all the political parties petitioned but nobody was there to hear.

Sir, we are rich in minerals like Bihar and Jharkhand. Now all the minerals of Bihar have been transferred to Jharkhand. How are we being treated? We are rich in coal. We produce 'E' and 'F' grade coal. For years together, Governments are not revising the coal royalty. Bihar is also suffering for that. Due to these wrong and delaying tactics, Sir, we incurred a loss of around Rs. 800 crore. When royalty for 'A' and 'B' grade coal is revised, for 'E' and 'F' grade coal, which we are producing, the revision is not made at that rate. So, the Eleventh Finance Commission, hon. Finance Minister, has very categorically recommended that if due to non-revision of royalty for coal and minerals any State is suffering, the Central Government will compensate for that loss. I would like to know from the Finance Minister as to how much amount he has provided in the Budget to compensate such losses incurred by the States like Bihar, Jharkhand and the poorest of the poor States like Orissa.

My next point is this. There are KBK districts. You know that starvation deaths, sale of children and migration of farmers regularly take place in Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa, in parts of Sambalpur district and in parts of *Adivasi*-dominated Sundargarh district. Who Shri P.V. Narshimha Rao was the Prime Minister, KBK Project was initiated. KBK means undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput districts. Sir, the revised long-term action plan for the KBK districts was to the tune of Rs. 5527.41 crore.

During the last three or four years, what was the amount that we got against KBK? It was only a meagre amount of Rs. 590 crore. So, I would urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that what has happened has happened. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You criticise. You find fault with what has happened in the past. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I am not trying to indulge in politics. I am completely trying to orient my discussion on the picture. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up your speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Therefore, Sir, at the outset of my speech. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The point is that you cannot brush it aside by saying, 'what has happened has happened'. At least express your concern with what has happened was wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: How long will this continue to happen?

In this Budget, you have very perfectly tried to follow the tradition of the erstwhile Government in neglecting Orissa. I would urge upon you to go away, forego that tradition of neglecting the poor State like Orissa, start a new tradition and make certain special provision. Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to declare Orissa as a special category State. We want that Orissa like other few States should be declared a special category State. Till such period, you please come out with a special package for Orissa as you have come out for Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and other States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the United Progressive Alliance Government has focused its attention of the common minimum programme while presenting the budget. In principle the Bahujan Samaj Party agrees with the Government as it has given priority to important subjects such as rural development, employment, education and health and has tried to make the budget pro-poor and pro-farmer and pro-human and the Bahujan Samaj Party welcomes it. The budget seems to be in the interest of the farmers, rural development, social security and common man. Lots of promises have been made and several provisions have been made, efforts have been made to convey that for the first time in 12-13 years a Government has thought about the farmers and paid attention to the woes of rural people but the provisions that have been made in the budget for the poor, the dalits and religious minorities are like a drop in the ocean.

Sir, if we discuss budget declarations then two things regarding agriculture appear to the eye. One is agricultural credit and second is irrigation and rural infrastructure. Emphasis has been laid on agricultural credit. The Government would give 30 per cent more credit and it would be doubled in the coming three years. Banks would be made accountable and the public sector would be set right. Budget speech shows that the Government feels that the farmer's biggest is getting credit. Perhaps the Prime Minister has got this impression after meeting the families of the farmers who have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Despite the fact that farmers have committed suicide reeling under the burden of credit, the Government has presented credit as a remedy. Hon. Finance Minister has not made it clear anywhere as to what he is doing for the farmers who are neck deep in credit so that they are not compelled to commit suicide after entrapping themselves again in the web of credit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, second issue relates to irrigation and rural infrastructure I believe that agricultural development relates directly to irrigation and if arrangements are made for the irrigation of unirrigated parts of India then our agricultural yield would get doubled. Hon. Minister has talked about negligence of agricultural sector and focused his attention on this. Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Shri M.S. Ahluwalia has also said that without improving growth rate in agricultural sector, unemployment and poverty cannot be removed. I also believe that poverty and unemployment of Bahujan Samaj can be removed if there is development in agriculture sector and this cannot be achieved without irrigation.

The Government has given assurance to give priority to ATBP while implementing Budget provisions and Rs. 2800 crore have been provided. I want to know whether the Government would be able to solve the problem of drought with such a meagre budget and whether the Government would be able to implement irrigation schemes. Alongwith this whether the provision of Rs. 8000 crore that has been made for rural infrastructure is the changed format of Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana. If not, whether Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana would be continued? I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this issue as effective implementation of these schemes would provide opportunities of work to crores of people of Bahujan Samaj Party and it would increase the growth rate of agricultural sector which would ultimately strengthen our economy. If the Government does not focus its budget on this then I would take it that the Government does not want to take any definite step for dalits, the poor and the farmers.

[Shri Brajesh Pathak]

Sir, more and more investment should be made in rural and agricultural sector. This investment would not only increase income of the farmers but also increase the purchasing capacity of the country which would result in development of the industry.

My second point relates to the declaration in which the Government has promised to formulate a national employment guarantee act and indicated it in the budget too. But again only words have been used cleverly and it has not been mentioned as to how much money would be needed to implement the scheme and whether budget provision has been made or not. As per an estimate, if the Government want to cover Rs. 3 crore families of unemployed persons under the scheme then around Rs. 30,000 crore would be needed. If the Government wants to cover expenditure on food for work, mid day meal, education for all campaign, potable water, basic health services under national employment guarantee scheme then under this only Rs. 10,000 crore have been provided which is very less.

I once again request the Government that if it wants to present a budget in favour of people then it should focus its attention on dalit workers, farmers and Bahujan Samaj. Only then the country would make progress.

Sir, I have been elected from Uttar Pradesh. I believe that the Government of our country cannot present a good budget unless it makes separate provisions including education sector for dalits, workers, farmers and backward classes of Uttar Pradesh.

In the end, I support the budget on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party and expect that provisions would be made for the exploited persons, dalits, youth and education sector in the budget. I conclude with these words.

[English]

14.20 hrs.

*SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur):
Thank you, Deputy Speaker Sir. Sir, it has been claimed that in this Budget a lot of emphasis has been given to the agriculture sector. But I would like to advise the Finance Minister that we should look into the root cause of this problem. Farmers constitute more than 60% of the population. Our economy is based on agriculture, especially that of Punjab. We must look into the root cause of the problem. Slowly, the water table has receded in Punjab. The existing tube wells have become useless.

A new tube well that pumps out water from greater depths costs at least one lakh rupees. About 9,32,000 tube wells are operated by electricity in Punjab and every day more and more tube wells are becoming useless. Farmers are committing suicide. The farmers of Punjab are reeling under a massive debt of Rs. 10,000 crore. I am not talking about the rest of India. I would like to go back a little. There was a time when India had to import wheat. I am talking about PL 480. People in India were dying due to shortage of food grain. It was during those times that the farmers of Punjab rose to the occasion and by the dint of their hard work, brought about the green revolution. And today, Punjab contributes more than 50% of wheat and rice produced in the country, to the central pool. But Mr. Finance Minister Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards this fact that injustice is being meted out to Punjab. Instead of being appreciated, we are being punished.

There is another important issue—that of SYL. I want to say something on this issue too because a lot of discussion has taken place on this issue here. While we in Punjab were busy growing food grains, our river water was given to others. Never in the history of world did this happen anywhere. In 1976, the PM unilaterally granted Haryana 50% of Punjab's share of river water. But this was blatant injustice meted out to us. In 1979, this was challenged in Supreme Court and the matter was still pending in the Supreme Court when in 1981, the then Punjab Chief Minister was pressurised and forced to withdraw his petition from Supreme Court.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a news item published on the front page of Indian Express dated 23rd July, 1981.

"The Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today flared up at Punjab Chief Minister Darbara Singh and asked him to resign immediately from Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee Presidentship. Mr. Darbara Singh handed over his resignation from the party post to her.

At 5.35 p.m., Mrs. Gandhi came out of her office room in the South Block quivering with anger and saying, 'I do not want to see anybody from Punjab. He should be asked to resign.'

So, the Punjab CM was pressurised to withdraw his petition from the Supreme Court and such an agreement was imposed on Punjab which was neither passed by the Assembly nor had the assent of the Governor.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the agreement of 1955 was also not a genuine agreement. An agreement was to be signed with Pakistan regarding the use of water of rivers of Punjab by India. A World Bank team was visiting India. And so, Rajasthan was also included in it to show to the World Bank that India needed much water. Sir, I want to quote:

"Kunwar Sain, former Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission feels that the Akali demand for the reopening of the river water issue is fully justified as the State was not given its due share.

Mr. Sain was the architect of the 1955 agreement reached between Punjab and Rajasthan on the utilisation of surplus water of Ravi and Bas rivers. He has drafted the agreement.

Mr. Sain was consulted by the Union Minister of State for Irrigation Mr. R.N. Mirdha on Wednesday on the issue. He told ENS that though he had a soft corner towards Rajasthan and Haryana, he felt that the Akali demand was justified. He said that the entire issue should now be referred to the Inter-State River Water Tribunal for a review. Even the 1955 agreement should be reopened, he said.

Mr. Sain said that the 1955 agreement was done in a hurry because of certain pressures. A World Bank team was to come for inspection of the areas. The project of the Rajasthan canal was also prepared in a hurry to overcome certain issues. Mr. Sain said, in the 1955 agreement, he had given a note stating, 'Realities about assessment of requirements may be different.' This was done because the decision had to be taken before the arrival of the World Bank team. Therefore, this agreement should be reopened."

Sir, Mr. Sain had drafted the 1955 agreement. He was sympathetic to the demands of Haryana and Rajasthan. Even he had seen some merit in the case put forward by Punjab.

Sir, some people of Haryana want to give this whole issue a different twist. The Act that has now been passed by the Punjab assembly clearly mentions that Haryana and Rajasthan will continue to get the same amount of water as they are getting now. Here, I heard a chorus of protest from some members that Punjab has stopped giving water to us. This is not true. The water that is being received by Haryana and Rajasthan today has been protected by that Act. As it is a State subject, the

Assembly has the right to pass any Act relating to it. So I want to clarify this point today.

I am not talking about any political party. I am an MP from Punjab. So I am presenting Punjab's case here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, this should not be made a very big issue. Sir, it was this very issue which resulted in turmoil in Punjab. In 1981, Punjab withdrew its petition from Supreme Court. And after that, the situation deteriorated in Punjab. And Punjab and the entire country had to undergo a lot of suffering due to this. Because when Punjab presented its case peacefully and it was rejected, then Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale declared that political people cannot get you any justice and that one can get justice only with the help of bullets. And he used this issue to fan militancy with the help of youth. And so, for 10 years there was turmoil in Punjab and India and this was one reason for it. So, we should stop Haryana from again raking up this issue. Haryana is our brother. We have sympathy for Haryana. We do not want to do injustice to anyone. If we have surplus water, we are ready to give water to our neighbours. But this is not the case.

Sir, all previous agreements on water sharing should be abrogated and the matter should be presented anew in the Supreme Court. We will have no problems then. We will welcome such a move. But, injustice will not be tolerated. On one hand, injustice has been meted out to us. On the other hand, we are being dubbed a sinner and guilty by others. Never before has this thing happened in the world.

Sir, diversification is the need of the hour. If the crop cycle of wheat and rice cultivation continues, the farmers in Punjab will be ruined and Punjab will become barren. Punjab Government had formed a Johal Committee. Dr. Johal is a renowned agricultural economist. He was also Vice Chancellor and was also in the Planning Commission. He had given a report. His recommendations have not yet been accepted by the Agriculture Ministry. As per the report of this Committee, to bail out the farmers from this cycle of wheat and rice cultivation, on an experimental basis, if the Central Government grants a sum of Rs. 12,000 crore then a sum of Rs. 3800 crore can be saved. This experiment can be done in an area of ten lakh hectares. Some concessions should be given to such farmers. In an area of ten lakh hectares, if the farmers grow wheat and rice, then the Government spends an amount of Rs. 9000 crore annually. This is the money spent on the storage, purchase, etc. of the

[Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa]

food grains. If you give Rs. 12,000 crore then the Government can save Rs. 3800 crore. This money is being spent by Food & Civil Supplies Ministry. So this is the way to come out of the cycle of wheat and rice. Otherwise, the condition of farmer today is pitiable and it will deteriorate further. He is neck-deep in debt. His debts should be waived off. At least, the interest on the debts should be written off. He is not in a position to return his debts.

Secondly, there is the issue of MSP. Whether it is our Government or some other Government, this is an important issue. If the wheat and rice crop cycle is changed and there is diversification towards pulses and oil seeds, then we should follow the report given by Johal Committee.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I want to say something regarding the industries in Punjab. Most of the industries in Punjab are in shambles. They are in ruins. Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Uttaranchal, they have been granted a special package. Sir, most of the industries are shutting down in Punjab and relocating in these neighbouring States. Our is also a border State. A package should be granted to Punjab too. Whether it is the present Government in the State or the earlier Prakash Singh Badal Government, we have seen that unless a package is announced for Punjab, industries will suffer. Our State is too far away from ports also. So a package for Punjab is a must. Kindly consider the suggestions put forth by me so that Punjab can be saved.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first our hon. Member Rajiv Ranjanji would speak, I shall speak after that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: OK.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the budget that has been presented for the year 2004-2005.

14.38 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

I want to begin with the introductory part of the hon. Finance Minister's speech. Hone. Minister has said that

after every year and at times before that India speaks in its collective voice. While preparing this part of the introductory the hon. Finance Minister would have been reminded of the history of the country's economy and financial status. It would have been honesty on the Finance Minister part to mention in his budget the economic condition of the country in 1998 when Congress and Congress supported Governments handed over power to the rule of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee led National Democratic Alliance and then the situation when NDA handed over the power to the present Government. The exchequer was empty in 1998, entire economy of the country was in shambles but in 2004 when you came to power, foreign exchange was 120 billion dollar, export was increasing continuously, inflation was in control, food grains were stored in such sufficient quantity that you could declare so many schemes with it and it shows that you have come to power with a strong economy which has been handed over to you by the Vajpayee led Government.

The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned this in para 8 of budget speech and accepted this. But in para 14 of the budget speech he has announced to cover two crore families in Antyodaya Ann Yojana by expanding it. All his announcements show that today sufficient food-grains are in the warehouses of the country. Mr. Chairman Sir, our's is a agro based country. Here 75 to 77 per cent farmers are agriculture based small and marginal farmers. I would like to state that, as long as the Government do not take suitable measures to improve the condition of farmers the economic condition of this country will not improve. I would like to tell about the condition of farmers. Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned the kisan credit card scheme in his budget speech. Presently under the kisan credit card scheme only those farmers get loan who are also eligible for getting loans from banks. All those farmers who fulfil the conditions for getting loans from bank are eligible to avail the facility of loan on kisan credit cards.

The percentage of small and marginal farmers in our country is above 70. Today, not a single small and marginal farmer could get loan through kisan credit card. Today, farmers are not getting loan. Their crop is not profitable for them therefore they are committing suicides whereas the Government are talking about improving the state of farmers and agriculture. I would like to say that, first of all the hon. Minister of Finance should have estimated how much loan is needed to improve the condition of farmers in the country then only on the basis of this estimate he should have made announcement regarding its provision in his budget

speech. Only then the condition of farmers in the country could improve.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Government talk about the interests of farmers. Today the production rate of agricultural product in the country varies from State to State. Production rate of paddy in Punjab is different from that of other States. Recently in a reply given for a unstarred question on 5.7.04 in this House it was stated that the production of paddy is 5265 kg per hectare in Punjab whereas in Rajasthan it is 1218 kg per hectare, in Madhya Pradesh it is 930 kg per hectare, in Himachal Pradesh 1543 kg per hectare and in Gujarat it is 1861 kg per hectare. How could the situation of farmers be improved without taking into consideration the production rate of various States. For this purpose, provision should be made to strengthen the research work in the field of agriculture in the interest of farmers. The subsidy which was mentioned in the budget speech of hon'ble Finance Minister is like a drop in the ocean. How it is going to help in such a big country. I would like to submit that this Government is not at all concerned about the interests of farmers. As long as the condition of farmers is not proved the economy of this country will also not improve.

I would like to discuss unemployment. Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned about unemployment in his budget speech. I have said that the 75 to 77 percent population of our country depends on agriculture. The main reason for the increase in unemployment is, that agricultural production is becoming unprofitable. People do not want to live in villages because after the hard work they are not getting their returns back. Therefore, people are running to cities in search of employment whereas there are no employment opportunities.

Hon'ble Finance Minister said that each person will be guaranteed to get employment for 100 days. National Council for Applied Economic Research has estimated that giving employment to one person per family for 100 days would need 68 thousand 468 crore rupees in five years. Where is the provision for this? Therefore, all the statements made by the hon. Minister have nothing to do with reality. They are mere announcements. These statements have no basis and are given only for the sake of making announcements.

I would like to talk about the special economic package. Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav have just

mentioned it. When the Hon'ble Finance Minister was giving his budget speech it gave an impression that a special economic package of Rs. 3225 crores was given to Bihar. My colleagues of some of the other States expressed their displeasure too. Whereas in reality they were under wrong impression with the announcement of this special package. Bihar has been cheated, injustice has been done with Bihar. On 17th December, 2003 the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee while giving reply to the calling attention motions had mentioned in this House that every year Bihar will be provided Rs. 1,000 crores. Now the hon'ble Finance Minister has said that Rs. 3225 crores will be given to Bihar. I had also asked the Minister of Finance that day but he did not give any reply. I had asked that whether this package of 3225 crore rupees is a part of the special package announced by the NDA Government headed by hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee or in addition to that. I had requested him to clarify this. But he did not do so. Later on, we came to know, when the Finance Secretary told the package of Rs. 3225 crores will be distributed into four States i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, North East, Bihar and another State. Even in north-east four States are included in this package. This is a cheating with Bihar. Bihar has been placed with other States. Which economic package has been given to Bihar? I would like hon'ble Finance Minister to justify the treatment given to Bihar while giving his reply tomorrow. Whatever was said by the Finance Secretary he should either support it or refute it. He should also explain whether the package of Rs. 3225 crores was announced for Bihar only. If it is for Bihar only then the announcement made by ex-Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is in addition to that or not.

Besides that I would also like to draw your attention towards another thing. Today Panchayati Raj System is working. It is the lowest rung of democratic institutions, and they have limited powers. Mr. Finance Minister you want to implement all your schemes at the level of Panchayati Raj System but the funds of these schemes hardly reach the lowest level. Today funds are provided through States from where they are diverted and not utilized. The need of the hour is that funds should be directly provided to Panchayats as per the recommendation of Planning Commission. Alongwith that arrangements should also be made to monitor the optimum utilization of funds at Panchayat level. Therefore, with these words I oppose this budget because this entire budget is anti farmers, anti people.

(English)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my appreciation for some of the decisions made by the United Progressive Alliance Government. The Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister is going to reflect that thrust areas of the Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government. In this Budget, the Finance Minister tried his best to address the problems of not only the farmers, but also the problems of various sections of the society, like the problem of unemployment, housing problem and the problems being faced by the agriculturists which are so acute. He tried to provide some sort of relief to all those are facing these problems.

The Minister expressed in his Budget Speech that the time was very short and, in a very short span of 30-40 days, he was not able to go into the details of various issues concerning our country. I do not want to deal with all the issues related to the manufacturing sector, service sector, and the taxation remedies which he has tried to provide in this Budget. He has categorically mentioned the thrust areas mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance Government.

Sir, I have got the copies of the Manifestos or the Common Minimum Programmes of the United Front Government as well as of the present United Progressive Alliance Government. Fortunately, the present Finance Minister was also the Finance Minister at that time, and he was one of the prime architects behind the formation of the Common Minimum Programme during our period. All these friends, including the DMK and the Left Parties, were also party to the Common Minimum Programme which we have drawn and accepted.

Today, the same combination is there. Of course, I am supporting them. From our party we are hardly three Members here. But in Karnataka, I fought very bitterly with the Congress.

There is no question of any hesitation on my part to spell out that I opposed them very bitterly. But to keep the communal forces distanced, I supported the Congress, and we formed a coalition Government. But my party manifesto is altogether different. Let me be very plain and frank that my party manifesto is different from the Congress manifesto as well as the Bhartiya Janata Party

manifesto. The Bhartiya Janata Party is heading one group and the Congress is heading another group. And, the country has given its mandate for the Congress-led alliance to rule this nation. There is no hesitation on my part to tell that. We must accept the mandate of the people.

In Karnataka, we have not been given the clear mandate to run the State. But it is a fractured verdict. There was no other option. So, we have extended our cooperation to the Congress to form the Government in Karnataka.

I have got the manifestos of all the parties here. This is the manifesto of the Congress. I have gone through it. The manifesto of the Communist Party (Marxist) is also here with me. The manifesto of the Communist Party of India is also here with me. I do not want to go in depth about the concern of the suffering masses, particularly, from the agricultural sector.

It is not so easy by spending about seven to eight hours to debate this very important sector, where more than 65 per cent to 70 per cent of the population depend on, particularly, agriculture. Since 1991, when I entered this House for the first time, I had made several speeches. At that time there was no restriction of time on me to express my views on the floor of the House. At that time, Shri Shivraj V. Patil was the Speaker of the House, and I was allotted to speak for more than one hour. The then Agriculture Minister, Dr. Balram Jakhar, who is the Governor of Madhya Pradesh now, requested the then Speaker to spare some time to me, even out of the Government's time. And, the then Speaker, allowed me to speak for more than one hour and 15 minutes, though I was the new entrant to Parliament. But today, I can understand that there are more than 30 parties in this august House. Every political party wants to express its concern. It is not the question of monopoly of any one political party. We are all concerned. That is why I wrote a letter to the hon. Speaker to allot more time, particularly, on agriculture while discussing the Demands for Grants on Agriculture.

Normally, Agriculture is neglected and various other Demands are taken up and discussed after the Standing Committees of the House submit their reports. So, I have already appealed to the hon. Speaker, the hon. Leader of the House Shri Pranab Mukherjee and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I cannot understand that the hon. Finance Minister cannot reply to the full satisfaction of the House. I do not want to blame him. I do not want

to say that he has no concern or his party has no concern.

When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had moved a No Confidence Motion in this very House, I supported that No Confidence Motion, particularly on the issue of the farmers. On the defence issue, when I rose, there was a big commotion inside the House. I do not want to go back to the past events.

15.00 hrs.

The then Leader of Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had shown her concern to the farming sector. Now, while finalising the Common Minimum Programme, that Party—whatever that Party has given as assurances in its manifesto—has tried to highlight those commitments. But I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister—it is not a question of making any criticism, but I would just like to draw his attention—to further consider my suggestions while he is going to come before this House either through Supplementary Budget or through the Budget of next year. I do not know whether he is going to come before this House with a Supplementary Budget for further allocation or not. But according to the Plan allocation that he has indicated, he has kept an amount of more than Rs. 10,000 crore at the hands of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission. Every State Government has to go to the Planning Commission. How much share would they get? It is now left to the sweet will of the Planning Commission.

The country is fortunate today that the Prime Minister is an economist who is really, I can say, the author and the authority of economic reforms. At that time, what was the financial condition of our country? I know a little bit and I do not want to go back to those issues.

Shri P. Chidambaram was the Commerce Minister at that time; the then Finance Secretary is the present Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. So, one is like *Brahma*, the other is like *Vishnu*, and the third is like *Shiva*—the creator, the protector and the destroyer. If the three of you were not going to solve the problem, the fate that has happened to the BJP Coalition would happen to you; I have no hesitation in saying this.

I know that mine is a Regional Party. I know my limitations. I do not want to make any unnecessary comments. In Karnataka, I tried to project the problems of the common man. You might have seen the Budget that has been presented by the Karnataka Government.

The Government is going to take the credit, even though the Finance Minister is from my Party. It is the collective wisdom. We have taken a decision to provide good grains to 75 lakh families at the rate of Rs. 3 per k.g. In 1996, Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister; the credit had gone to the UF Government. We had formulated new schemes; we had launched new schemes. We have decided to provide food grains.

What did Shrimati Sonia Gandhi say in her marathon speech which went on for nearly two hours? I was very attentively hearing that speech. She said that people have no purchasing power in Rajasthan. I do not want to quote all those things. They have no purchasing power. She narrated what the Government of India is going to release, foodgrains. But what is the plight of farmers etc. But today I am not satisfied.

Today we have taken a decision in Karnataka to provide food grains to the families below poverty line though the condition of finances of the State is not good. As you know, every State is living on borrowed finances; and Karnataka is no exception to that. But even then, we wanted to see that the farmers and the poor people get some benefit. You have to put your hands to the pockets of those people who have enjoyed benefits of economic reforms which were introduced in 1991.

When Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister, I was the Prime Minister; it is only by sheer coincidence or accident. I am not going to say that I had got the mandate of the people. After Shri Vajpayee lost the Government after 13 days, then the Secular Parties, in their wisdom, collectively took a decision and asked me to shoulder the responsibility. You had a major role to play then as the Finance Minister of the country. You might remember that we had Rs. 17,000 crore oil pool deficit. I do not want to spell out what had happened in the Cabinet when the matter came before it. But we never allowed it and we did not increase the kerosene price from Rs. 3. The suggestion made by the Department was a hundred per cent increase. I leave it at that stage. Even though the conditions at that time were so bad, we tried to implement the PDS so as to supply food grains to the people who are below the poverty line at Rs. 3.00 per kg of rice. What is the condition today? Rs. 6.90 per kg. of rice.

Our foreign exchange reserve is booming. It is more than approximately 130 billion dollars. What is the situation of the farmers? What remedy has the Government spelt out in its Budget based on the Common Minimum

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

Programme? The President has said that the debt problem of the farmers is very acute. I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister went to Andhra Pradesh to see the condition of the farmers. After the new Government took over, more than 172 farmers have committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh. It is not the question of Party affairs. I am not going to divide this issue on Party lines. The entire House should consider as to what should be the remedy. Rather than criticising, we should think as to how to solve the problem. I must honestly appeal to the House to apply its mind to it.

The hon. Minister has announced a number of programmes. I do not want to go into them in-depth but when the Demands for the Agriculture Ministry are going to be taken up, I am going to deal with the each subject.

The Common Minimum Programme of this Government has been completely analysed by one reputed weekly magazine. But what exactly is the difference between the earlier CMP of 1996 and that of now? There is no difference at all. I tried to read it twice. Hon. Finance Minister is also responsible, not only today but also on previous occasion, for this programme. This is a clear analysis. There is no area of difference, some people though are trying to bring out certain differences in certain areas. I do not want to argue it further now.

Sir, the previous Government has neglected the farmers. I am not going to blame Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who is also a Member of this House. I do not want to unnecessarily draw the former Prime Minister into this. I had submitted the one memorandum to the hon. former Prime Minister. I had also submitted the same memorandum to the Party in power at present. I do not want to narrate all the demands mentioned in this memorandum. I had given it the name as Farmers' *Magna Carta*. One of the issues I have tried to raise in this is that the farmers must get the lending to the tune of 25 per cent of the total lending fixed by the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi when she nationalised the banks. Shrimati Gandhi had fixed 18 per cent lending to one of the priority areas, that is agriculture. When I was the Prime Minister and he was the Finance Minister, we tried to review if we were able to achieve 18 per cent lending. No. Not even a single scheduled bank or the commercial bank or the RRB has been able to achieve that target. They have achieved only up to 9 per cent or 9.3 per cent or 10 per cent including lending to the plantation crop. We had given credit for the plantation crop. If you take all these into consideration, it has not reached more than 12 per cent to 13 per cent. If you take only agriculture, it has not crossed more than 5 per cent to 6 per cent.

Why are the farmers committing suicide in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh? I am not going to say that only the States are responsible. It is a concurrent subject. We are also responsible. This House is equally responsible. We have to take a collective responsibility. We cannot shift the blame to the States alone. The resources of the States are very meagre. I do not want to compare the States with a municipality or a corporation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Devegowdaji, you have already taken 20 minutes. How much more time do you need?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I do not want to encroach upon the time of other Members. I will sit down. I do not want to unnecessarily waste the time of the House. If you do not permit me, I will just conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time do you need?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will deal with lending to the farmers. I am not concerned about other issues. Why is even today the lending to the farmers so low? I requested the former Prime Minister in this regard. I virtually requested him with folded hands. Not only that, I went to the office of the Deputy Prime Minister, for the first time, in the last five years. I requested him that 'you are heading a Committee of the Cabinet. Please do not neglect the farmers. Otherwise, you are going to pay a heavy penalty'. I told him that. Advaniji is the Leader of the Opposition today. Let him deny that.

I would like to draw the attention of the Members of the report of the Standing Committee. I sent a letter to the present Prime Minister quoting the report of the Standing Committee which gave a unanimous recommendation. The Congress is also responsible. It is not the NDA alone. The Congress is equally responsible. The recommendation said:

"The Committee finds that to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers in the drought-hit areas, the Prime Minister announced the waiver of the interest on agriculture loans. However, the Committee feels that the announcement has not been properly implemented by the Reserve Bank of India and interest on loan for only first year has been waived which have given very little relief to the farmers. The Committee desire that the Government should look into the matter and provide the benefit of the waiver of the full interest on the loans to the affected farmers."

I wrote a letter to the present Prime Minister and to the present Finance Minister. Though I am not a party to the Common Minimum Programme, I am a party to the Government running in Karnataka. I cannot keep quiet.

Sir, it is not the question of criticising the decision of the Government. It is the question of the survival of the farmers in particular and that of the nation in general. I have not come here to do any politics. I have no political desire. Let me honestly say that. I must be very clear in this very august House.

Why are our farmers committing suicide? It is because they are not being given sufficient support. I would not like to quote all the letters that I have addressed to the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Prime Minister. I went to meet the hon. Prime Minister personally and represented to him about this problem. The hon. Finance Minister had made an announcement before the Budget was presented that the farmers would be given major benefits. What are those benefits? First, I would like to read from the Budget speech and then would come to this specific point. The hon. Finance Minister said, before the Budget was presented, that he was going to double the lending in the next three years. The same announcement was made by him in the year 1996. It said and I quote:

"The Common Minimum Programme lays emphasis on broad-based agricultural development and calls for doubling of the flow of credit to agriculture."

It was made in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister of the United Front Government of which I also was a part. If that has not been achieved, then we must accept our failure. but if that was achieved, then you must take the credit. If a nine per cent growth in agriculture sector has been achieved, then it is not me to whom alone this credit is due. This credit goes to the entire United Front Government and the present Finance Minister, who was also the then Finance Minister, also was responsible for having achieved that. I welcome it.

What are the concessions that have been given? There has been an exemption of 15 per cent on Excise Duty. Is that sufficient? The hon. Finance Minister represents a constituency of common man, villagers. I neither want to question his expertise and knowledge on economics, nor do I want to question Dr. Manmohan Singh's concern for the common man. What is the concession that the United Front gave? There were subsidies on tractors, farm tillers, drip irrigation equipment

and all such things. It was announced in the Budget and it was the speech of the then Finance Minister, who is now also the Finance Minister. It was presented by him. Here, is the proposed reduction in Excise Duty on Tractors going to help only the cause of the farmers? Yes, to some extent only, to those farmers who are capable enough to purchase the tractors. Now, in the present circumstances, could the farmers do so? I would like to ask this question.

Sir, in the State of Karnataka, a separate manifesto was given. Ours is a regional Party. I am in no capacity and have no powers. I know the limitations of a regional Party. Can I dictate the Reserve Bank of India? Can I dictate the NABARD? Though there has been financial mismanagement, yet I have given an assurance to the people of Karnataka that I would waive the interest and the penal interest which is equivalent to the principal amount. Here, I would like to give a suggestion and the Government should consider this. If they do so, then people will remember Sonia Gandhi. People will remember Dr. Manmohan Singh. People will remember Mr. Chidambaram. People will remember the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission who is also an Advisor to bring in the economic reforms. Please see the condition of the farmers! A farmer takes a loan of Rs. 1,63,118. What is the amount he has deposited? It is Rs. 1,88,235. The amount of Rs. 1,88,235 is the total interest and he has deposited Rs. 1,64,119. After putting together the interest and the penal interest, the balance comes to Rs. 24,045. And his property has been attached for Rs. 1,87,163. That means the amount which a farmers has deposited by way of instalments is more than his principal amount. His property has been attached and auctioned. Where are we? What are we doing? Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, we are all having collective responsibility. It is not the question of Mr. Devegowda. It is not the question of Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar and it is not the question of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi. It is the question of the poor farmers. It is not the question of Mr. Vajpayee.

I would like to read the direction of the Reserve Bank. I will read out the prudential norms. What are the prudential norms? You have said that in your Budget speech. I do not want to read it and consume the time of the House. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will conclude. Do not worry about it. The farmers will take care of themselves. This House cannot solve the problem of the farmers unless we all collectively apply our minds and unless, irrespective of parties, we all sit together and try to find out the resources. Resources is one of the major issues which I can understand. But resources is not a problem.

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

As regards the people who have got the money, when I suggested to your goodself to consider the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme, you hesitated and asked the Left Parties. You told me that you tried to convince the Left Parties' friends who are supporting from outside. What is the net revenue you yielded? Is it more than Rs. 10,000 crore? And is the black money which is being converted into white money Rs. 33,000 and odd crores? I was not in office. But that thing demitted the office.

I would just read out the Reserve Bank guidelines. Do not try to be carried away by the Reserve Bank guidelines itself. You have been given the criteria, the public statement, Mr. Chidambaram's formula of 30 per cent credit hike. It is said "Jai Kisan makes a comeback". What is that? "Loans for farmers to pay off moneylenders, from the clutches of the moneylenders to the clutches of the banks." Are these private moneylenders going to leave the farmers who are taking more than five per cent interest per month? It may be five per cent to ten per cent. With muscle power, they going to harass the farmers. In Andhra Pradesh, why have so many farmers committed suicide? Mr. Chidambaram has made it clear that the measures will not impose any added burden on the Government. Then what is your responsibility? Mr. Chidambaram has made it clear that the measures will not impose any added burden on the Government. Is it so? No. We asked Mr. Vajpayee to waive the full interest for one year for all those farmers who are suffering due to severe drought. Madam Sonia Gandhi has made a bitter attack on it. I have got her speech here. I heard her very carefully. One year's full interest and the penal interest amounted to Rs. 6,880 crore at that time. No.

They have taken a decision. What is that decision? The Reserve Bank of India representatives, the representatives of RRBs and the Finance Ministry collectively applied their mind and took a decision. What is that decision? I will just read it out:

"As you are aware, a meeting was convened by the GOI, the Ministry of Finance with the Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and other representatives of banking industry. During the course of the meeting a decision was taken to peg the ultimate lending rate on crop loans up to Rs. 50,000 at nine per cent interest."

In Karnataka, I told my friends that it is the collective responsibility of Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) to fulfill the promise that we have made to the people. We had made a promise to give loans at six per cent rate of interest. We have announced it. We know our

limitations. We have to reimburse that money. The Reserve Bank is not going to agree to that and NABARD is not going to agree to that. Only we are going to reimburse that. In 1994, when Shri Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, I became the Chief Minister. I declared that I am going to waive the entire penal interest. When I came before the Government of India, Shri Manmohan Singh did not agree to it; the then Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao did not agree to it. I took a decision to reimburse the entire money from the State resources. It is not at the mercy of anybody. I collected and raised the resources from various sources.

With Rs. 50,000, can a farmer purchase a tractor? This was the reward given by the NDA Government. Can he dig a well with Rs. 50,000 at nine per cent interest rate? You can to purchase a car at Rs. 30 lakh, Rs. 40 lakh or Rs. 50 lakh at six per cent interest rate. What sin my farmers have committed? They had bailed out this country's honour. We were going to the western countries with a begging bowl. They fed the starving mouths of this nation. Today you are giving them only up to Rs. 50,000 at nine per cent rate of interest. What is the interest rate today? My Communist friends understand that. We are not here to share power, to become Ministers and have some privileges. Not, it is not the aim. Everyday the farmers are committing suicide. My friend, Shri Virendra Kumar is sitting here. I know the plight of the farmers. Two days back, in my constituency the farmers had committed suicide. In my home district, they have committed suicide. I cannot see the plight of the farmers. It is a shame that we have to see the farmers in this plight after fifty years of Republic. When I first fought the election in 1962, the condition of the farmers was very good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devegowda, kindly cooperate and conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I will take the issue to the BAC. Let the BAC fix the priority for the demands of agriculture sector. There may be some other major issues which may stop the proceedings of the House. I do not know. I do not want to blame anybody. The situation is like that. Any kind of situation may crop up.

Let an assurance be given that in the next meeting of BAC, hon. Speaker, Leader of the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, would give first priority to the agriculture sector. Let us collectively discuss it and find resources. I know that resources is not an issue in this country. I know how people are escaping from the

tax net. Now, by this increased tax exemption limit, we have excluded so many people from the tax net. Our Communist friends stated the figure. I do not have the figures at my disposal now. I know how the assets are being built up. Let us discuss this issue. I will come to your doors. I would give some pronouncements. I have no hesitation in meeting my old colleagues. Today, this type of pretension is not at all going to help if the farmers are going to be bailed out.

I am going to make one or two last points. I am going to raise the other issues at the time of the discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Agriculture Ministry. I would do this if the House permits me to participate in it. We are only three Members from our Party. I am not in the Business Advisory Committee. If the BAC allots time for the discussion on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Agriculture Ministry, then we can have a threadbare discussion. That is a different matter. Let me share my feelings now if the House agrees. I will make only the last two or three points.

I now come to agro-business. Mr. Finance Minister, what have your good self said? You have said that if they earn profit, hundred per cent tax exemption would be there for five years. When are they going to earn profit? I have seen the experts' opinion. I have taken the views of people who are doing agro business. They say that in agro-business, within five years, they cannot earn any profit. What are the incentives given to them? Diversification of crops is not a new thing. In horticulture, from the position of 15 million tonnes, we have gone up to 150 million tonnes. So, diversification is not a new thing. In Punjab, people are throwing tomatoes and other things in the streets. In Karnataka, onions and green chillies are thrown like that. What is the fate of the farmers who have taken diversification for horticulture crops. They are dying in Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, etc. Shri Chidambaram, I may tell you very frankly about the fate of the coffee growers. What is the fate of the coffee growers? I do not want to mention each and every crop and the crop grower. There are coconut growers, rubber growers arracanut growers etc. I do not want to go into the implications of the WTO Agreement at this juncture. There is no time. I can understand that.

Now, let me come to the other point. Let every Member in the House speak. Let us sit and discuss the issue. It is not a question of fixing two or three hours. Do not fix any time especially for agriculture. It is a vast issue. We must find a solution. Otherwise, it is very difficult. Blaming this Government or that Government, or

blaming myself for having cooperated with the Congress is of no use. I have taken the decision. If at all I can mention your name, I would like to tell you that the United Front Government achieved 9.6 per cent growth in 1996-97. The GDP growth was seven per cent. I only read that portion to you. You applauded the farmers. It is not I who applauded them but it is Shri Chidambaram who applauded the farmers. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Devegowda, please conclude now because other hon. Members are to speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will conclude. I will take only one minute because what he deserves, I must say. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Please allow him to speak. His speech is a most practical one. He is making an eye-opening speech. We are learning a lot of things from our ex-Prime Minister. He is telling about the features of our country. How are the farmers treated by all the politicians? His speech is very practical. We want to learn from his speech. Let him continue without any time bar. *...(Interruptions)* We are learning a lot more from him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I will conclude. *...(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Let us have the discussion on the Budget today and tomorrow also. Let us not finish it today. We have got a lot of Members to speak on this. If it is accepted, we can have it tomorrow also. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Speaker will decide about it. Shri Devegowda, please be brief. I am requesting you to conclude now.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I will take only two minutes. I come to the point that I was mentioning. I will get some other opportunity. He said and I quote:

"The outstanding feature of the economy is that the GDP has been growing during the last three years at an average rate of 7 per cent. I salute the farmers."

The hon. Minister stated this in his Budget Speech in February, 1997. Mr. Minister, are you going to salute the farmers today? Tell me what you honestly feel about the conditions of the farmers today.

[Shri H.D. Devegowda]

He has tried his best, but he has failed. What is the lending rate for a loan of Rs. 50,000? It is nine per cent. ...*(Interruptions)* We, Members of Parliament belonging to both sides of this House, have made mistakes. We are all responsible for the plight of farmers in this country. That is why I am not going to politicise this matter. We should all sit together and apply our mind collectively to find out ways as to how best we can bail out the farmers. There is no question of involving politics here.

Sir, you have asked me to conclude. I will conclude with the hope that the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture will get top priority while we discuss Demands for Grants in this House. The Finance Minister has quoted from Thirukkural in his Budget speech. I am very happy for that. I would like to conclude my speech with a quotation from the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. I quote:

"Remember that dark brown starved man bending under a scorching sun, scratching a little plot of land to eke out a living. Anything you do, do for his benefit."

SHRI P. KARUNARAKAN (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate many of the programmes proposed by our hon. Finance Minister in his Budget. I support the Budget because many of the issues of the common people are addressed in this Budget. But we have some reservations on some issues to which I will come a little later.

Sir, agriculture is a very important sector in our country. Agriculture and infrastructure have got importance in this year's Budget. Drinking water has become the most important problem in our country these days. I think, after two or three decades, if a World War takes place, it may not be on the question of oil, but it will be on the question of water. So, the importance given to drinking water in this Budget has to be appreciated.

The emphasis given to primary and secondary education and imposition of two per cent cess is, of course, a positive step. But at the same time, I think, the allocation made for education is not sufficient to meet the demands. As per the CMP, the allocation has to be six per cent of the GDP, but the actual allocation is only 3.45 per cent and that is not sufficient.

Sir, the assurance given for 100 days of employment to a member of each poor family is a remarkable step taken by our Finance Minister, but I think the resource mobilisation is not sufficient for this purpose.

I am really glad to see that there is no Ministry of Disinvestment in this Government. Instead of that, we see an Investment Commission. Of course, this suggestion of the Finance Minister to set up an Investment Commission is welcome, but this Commission has to function properly.

Sir, special emphasis has been given to backward States in the Budget and also a special fund has been created for helping the backward States. Sharing of Central resources by States has become an important issue now-a-days. Of course, our Finance Minister has announced a reduction in the interest rate on lending to the States, but, I think, most of the States are really facing financial crisis now. It is not because of their reasons. I think, the Fifth Pay Commission Reward is one of the reasons and the new economic policies that the Centre was following is also one of the reasons.

Sir, I think, the Centre borrows from other agencies at the rate of two per cent to three per cent, subject to correction, and at the same time the Centre gives it at 10 per cent or 12 per cent.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if the hon. Member gives me money at the rate of two per cent or three per cent, I will take it.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Now, it is nine per cent, of course, it is a perspective step. At the same time the States have to be given more importance because healthy States are needed for a federal set up, for the healthy Centre also. So also, the public sector undertakings as well as the private sectors undertakings and the cooperative sector are the most important financial sectors that we have to concentrate on. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister that investments in the domestic market and also in the foreign market are to be done in a proper manner. I have no objection to that. There are a number of issues on which we can congratulate our Finance Minister because many of them are aimed at uplifting the poor.

At the same time, I would like to give some more suggestions and I would also like to project the reservation that we have with regard to these. When we come to the agriculture sector, I think, the allocation is not sufficient and at the same time when we think about agriculture, the land legislation is a very important thing as far as India is concerned. Without land legislation, it is not possible to have a prospective growth in the agriculture sector. With this land legislation, we cannot forget our agricultural workers. As stated by some hon. Members, we should ensure minimum wages for our agricultural

workers and we should also have a welfare fund for the agricultural workers.

This august House is witness to the alarming scenes with regard to agricultural issues and suicides committed by farmers. I think, after 1998, about 7,000 farmers and workers have committed suicide. What we need is not the numerical figures as go to the Press and a sympathetic reaction, but what we demand is a concrete and time bound programme, a packaged scheme to give assistance and also relief to the common farmers. As stated by our former Prime Minister, when the farmers take the loan, they are unable to repay the loan as well as the instalments and, of course, they are forced, in many of the States, not to live but to die. That is the situation in the agriculture sector. So, the allocation to the agriculture sector should be enhanced. We not only need a prospective view but what we need is a short-term view to at least give assistance to the farmers and the agricultural workers. That is the main issue on which this House has to be enlightened.

Coming to the industrial sector, of course, we find that they have allotted about Rs. 15,000 crore for public sector for assistance, but what we see now in India hundreds of units are becoming sick. That is seen in the public sector as well as in the small-scale sector. But I do not think that is because of the fault of the workers. It is because of the new economic policies that we have adopted previously. Sometimes, it is also because of the mismanagement. I have not doubt that the hon. Finance Minister will be cheered and greeted by the thousands of workers who are now suffering because we have to take a revival package with regard to the sick industries. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister has earmarked some crores of rupees for that.

As far as small-scale industries are concerned, I think, around 82 or 83 items are taken away. I do not know whether it will really have an impact. But of course, it is a welcome step in the small-scale sector that the hon. Finance Minister has raised the sum from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. In the small-scale industries also, there are sick units to which we have to give assistance. In these sectors, really the poor people, the SCs, the STs and the women are working. So, we should give this revival package to the public sector as well as to the small-scale sector.

Sir, now I come to the traditional industries. I really congratulate you for announcing Rs. 100 crore for these traditional sectors. By giving excise duty exemption,

especially the handloom workers and the power-loom workers are saved. But, at the same time, we know that in Kerala alone lakhs of people are working in these traditional sectors. When we talk on all-India basis, it comes to lakhs and lakhs. So, the Finance Minister may enhance the amount of Rs. 100 crore. What are have seen in Kerala is that the workers are getting very low wages in this traditional sector. Most of the workers are women workers. You know that in handloom industry, of course, the exemption of excise duty is a positive step but what the Government of Kerala has asked is an incentive to the handloom industry as well as the reintroduction of the rebate that has been referred to in the House earlier.

Now, I come to the coir industry. Coir and coconut are the symbol of Kerala. As far as Kerala is concerned, 90 per cent of the workers are women. Coir can be saved only when you treat coir in the same way as jute is treated in Kolkata. Coir is also a biodegradable natural fibre. So, it is only by accepting this fact that this extra market assistance can be extended to coir and then this industry can be saved. It means that lakhs of people can be saved.

While coming to cashew, I think, nothing is mentioned in this Budget speech. We are exporting cashew worth Rs. 2,000 crore out of which 70 per cent of cashew is being exported from Kerala. Some protective measure has to be taken especially for cashew plantation.

Sir, 98 per cent of the *bidi* workers are women. On the one hand, the Kerala High Court has prohibited smoking of *bidi* in public places, on the other hand, we are importing *bidi*. So, excise duty is also a problem here. Excise duty on *bidi* is not imposed on percentage basis. For production of every thousand bidies, they have to give Rs. 9, which means they have to give duty plus welfare fund plus Re. 1 for the Gujarat calamity. These innocent *bidi* workers in Kerala are not at all responsible for this calamity. So, at least you can reduce this one rupee, and this *bidi* Act can be implemented nationally.

Sir, when we think about khadi, we think about it with reference to the freedom struggle. At the same time, workers in the khadi industry are getting very low wages. Hundred per cent workers in khadi are women. I think here we can take the example of our Railway Minister because he has announced some package, some scheme for village and khadi industries. If you give direction to the States and the public sector undertakings that khadi can be used in public undertakings, for example in

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

hospitals for bandage and for other materials, of course, you can, the Government itself can, save the khadi industry, and many of these village and cottage industries.

Sir, we think about our fisheries only when we go to the dining table. We get good meals full of protein from the fisheries. It is a sector where get a very large number of employment opportunities and also foreign exchange earnings. At the same time, fishermen not only in Kerala but, I think, in India as a whole, are facing very difficult situation. We have a very long sea coast, and there also the erosion takes place. We have to spend crores and crores of rupees there every year. So, a national welfare scheme for fishermen is a must. I think that can be thought of by this Government.

Also, the price of kerosene is very high. The Kerala Government has requested the Central Government to permit them to import it, otherwise they cannot survive.

The previous NDA Government has given permission for deep-sea fishing by the foreigners. That also has to be banned. Otherwise, the ordinary fishermen cannot get employment.

With regard to the industrial sector, I mentioned something earlier. I really congratulate the Government for declaring the Vellarpadam terminal in Cochin and also for the stand taken by the Government but only a sum of Rs. 10 crore has been earmarked for this. So, some more amount is needed. The LNG terminal, I think, is promised by our hon. Prime Minister. I would like the Government to take steps in this regard.

Then, I come to the tax side. As has been stated by some other hon. Members, the tax on the interest of NRIs should be given up because we are not able to give employment to all. Many people go abroad, work and come back. They really assist us. We know that in Kerala, many of the people go to the Gulf countries. So, we have to consider this point. I think, the Government of Kerala has given some representations in this regard.

The bank deposit-credit ratio in Kerala has been criticised by the Reserve Bank of India itself. It is very poor. The Reserve Bank has made it clear that it should rise to 60 per cent and the intervention of the Finance Minister is essential on this.

Sir, the interest on EPF is now going to be eight per cent only and I suggest that it has to be raised to 9.5 per cent.

Another suggestion is to take away the Savings Accounts from the post offices to the banks. The proposal is there. I think, that will also. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: The other issue is the question of tea. Not only in Kerala but also in the entire country, tea industry is in crisis. In Kerala, 20,000 people in Idukki district alone are unemployed due to recession in tea industry. We are praised by our Prime Minister, by our Finance Minister and by all for the literacy, education and health condition. On the one side, Kerala is praised but on the other side, we are neglected. There are thousands of educated youth, engineering youth, MBBS and persons who have acquired technical education but we are not awarded IIT. It is the longstanding demand of the Kerala Government. I request our Finance Minister to consider this. Also you think about IMS, where medical colleges are there. One of the best RECs is working in Kerala. I would like to point out that issue also at this time.

Sir, our former Prime Minister, respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had visited Kerala for getting Ayurvedic treatment. We were proud of giving him an excellent treatment. He was fully satisfied with it. At the time of his departure, he announced the Kumaragam project for Rs. 4,000 crore. It is very sad to say that no money was released. When he came to inaugurate the Gym, he also announced Rs. 10 crore but we have not got anything. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, promises are many. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Ayurvedic treatment will take some time to cure. It is getting cured. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, promises are many. Of course, many hon. Members have stated that the allocation under one head or the other is high or low. As far as I am concerned, whether we are able to implement the scheme within a time frame is important. That is the main point. Only seven months are left now for this financial year to end. A sum of Rs. 100 crore or Rs. 17 thousand crore is to be given. There would be an exercise by the Planning Commission also.

Then, no doubt it will take one or two months. Anyway, after passing the Budget, of course, it will go in the hands of the officers. So, on the implementation side,

the criterion is whether the projects can be implemented or not with the desire and will of the officers. So, here we should make it clear that the political leadership should have the say to implement the projects in time.
...(Interruptions)

I am coming to the end of my speech. This is the first speech that I am making in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two more Members also from your Party to speak. Then there will be no time for them.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: With regard to FDI, I fully disagree with it. Our friends have already made it clear. Sir, I am concluding by quoting a famous phrase or the words of Shakespeare. "To be or not to be" is the question. To be served with cakes and not to be served with kicks. The people of India in the last elections preferred to be served with cakes and not to be with kicks because the people of India have been experiencing these kicks for the last six years. So, I would like both our Prime Minister and the hon. Minister to go to the depth of the mandate that the people have given, and try their maximum to fulfil the wishes and the desires of the people. That is all that I wanted to say.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Sir, I rise to express my views on the Budget presented by Shri Chidambaram for the year 2004-05. At the outset, I cannot help expressing my surprise and sadness at the manner in which Shri Chidambaram has tarnished his credibility as a good, balanced finance man in presenting this Budget.

In 1997, he presented his first Budget and it was hailed as a dream Budget. This time around, Mr. Chidambaram, you have also presented a Budget with dreams but too much of an excess dose of dreams, knowing very well that all these are mirages. Mr. Chidambaram, you have utilised your ability, your expertise as a 'Financial Trapeze Artist' to hypnotise people into fictitious dreams. Mr. Chidambaram, you have done it. You have landed some people in some dreamland for a short while, but what happens when people start waking up and start getting de-hypnotised? Mr. Chidambaram, all these mirages which you have pandered in your Budget will haunt you, not in too distant a future, but in the very near future. And, I think, this process has already started.

But you have also very bravely said, "*Main Hoon Naa.*"

15.58 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

I think it has been said unwisely. Mr. Chidambaram, you should know much better than I know that management of the Budget is no Indian movie where the Hero can take double or triple somersaults, bashing up half a dozen tough looking guys and rescue the heroine.

In this Budget, you have made many promises which you are unlikely to fulfil. Then, I think, as I said, these would haunt you. But I personally think I should not blame you too much. For, as Mr. Akbar, an eminent journalist has said, and I quote: "An accidental Government can only present an incidental Budget."

Mr. Chidambaram, to make it worse for you, you are on so many crutches, and one of them is all the time baying at you to take not his proverbial pound of flesh, but tons of flesh. It will not enable you or it would not allow you to move around the way we expected you to have moved around in this Budget.

In this Budget, Mr. Chairman, Sir, one the Finance Minister has indulged in hijacking some good programmes of the NDA Government without even having the decency to say, 'with your permission', leave alone appreciating these. Two, there is pitiable distortion of facts. About Bihar, many people have spoken and what you have given in your Budget something which, to say the least, is the distortion of facts.

16.00 hrs.

Thirdly, there is an amazing use of semantics to confuse and mislead people. He has talked about irrigation as if all irrigation-related problems were going to be solved but has allocated only Rs. 829 crore. He has talked a lot about the water problem and also about water bodies to be revived. It is an excellent programme. I think, everybody would look forward to it but he is taking up only five districts. He is repeatedly saying that it is a pilot project. I wish he had not made it a pilot project but made it a proper project and invested some reasonable amount of money. In my part of the country also there are many water bodies which ought to be revived. He has started a good programme but I think he is only indulging in tokenism.

He has talked about providing a hundred days of employment to one member in each family but very little

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

allocation has been given. There has been no increase made in the AIDS programme also. I would talk about all this matter later.

Fourthly, he has also indulged in some sort of a jugglery when talking about farmers. Mr. Deve Gowda has given a long lecture, a long talk on that. I think, the farm sector has been neglected but he has tried to create an image as if he has done everything he can to the farm sector and as if he has done a great deal for the benefit of the farmers. I think, it is a false impression that he has created. My colleague, Prof. V.K. Malhotra has touched upon these aspects in great detail and because of paucity of time I am not going into these details.

As a result of the shortage of time and because many of my party colleagues want to speak, I would speak only on the salient points without going into the details though there is a lot to speak about. First, I would talk about road transport, which I had the fortune to deal with in the previous Government. I am very sad, sorry, and in fact amazed, Mr. Chidambaram, that you have made no mention of the National Highway Development Project in your speech. It is one of the most visible and most successful projects. I think, as a nation, we could be proud of this project and I expected you to say something about it. You have been talking about it in your interviews to newspapers but I do not know why you missed it out in our Budget Speech. Somehow, Mr. Chidambaram, knowing whatever little I know of you as a finance man, I am unable to convince myself that it is because of spite or political *khundak*. I do not know whether you understand the word *khundak*. It means a state of helpless desire, feeling of revenge or rage. I do not know for what reason you did not mention about it. It is a good achievement of the NDA which the nation is proud of. You should have said something about it, built upon it, and given some new input on that so that we can look forward to further developments in this programme. At the same time, I am also unable to believe that this is an oversight. So, we would like to know why you have ignored this aspect, Mr. Finance Minister.

You may say that you have not reduced the allocation. I have seen the figures and found that the same amount has been given this year as was given in the previous year but you should know Mr. Finance Minister, that but this year a number of projects on the Golden Quadrilateral are going to be completed and money would be required for that. This year, we are also going to start a large number of projects in the North-

South and the East-West corridors. For this again money would be required. It is not only that we need additional allocations but it would have been better if you had thought about an opportunity to mention about this programme. I do not know what is your thinking. I do hope that you do not "kill" this gift of the NDA Government to the people of India.

We had also started a programme called the Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana. *...(Interruptions)* Do you want me to give the abbreviated form? It is PMBJP.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why did you call it that way? *...(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: What should it be called?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Why did you call it a 'Pariyojana'? *...(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Leave that aside. Is that a reason why you are going to kill?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It sounds very clever but why? *...(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: If you are saying, 'clever', you should not ask why. The answer is obvious. *...(Interruptions)* Whatever it is, at your level, should you take that, as I said, as a *khundak* and totally ignore it? *...(Interruptions)*

The aim was to connect 16 State capitals, which were not connected, by four-lane roads. This included the North-East where there is a great demand. It was also to connect high-density corridors of NH which needed four laning. It is a good programme but again you have made no mention about this. I do not know what you are going to do and where would the money becoming for this year. A lot of money is required for this project.

Thirdly, Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to have your views on a thing called "User Charge" which is levied on 4-6 Lane Highways. During the recent Lok Sabha elections one of your eminent economists, for whom I have tremendous respect, went on and said that "well, the NDA Government has given you toll highways and they are harassing you by charging at the tolls and we in the Congress, all these years, have given you 'Free Ways'." I want to know what is your policy on this. In the Economic Survey this aspect has been dealt with.

Now, I would like to just read one paragraph from the Economic Survey. Are you going to make everything "Free Ways" as per your election propaganda or do you realise the necessity of "User Charge"? I quote from page no. 186:

"The outlook for further growth in user charges in the form of tolls is bright, given the steady completion of NHDP, and the nation-wide acceptance of the principle of tolling as the necessary price of high quality roads. These developments mark an important new phase in Indian infrastructure. The road sector demonstrates that significant revenues can be obtained through user charges to improve infrastructure and benefit the consumer."

So, Mr. Finance Minister, I would like to know whether what was said before the elections merely an election gimmick or an election stunt or do you seriously believe that the nation should be given totally 'Five Ways' and not 'Tool Ways'.

Now, I come to my fourth point. You have introduced service tax regime in the transport sector. It is fine. But there is a problem in that. At the moment, it is understood that the service tax will be collected and deposited by the transport sector, by the booking agents. I had been dealing with these people. The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) people came to me with a request that this issue was discussed in 1997 when you were the hon. Minister of Finance and the then Secretary of Revenue had assured them after detailed discussions that they were willing to find an alternative mode of collection of toll charges. It is because they are in unorganised sector and that there will be a considerable amount of problem.

Now, I want to quote from the letter dated 9h April, 1997 written by the Secretary of Revenue:

"While working out the modalities for the collection of service tax rendered for the transport of goods by road, Government is willing to change mode of collection in such a manner that the tax would not be collected from road transport operators".

So, my request is that you could kindly have a look at it. If another alternative method could be found out, it will be very convenient to everybody.

I now come to Defence forces. I hope that a full debate would take place while we discuss the Defence

Budget. Here, I want only one clarification from you. There was a thing called "Three-year Non-lapsable rolling fund." It appears that it has been done away with. You have also stated in your speech, I quote, "Government is determined to eliminate all delays in modernising of Defence forces." You have increased funds from Rs. 20,953 crore to Rs. 33,493 crore for Capital expenditure. But how is this going to be spent in a year? We all have the experience. You also know that at the end of the year it does not get spent and gets surrendered. Is it your plan to do away with that roll-on-plan so that actually *de facto* you do not have to spend money? You only announce and you increase the Budget of Defence by another Rs. 20,000 crore. But you know that they will not be able to spend and neither you will have the commitment of spending this money. Is that the logic? So, we would like to know how exactly are you going to do this.

The next issue is about my own State of Uttaranchal. I am saying it with a very heavy heart. Some other hon. Members from the concerned States have also probably met you. You have done away with the facility of tax concession which was provided to Jammu and Kashmir, North-East, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh for industrialisation of these States. This was a facility given by the NDA Government last year in 2003 for a period of ten years. People would be allowed to establish industries, and once the production starts, they will be given certain tax concessions. Now, you have reduced it up to 31st March, 2007. It is a very unfair thing because today onwards nobody is going to invest. There is a gestation period for establishing industries. This tax exemption is after the production starts. Now, if anybody wants to start units, he cannot have the production till 2007.

Therefore, there will be no tax concession, and nobody will set new industries. Therefore, this is a very cruel act. I would say that at least for Uttaranchal, which is a new State, which is a newly born State, you reconsider it. We are a State where there is gross inadequacy of infrastructure including roads and other things. Out of 13 districts, ten are zero or near zero industrial districts. How do you expect these to be industrialised? I can understand that you kept this concession for J&K and North-East region. It is very fine. But at least to a new-born State, newly created State with zero industrial growth, some concession should have been given. But you have brushed all of them aside in one stroke. I very sincerely request you to kindly reconsider this for Uttaranchal.

[Major Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri]

Uttaranchal is a newly-created State. Of course, my hon. friend from Akali Dal was also mentioning earlier that the industries are shifting. You please carry out a survey as to how many have actually been shifted. There is immense paucity of various infrastructural facilities. Unless you do give some facilities, nobody is willing to go to a State like Uttaranchal for industrialisation. The terrain there is difficult; the facilities are not there and the additional help that is required is also not being given. Therefore, I think that with this one cruel act, Mr. Chidambaram, you have eliminated the possibility of Uttaranchal becoming an industrialised State. I think it is a cruel act and I request you to kindly re-examine it.

About Hindustan Antibiotics also, you stated that you want to revive it. It is very good. I would also request you to examine the case of IDPL, Rishikesh. It had been examined earlier on. The total package of complete revival of the entire IDPL was probably not viable; but it is felt that IDPL Rishikesh, by itself, could be revived and it could be made possible. Therefore, I would like you to kindly examine this aspect.

I now come to a few miscellaneous points. Due to shortage of time, I am only mentioning the main items. Firstly, I will speak about AIIMS. The previous Government had, under the Pradhan Mantri Swastha Suraksha Yojana, attempted to give top-class medical facilities to the poor people of India. I think, you may be knowing it and all of us know it. We are all Members of Parliament. You know how we are crowded everyday with requests from people for help for admission in the AIIMS. All the MPs would know that. Not only that, people come and stay with you till they get admission in AIIMS. Therefore, Six AIIMS-like institutions were attempted and six medical colleges/hospitals were to be upgraded. They are in all parts of the country. Therefore, it was considered a very good act. But I have not found anything about it in your speech. What has happened is initially an amount of Rs. six crore has been spent on this and the work was started. In the interim Budget, an amount of Rs. 60 crore was given with an understanding or commitment that an amount of Rs. 1,000 crore will be given for this work during this financial year. But you have only continued with that amount of Rs. 60 crore. I do not know whether this has been brought to your notice or not. But I am quite sure that you will also agree with me. Otherwise, you kindly visit the AIIMS in Delhi on some day and you can see the type of scenario there with critically ill patients lying not only in the verandahs but on the internal roads also and the relatives of the patients queuing up in long and indefinite queues. The corridors are full of patients

and it is total commotion there and it is a most undignified sight to see for anybody.

Therefore, if all people from all over India could go to the nearest AIIMS and get all the facilities, it will be an excellent thing for the nation. I do not know why this has not attracted your attention. I understand that the total base cost of this programme is Rs. 4,180 crore. If you are going to give Rs. 60 crore, then this thing is never going to come with. Therefore, my request to you is to kindly review it. I think the proposal of giving Rs. 1,000 crore is floating around the Planning Commission and the Health Ministry or somewhere. I would request you to kindly take it up personally and help in the matter because this is for the betterment of the poor people who need good treatment. My sincere request to you is to kindly look into this and try to provide the funds.

The NDA Government initially fixed the completion time for this as three years; but then we said that it should be expedited and two years' time was scheduled for completion. This has now been made to three years. My request to you is two-fold. Firstly, you please give an amount of Rs. 1,000 crore this year for this scheme and secondly kindly try to see that the time frame is reduced to two years for all these 12 projects.

I now come to AIDS control. I have earlier mentioned about it. Para 27 of your speech says about 'need for an accelerated AIDS control programme'. But you have not increased the allocation which was in the interim Budget. The interim Budget had given Rs. 259 crore and the same amount is being shown in this Budget.

The NDA Government had started the programme of giving free medicine from 1st April, 2004 under PMSSY to one lakh people. The NACO had asked for a budget of Rs. 476 crore for these one lakh people to be treated.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. It should not be a discussion between the two.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I will address the Chair. This is an important point. So, I would request the hon. Minister for his personal attention.

The NACO wants Rs. 476 crore for this. I also want to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had recently attended a conference at Bangkok where the theme was 'Access of Treatment to All' and incidentally, the Anchor there introduced

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi as "She practically runs the largest democracy in the world". She also had said that 'we are going to increase the funding' whereas the funding is same as it was in the Interim Budget. I think, this area needs additional funding. I do hope that NACO's budget, which has to take care of one lakh patients this year, will be taken care of.

My next point is about the Disabled. The "National Commission for Persons with Disability" was established in October last year. It started functioning from February this year. I do not have to explain the utility of this Commission, which is to take care of the disabled. There is tremendous scope of work to be done and there is tremendous social obligation also in this. Unfortunately, the budget provision for this is very low. Its annual budget is Rs. 1.44 crore. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that with this allocation, they will not be able to do anything. So, this Commission should be given additional budget to about Rs. 10 crore.

Somebody has already mentioned about Flood Control. You have allotted Rs. 30 crore for flood control from Uttaranchal to West Bengal. I think, it is too inadequate. This needs to be taken care of.

There are two more minor points which I would like to make. I have seen somewhere that you have reduced payment to State Governments for administering Central Acts and regulations, including surveillance of foreigners, from Rs. 23.4 crore to Rs. 2.01 crore. I do not know why it has been done. Is there any reason for this as surveillance on foreigners and all that it is an increased activity? You have reduced the budget provision from Rs. 23.4 crore to Rs. 2.01 crore. He might like to look into it.

The Finance Minister seems to have acted tough on the pay and perks of the Ministers as if something major has been done. Their sumptuary allowance has been reduced from Rs. 2.73 crore to Rs. 2.55 crore. It is a reduction of Rs. 18 lakh only. I do not think it matters much. There is also reduction in salaries and tour expenses. I do not know whether salary of Ministers is going to be reduced or the number of Ministers is going to be curtailed. Some saving has been shown here also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my next point, as my friend from Orissa has also mentioned, is that Shri Chidambaram is indulging in 'change the name game'. As was pointed out, it is unfortunate that within 24 hours of this Government coming into power, the hoardings which

showed National Highway Development Project on the four-six lane roads with logo and photographs of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpaae, were removed. I think, if you do it in such a manner, it is shameful, particularly for a Government which has been naming every single corner and every single stone in India with names of their own people from one particular family. He also said that he wants to combine all the water supply schemes under the name Rajiv Gandhi Water Supply Scheme. I think, he should think again about doing this. It is a dangerous game. Others can also play this game. Therefore, this sort of a thing should not be done. We did not do this. There was Indira Gandhi Awas Yojana. When a parallel scheme was created, it was objected. So, we dropped that scheme. Therefore, it does not look gentlemanly. ...(*Interruptions*) Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, have you gone and seen in Chandigarh? When our Government was there, on the highway in Chandigarh. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I know one thing that even on the roads which were in existence earlier, big hoarding with the photograph of Prime Minister were put up there and they say that they have achieved something great. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Since he is from Chandigarh, let me inform the House that in his own town Chandigarh. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Take the case of Jaipur Highway. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Now, you are not allowing me to speak. When you were speaking, I sat down. Now, you also sit down. You listen to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khanduri, what happens to your programme?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I only want to reply to this. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, 'changing the name game' as Shri Khanduri called it was started only the BJP and the NDA people. They spent most of their time doing that only, and thinking as to which scheme is to be named after whom, etc. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will just give you an example. I have a building next door to my house with a board saying: "Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Gateway to Knowledge." Nothing has been done, and only a hoarding has been placed. ...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Let us not go into that, otherwise, I would also have to say that you also had changed the names of places in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)* In your constituency Chandigarh, big photographs of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and Shri Amarinder Singh were put on a National Highway, similar to the ones that of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, if the yields for a minute I would like to tell him as to what actually happened there. *Bhoomi Poojan* was done on a land that was not yet acquired by the Government and on somebody's private premises the then hon. Minister had gone and *bhoomi poojan* ceremony was performed. No land whatsoever was acquired, no allocation was made, and *bhoomi poojan* was done on somebody else's land. ...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, Shri Bansal does not want to hear the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please let Shri Khanduri conclude his speech.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, he has made an allegation and does not want to listen to the truth. In his own constituency Chandigarh, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's photographs and Shri Amarinder Singh's photographs was put at the National Highway—which is the property of the Central Government. It is still there, and it was not removed during our tenure. Do you know that fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khanduri, kindly address the Chair.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is it not a fact that *bhoomi poojan* ceremony was performed by a former hon. Minister on a piece of land that was not yet acquired by the Government? Just before the elections it was announced that the Ambala-Chandigarh road was going to be widened. ...*(Interruptions)* No procedure for acquisition was started and not even a token allocation was made for that piece of land. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bansal, you can make all these points at the time of making your speech.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: We are now talking of signboards, etc. ...*(Interruptions)* You kindly go back and see the hoardings of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi that are still there. We did not remove them. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, it is the prerogative of the Punjab Government. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi being the Congress President, and the Congress being in the Government in Punjab, the Punjab Government has every right to do it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, do not do like this. It is very unfortunate. Shri Khanduri, please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, he is trying to take away my time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Khanduri, please conclude.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am concluding. I was only trying to conclude my speech, but he does not want to see the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I have been seeing the truth, but I was hearing untruths. So, ultimately I had to intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: You please go back and find out that road where still there is hoarding.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record other than what Shri Khanduri speaks.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I am concluding. I am a soldier and I will follow your orders. This Budget has been a total disappointment. It has been far too clever by half. Shri Chdiambaram, the NDA Government have left a healthy economy with strong fundamentals, burgeoning foreign exchange reserves, economy growing at a health pace, fiscal and inflation under control, and a booming market. You had yourself said this is one of your interviews, and it is also

*Not recorded.

mentioned in a part of your Budget speech. You have yourself said before the presentation of the Budget that with this type of sound financial health of the economy, you could experiment with bold measures. I do not know what happened to your bold ideas because they are nowhere to be seen in this Budget of yours. With such a background, it is sad that the political compulsions, vote-bank mentality, and an anti-NDA Government phobia has made a total mess of this Budget.

In the beginning of my speech I had appreciated the ability of Shri Chidambaram, but I feel very disappointed with his Budget. Many projects have been promised, but with no funds. In implementing them, many path-breaking results are expected, but no care has been shown for any "delivery mechanism". They have postponed the zero revenue deficit, which we wanted to implement by 2007-2008 to 2008-2009 hoping that their tenure will become coterminous with the next Lok Sabha elections. But your Government would not last that long. So, you need not have worried on that account. The present Government is going to fall well before that period.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the sake of the nation, I still hope that the Finance Minister will look at this Budget and put it back on rail. I really respect a person like him, but I am totally disappointed with his Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ajay Maken.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MAKAN (New Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamiluk): Sir, I want a clarification from Maj. Gen. Khanduri.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. I have already called Shri Ajay Maken. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Ajay Maken.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MAKAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to strongly and completely support budget proposal made by hon'ble Finance Minister. Because these budget proposals are indicative of not only growth but sustained growth. Alongwith this there are provisions of providing primary health and education facilities to the poorest sections of people and doing their welfare.

Mr. Chairman Sir, before going into details I would like to submit that the Members of opposition have raised this objection again and again that many facts in this budget were twisted and that the entire data about revenue receipts in it is false. Just now it has been pointed out that the targets set for revenue receipts are unrealistic i.e. they are such which cannot be achieved. I would like to tell in this regard that we would not only achieve all the targets of revenue receipts fixed on the basis of the date during the NDA Government. But we will achieve much more than that. However, I would also like to say that they have no moral right to make such statement. I would like to prove it by showing the figures. Last year, they had kept the budgetary estimate of income tax collection of Rs. 42,524 crores rupees whereas the total amount collected was only 37,000 crores rupees. Before that in the year 2002-03 they had kept the target of collection at Rs. 40,600 crores whereas the amount collected was only 37,438 crores.

Mr. Chairman Sir, our revenue receipt will be higher because due to the administrative inability of previous Government the amount of pending recoveries of direct tax is Rs. 15,000 crores and that of indirect tax is of Rs. 8,000 crores. Thus, the pending recoveries of Rs. 23,000 crores will be recovered by our Government by bringing efficiency at administrative level. Therefore, the target set by our Government and provisions made will be achieved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the service tax increased from 8 to 10 percent in only budgetary allocation and 13 new service taxes added in it will make on addition of Rs. 5800 crores rupees. Amount of Rs. 2500 crores is expected to be generated through 2 percent cess in 8 months. The Members of opposition have no moral right to say that the proposal tax collection of our Government will not be achieved because 2004 onwards the tax and GDP ratio has been 9.03 whereas in 2000 and in 2002-03 NDA Government had brought it down at 1.76. Today the target of tax and GDP ratio is 10 percent which was set during pre reform era and there is nothing special that we have brought the tax and GDP ratio at 10 per

[Shri Ajay Makan]

cent but if we are able to achieve it then the 24.6 per cent tax collection will be done through it only. Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to the lapses of the previous Government, not only the additional tax would be collected but we will also get help from the innovative ideas to plug the leakage which our Finance Minister has brought. If we go through the clauses 34, 13, 11, 5, 3 and 2 of the Finance Bill, we will come to know that now tax can not be evaded by splitting the contract. Earlier income tax could be saved by splitting the contract. It can not be done now. Secondly, income from salary can not be off set with other losses. Now there will be improvement in the compliance of TDS as the definition of the income tax has been modified to plug the leakages. In this way, we will not only achieve our targets by putting better efficiency rather we are hopeful to go beyond that.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on this occasion, I would like to submit that Khanduri Saheb has mentioned the defence budget. So far as the defence is concerned I would like to tell him that there is a hike of 27.69% in this sector and the budgetary allocation has been increased from Rs. 60,300 to Rs. 77,000 crore. Capital expenditure which was Rs. 16,906 crore has been increased to Rs. 33,482 crore. Defence spending in GDP has been increased by 2.55%. Why this has to be done? Why we were compelled to increase the budgetary allocation on defence by 27.69%. Secondly, we were compelled to withdraw from the social sector because due to their inefficiency they could not spend Rs. 33,000 crore on defence during the last five years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during last three years we could not spend 14.3 percent of defence budget that is why this year we had to spend extra money and that too from the item of other social sector. Simply because of the inefficiency of these people. I would like to congratulate Finance Minister for putting his views in the matter of water. A lot has been talked of here. First of all I would like to state that India is a country which has a 16 percent contribution in terms of population whereas if we look at the global resources of water it is only 4 per cent. Unfortunately, whenever we used to talk of water resources that was only about ground water, surface water but we never talked about rain water. For the first time out Finance Minister took into consideration rain water as water resource and is taking initiative to use it for the better availability of water in India. Throughout India the average rain fall registered as 1100 mm. If out of the entire land of India only the 1 percent land is kept to store this 1100 mm rain then we will have the availability

of 40 billion cubic meter water and we will have additional 100 meter water per day, per head. We have so much rain-fall available. No Finance Minister had ever thought of the way to tap it and utilize it. It is the dream of our Finance Minister that the water thus collected in India is used to overcome the problem of water scarcity throughout India. If we have to check the problem of water scarcity in India in the coming century it can only be done by utilizing rain water, as initiated by our Finance Minister. For this I would like to congratulate him. Not only this but 30.5 per cent of our total power is also used to lift ground water available in our country. There is scarcity of power in our country but 30.5 percent of it is used to lift ground water. This scheme will not only conserve water but will also save power. So the restoration of water bodies that our Minister of Finance is talking about is praiseworthy. The pilot projects have recently been launched in five districts.

Sir, if the present budget is read carefully, it is clear that this scheme will be launched all over the country within five to seven years, which is commendable. Besides, this, it has also been mentioned about water harvesting and accelerated irrigation benefit programme which he has rescheduled Rs. 2610 crore have been allocated for rural water supply programme and Rs. 151 crore have been allocated for urban water supply programme. I would like to congratulate him for this.

Sir, today we are talking about GDP growth here. I would like to submit that we should see it from two different angles—first whether it is sustained growth which is continue over the years or it is staggested growth which is 8 percent a year and four percent in other year. This is one point of view. The second point of view should be that though there is growth in GDP and as a result of this income in the country is increasing but it should also be taken into account as to what extent the benefit of it is reaching to the poor people of the country. So both these things should be kept in mind, that is, firstly there should be sustained growth and secondly, the benefit of growth should reach to the poorest of the poor, farmers and unemployed. We have to ensure these things. While the opposition was in power, Hyderabad was to be made Cyberabad but the farmers in Andhra Pradesh were committing suicide. The metro construction was going on in Delhi, I do not say such metro should not be constructed but when a person from outside come to Delhi and see Metro while there is no facility of railway or any other means of transportation in his areas he feels that there is great disparity between rural and urban areas. Not only this we consider ourselves the fastest

growing economy of the world but we have slipped down from 124 to 127 position in terms of UNDP's human development index. Even today 34.7 percent of our population is living below international poverty line and 47 percent of our children upto 5 years of age are under weight and 25 percent children are malnourished. Even today loan for purchasing vehicle and house is available at easy instalments and conditions in cities but loan is not available to farmers. Even today farmers have to face hardship to take loan. I would like to submit to the Members of Opposition who were in power in previous Government and least of achievements of the previous Government that even today the figure of the children, who were immunized for measles has not increased from 56 percents. 67 percent infant mortality rate that was there at the time when the previous Government came in power is still existing and there is no improvement in it. So what is their achievement in social sector? Today they only talk about GDP growth but they have nothing to say as to what extent the benefit of it has reached to the poorest of the poor and the farmers.

At the same time, I would like to submit that India is passing through developing stage. We are in between poor and developed countries and when one is passing through developing stage urban-rural divide and poor-rich divide widens. It is an internationally acclaimed phenomenon which is prevalent everywhere. There is only one method to tide over this situation, that is, the Government should pay attention to the poorest of the poor under the social sector. The Government should pay attention to health facilities, education facilities and should make efforts to solve the problem of unemployment. Only then we can tide over this situation. I would like to extend my thanks to the hon. Minister of Finance for providing additional amount of Rs. 10 thousand crore which has been reserved for the first time for the poor. Besides this I would also like to know the manner in which the plan allocation has been made. Just now, Shri Khanduri Sahab was also mentioning about it. I would like to tell him as he has also been a Minister for five years and knows that it is decided by the Planning Commission and its Chairman has recently taken charge in the first week of July. How Rs. 10 thousand crore is to be spent and how Rs. 1.35 lakh crores is to be spent, will be decided once Planning Commission is completely formed. They should not make haste about it.

I would like to extend my thanks to him that he has paid special attention to the agriculture sector. The previous Government had introduced accelerated irrigation benefit programme for irrigation and 178 projects were

identified for this purpose but out of which only 28 could be completed. Now our hon. Minister of Finance has earmarked Rs. 28,000 crore for this after rescheduling it and for this I would like to extend my thanks to him.

I would also like to thank him that on 18th July he has announced comprehensive credit policy for agriculture credit. It has also been announced that agriculture flow should be doubled in three years and for this the Minister deserve thanks. The responsibility of agriculture credit will lie with the sponsored bank of RRB. It is a welcome step. After reviving RIDF Rs. 8 thousand crore has been deposited in it. It has been made more practical. Earlier roads were not included in it. The roads can also be constructed through it after making it a part of the integrated programme. I would also like to thank him for this. Along with this I would also like to submit that during the regime of NDA Government from 1997 to 2002 the growth rate in agriculture sector was only 2.02 percent. If we want to maintain sustained growth upto 7 to 8 percent then it will be possible only when our growth in agriculture sector is four percent. The Government is proceeding in this direction and for this I would like to thank the Minister of Finance. Small Farmers Agriculture Business Consortium was set up with much fan fare however only Rs. 11 crores were deposited in its corpus. The Minister in the Budget have mentioned to correct it and for that he deserve thanks.

There is provision of 30 percent in Budget for rural housing. For that also I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Finance. At the end I would like to give a few suggestions. There is need to further strengthen our agriculture insurance companies so that we may provide better insurance to the farmers in future. Along with this it is being talked to double agriculture credit. In this connection, I would like to submit that not only the amount should be doubled rather its beneficiary should also be doubled so that it may benefit farmers in real sense of the terms.

I would like to submit that there is need to pay special attention to the housing shelter in urban cities for urban poor and slums dwellers. Besides this it has also been announced for the exemption in Income Tax to the Government employees upto the income of one lakh rupees. It will specially benefit to the Government employees. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for that.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Finance that programmes and policies of the Government are implemented by the Government employees. The

[Shri Ajay Makan]

Government should also pay attention to their welfare so that they may perform well in future.

At the end, I would like to give one suggestion. Our Minister of Finance and all others consider the stock market as daily referendum. If stock market is going up then it is considered that the policy of the government is being appreciated and accepted. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that he should not consider the fluctuations of stock market as referendum. The referendum that the economy of our country is performing well is that farmers in the country are not committing suicide. Our policy should not be based on the stock market. This should not be criterion of referendum. To what extent it is benefitting the poor and the farmers that should be the yardstick of our policy.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me opportunity to speak. The view points of the Samajwadi Party had been expressed here by our colleague Shri Mohan Singh. Through you, I would like to submit before the Minister of Finance some more views similar to that.

The budget is a statement of account of calculation of income and expenditure that apart from balancing income and expenditure gives guarantee to our brighter future. The brighter future means development, however it should be defined and it should be clarified as to what is the development. Straightway development means that helpless, poor distressed, and hungry people get bread, cloths and shelters. It is also a development. Second meaning is that those who are already well to do get vehicle and start leading luxurious lives. It is also development.

I would like to request the Minister of Finance that the definition of development should be fixed in the country. It should be defines as to what is development? I would like that the Minister of Finance should reply to this question, only then express his view in this regard. From reading the speech of the Minister, it seems that Chidambaram Saheb is somewhere confused. In para 10 of the page no. 3 he has mentioned that our biggest resource is human resource, our people. The welfare of the people will be enhanced by providing them universal access to education and health especially to the poor people and facilitating them full participation in development process through making them competent and providing them with profitable employment. Further Chidambaram has mentioned in Para 21 of page 5 that investment be it in public sector or private sector or

domestic, or foreign is the key of development. We are cooperating you in running the Government. The Samajwadi Party oppose the foreign capital investment. So, I would like to submit that the Government will have to seriously ponder over it. We do not know as to what is your common minimum programme formulated with the consensus of your coalition partners as we are not part of it. We decided to voluntarily support the government to defeat the design of separatist and communal forces. However, our support must not be mistaken as surrender, our support should be regarded as support. Our support is based on the merit and demerit of the issue. We will certainly want that the Government should seriously ponder over foreign capital investment. As far the issue of foreign capital investment in civil aviation, telecom and insurance sector is concerned, I would like to request the Government to withdraw such proposal. I am requesting this because we have example of it before us. Do the Government think that if foreign capital is invited in the country, foreign technology will not follow? This country of hundred crore population is empty handed. Please excuse me but this is the only thing that should be kept in mind. Not once but several times I have submitted in the House that unless there is agriculture based budget, and basic industries are set up, any power in the world can not do justice with India. The people should understand this. I would like to submit that we should take lesson from our past experience. If foreign capital investment is made in the country, the foreign technology will also come here. In that case our work force will become jobless. Do the Government not know this? Do the Government not want to take lesson from the history? Did the East India Company came here to rule us? They came here for trade but gradually they became our master. Chidambaram Saheb you might be remembering that the Govt. had given approval for Dabhol Power Project and when it started power generation they started to tell that they would sale power at the rate of Rs. 7 per unit whether the Government purchase it or not. If foreign capital investment is made, the foreign companies will not come here for charity, rather they will earn money from here. We should rely upon our resources. We should make effort to become self reliant. We should make further progress in this direction. Today the need of the hour is to proceed in this direction.

Through you, I would like to submit that agriculture sector is the highest employment generating sector. 60 to 65 percent population depend on agriculture. I am sorry to say that the agriculture in our country has continuously been neglected. If one see the budget from the time of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, till today it will be

clear that the required allocation has not been made for agriculture sector. We are not able to compete in international market. I am sorry to say that we are lagging behind in the world market because our rate of production is less in comparison to the other countries of the world though our production cost is higher. When we talk about farmers and agriculture, we must kept in mind that to stay in world competition, we need to increase our rate of production and reduce the production cost. Cost of production is increasing in the country. All of us are aware of the situation today. We exported 34 million tonnes of wheat and rice for which we paid the subsidy of Rs. 16,000 crore. This is the situation. What does it mean? We cannot go without subsidy. Cost of production is an important factor of growth. Government should make efforts to reduce the production cost. I think this is the need of the Hour. I understand the importance of time and I would like one or two more members of my party to speak on this issue. Irrigation is the life of agriculture. However, the required attention has not been paid to it in our country. You are a learned person, you may read it if you get a chance.

Some of the irrigation projects approved in First Five Year Plan during the regime of Pandit Jawaharwal Nehru are still incomplete. It is easy to claim that the Government have approved a number of projects but I am sorry to say that it does not have any meaning if the projects are not completed in time. Budget has provided approx. 3000 crore rupees for irrigation but I would like to say that a huge amount would be required to complete the pending irrigation projects. Therefore, there is no need to make castles in the air. One should be practical. The true picture emerges after evaluating the circumstances. The objective of 7th, 8th and 9th Five Year Plan was to provide irrigation capacity to 11.11, 5.17 and 7.12 million hectare of land respectively. Now, Chidambaram Sahib, the objective of 10th Five Year Plan is to provide irrigation facility to 14 million hectare of land. However, I would like to state that even if we achieve the objective, only 34% of the land would be irrigated and more than 60% will remain unirrigated. Today there is a need to ponder over the fact that unless adequate irrigation arrangements are made, the country will not progress. In the reply to starred question No. 1 raised in Lok Sabha on 21.7.03, 159 major and 242 minor irrigation projects are stated to be under construction. More than 60% of the land is still unirrigated. There is a need to lay a network of irrigation

projects and on assessment we find that there is a need to complete about 400 such major irrigation projects. Welfare of the farmers is not possible until the irrigation facilities are provided to them. If the farmers suffer the whole country will suffer.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding in a minute. Government is trying to cover the poor people also under Health Insurance. Chidambaram Sahib, is this decision not impractical. Medical cover may be provided to the poor people through insurance but how can you expect a poor person with a monthly income of Rs. 327 to pay for it. Therefore, each and every policy should be formulated keeping in view the position of common man. Therefore, I would hope that the proposal to extend the Health Insurance Scheme to the poor people would be made more practical.

A provision has been made in the Budget to raise Rs. 5000 crore for education purpose through cess. But no mention has been made how these funds would be utilized for education purposes. It seems that the Government has an intention to deposit this money in consolidated fund. Therefore, I request to make provision for separate fund for education. Government should have a clear vision regarding the 'heads' under which expenses are to be incurred for education. Since, the budget is silent on these issues, I would like the Government to consider these points seriously.

Once again on behalf of Samajwadi Party, I would humbly request one thing. What does the budget say, and what is the reaction of the people on it. He is an economist. Earlier Shri Yashwant Sinha and then Shri Jaswant Singh presented the budget. This time he has presented it. Samajwadi Party has a clear approach that the country cannot progress unless the budget is agriculture based and industries are labour based and protected. It is not important how much allocation has been made in the budget, the important thing is whether common man feel that the present Government is functioning better than their predecessors. Until this message goes to the people, there is no significance of change of Government.

16.57 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Decision taken by the Executive Committee of the NCERT on the report of the panel of eminent historians on the text books of history

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to make this statement.

While answering the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 106 on 13th July, 2004, I had reported on the findings of the panel of three eminent historians, on the text books of history prepared by the NCERT. I had then promised that the recommendations of the panel will be put up for consideration of the Executive Committee (EC) of the NCERT and had hoped that the EC will no doubt keep the interest of students as their foremost concern.

The report of the panel was accordingly considered by the EC for two days and they have taken the following decisions:—

"The Executive Committee accepted the Report of the Committee of the Historians, Prof. S. Settar, Prof. J.S. Grewal and Prof. Barun De insofar as their finding that the history books were biased, badly written and full of inaccuracies rendering them unsuitable for continuation.

In view of the above, it was decided that from the academic session 2005-06, the earlier books of history will be restored with appropriate modifications in line with the existing curriculum and minor corrections wherever required.

It is because of the already advanced stage of the current academic session, it was, unfortunately, not practical to change all the books at this stage. It was, however, decided that the NCERT text books which were replaced by present text books will be printed in sufficient numbers to enable at least five copies to be sent free to each school taking the CBSE syllabus. These books would also be available in the market for purchase. These books could be used by teachers and students for reference.

A series of workshops and training would be organised for teachers to help them transact the

curriculum with the current text books and reference to the old books, for a proper understanding of the issues in class room teaching.

17.00 hrs.

A short advisory should be expeditiously issued by the NCERT in close consultation with school teachers and historians to help them develop an appropriate perspective in teaching.

In accordance with these decisions, the HRD Ministry will issue appropriate directions to the CBSE to suitably guide the question-paper-setters and evaluators. The NCERT and the CBSE could constitute joint teams for this purpose.

The NCERT will forthwith take up the revision of the National Curriculum Framework in conformity with all the laid down and by conventionally-established procedures.

The Committee was also deeply concerned about the quality and content of text-books other than in History. While it expected that the proposed curriculum framework review will take care of the concerns in the medium term, it was important that all the text-books are subjected to a thorough, quick review to take corrective steps wherever required, before the next academic session.

The Director, NCERT is authorised to work out all the operational details for effective and timely implementation of the above decisions."

The Government are in agreement with the decisions of the Executive Committee. I understand the anguish of the hon. Members of this House, and more acutely aware of the anxieties of students, teachers and the parents of children on this issue. The Executive Committee of the NCERT have deliberated on this issue in great depth and full understanding of the issues. They have given their decision which is optimum and comprehensive in the given circumstances. We hope that such a sorry episode in our academic history will help us to evolve a consensus by which the sanctity of academic institutions and processes are not compromised and no one is allowed to cynically play with the future of our children and diminish in any way, the idea of India that took shape during our freedom struggle and is so sacredly enshrined in the Constitution of India.

17.02 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET 2004-05—GENERAL
 DISCUSSION—Contd.
 DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
 (GENERAL)—2004-05—Contd.
 AND
 DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS—
 (GENERAL)—2001-02—Contd.**

[English]

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH (Srinagar): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to participate in the discussion on the Budget for the year 2004-05.

The hon. Finance Minister was very kind enough to mention my State, the State of Jammu and Kashmir, in his Budget Speech that he delivered to Parliament. I will confine my speech to some of the points that he made with regard to Jammu and Kashmir because the rest of the points, my colleagues have debated amply on the national provisions and the implications they have for the national economy.

The Finance Minister in his Speech allocated a sum, I believe, of Rs. 300 crore to get the State of Jammu and Kashmir to switch over from the Overdraft facility of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank to the Ways and Means facility of the RBI. This is something that the successive Central Governments have been very keen to do for a number of years now, perhaps, seeking further to erode the already eroded autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. They have perhaps been uncomfortable with the fact that Jammu and Kashmir as a State is able to tide over its minor financial crisis without having to go and beg before the RBI. Minor financial shortcomings are met through Overdraft facilities with the Jammu and Kashmir Bank.

This time, the Finance Minister has made available a sum of money to get the State Government to switch over from the Overdraft facility to the Ways and Means of the RBI. He made a sum of Rs. 300 crore available. But, much to my surprise, I later found out that the Rs. 300 crore is actually to be deducted from the State Plan. So, the State, in effect, is going to have to pay for what. That, to my mind, is not to the benefit of the State Government. In fact, it only further erodes what little autonomy the State of Jammu and Kashmir is left with.

It is not only that. The money that the State Government proposes to raise from the Asian

Development Bank is also to be cut from the State's Plan size. If reports appearing in the State newspapers are correct, the State Government will be left with the Plan size of, perhaps, Rs. 1500 crore or less. It is no wonder then that when the State Government was asked to react to the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister here in Parliament, the Finance Minister of the State, who is an alliance partner of the current State Government—they were pre-poll allies—made a very damning indictment of the Finance Minister's Budget when he said that the previous NDA Government was better than the current United Progressive Alliance.

Now, this is not an Opposition Member saying this. This is the Finance Minister, a member of the party that is in alliance with them both in the Centre and in the State. He himself says that the previous NDA Government was better than the current UPA Government.

Sir, the Finance Minister was kind enough to make money available for one power project, the Baglihar Power Project. This power project was started by the former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah during his last tenure as Chief Minister. This project was started in spite of much financial difficulty because it was felt that only through development and generation of hydro electricity would the State be able to be financially self-sufficient. It is only when we take advantage of the water resources that are available with us, we will be able to sell this power to the Northern Grid and to other grids and be able to earn some revenue for the State.

Jammu and Kashmir has been put at disadvantageous position because of the Indus Water Treaty that was negotiated with Pakistan, unfortunately without any representation from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, without any consideration for the State of Jammu and Kashmir and without any consideration for what the Indus Water Treaty will mean for Jammu and Kashmir. The rivers of Punjab were kept with India, but the rivers of Jammu and Kashmir were handed over to Pakistan. What that means is that while Punjab can store water and use that water to generate electricity, Jammu and Kashmir was forced to make run-of-the-river projects. We cannot store the water that runs through our State. We have to let that water go to Pakistan. As a result of this, thousands of crores of rupees have been lost; not only have thousands of crores of rupees been lost, but we are also unable to adequately take advantage of the water resources.

The successive State Governments, the previous State Government and the current State Government,

[Shri Omar Abdullah]

have time and again represented to the Government of India to adequately compensate the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the losses that we have suffered on account of the Indus Water Treaty. It is not an unfair request that we made. It was not a Treaty that we wanted. At a time when State Governments are unilaterally renegotiating water sharing agreements, at a time when State Governments are unilaterally stepping out of water sharing agreements, Jammu and Kashmir is bound by an agreement that it had no role in signing. Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister to make available an adequate sum of money to compensate the State of Jammu and Kashmir for the unfair and unjust Indus Water Treaty that has been signed, falling which I request this Government to kindly renegotiate the Indus Water Treaty so that, at least, two rivers are made available to Jammu and Kashmir and that we are able to store the water and use that water to generate hydro electricity.

Sir, money has been made available for one project. But unfortunately, perhaps, the Finance Minister is not aware that a few years ago, the then State Government headed by Dr. Farooq Abdullah signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of India at the time when the late Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam was the Power Minister and handed over, to my information, seven projects to the National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC) for development. We were promised that in a time-bound manner these seven projects would be taken up by the NHPC and power would be shared between the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Nothing has happened on this MoU up-till now. Money has been made available for one project and we are grateful for that. But what about the other seven projects that we signed an MoU for? How long do we have to wait for money to be made available for these seven projects so that we can adequately take advantage of the hydro electricity generating capacity that we have?

The Finance Minister, in his speech, announced a one-year extension of tax concessions to be made available to the State of Jammu and Kashmir for industrial promotion and development. Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was a member of the past Government, the NDA Government, in 1991 I came in as the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry. We had, for a long time, been pressing for a package to be made available to the State of Jammu and Kashmir on the lines of package of incentives that was announced for the North-Eastern States. When I became a Minister in 1999, I immediately set about working on such a package to be made

available to Jammu and Kashmir. It took me a few years, but finally a package of incentives, similar to the package that was announced to the North-Eastern States, was notified for Jammu and Kashmir. The package was an immediate success. We started having investment inquiries. A number of large and medium Indian and foreign concerns came about making enquiries to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. Some identified lands, some even occupied land and some companies—I can name them even—went as far as to place orders for steel, bricks and other facilities to start constructing their factories.

To my surprise, Mr. Chairman, Sir, within a year, for reasons best known to the NDA Government, the same package of incentives was notified for Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh perhaps on political considerations. The package of incentives was made available to Jammu & Kashmir because of the terrain problems, because of the problems with militancy, because of the problem with terrorism and because the problem of unemployment is so heinously taken advantage of by people who want to exploit the sentiments in the State and further the cause of terrorism.

When I asked for this package to be made available to Jammu and Kashmir, I was told that we would have to have a three-year cooling period so that the package would be made available to the North-East, and that three or four years later it would be notified for J&K so that there is no exodus to investment from the North-East to Jammu & Kashmir. Why then was the same proposal not made for Jammu & Kashmir? Why was this package for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal not delayed for three to four years so that the investment in Jammu & Kashmir could settle in before this package was made available to neighbouring States? The neighbouring States do not face terrorism. They are more than adequately well connected to New Delhi. There is already investment flowing in. Now, the hon. Finance Minister announces one year's tax benefit whereas the previous package has allowed for ten years' tax benefit. I would be grateful if the hon. Finance Minister could re-look at this entire problem.

The problem of unemployment is a pressing problem in Jammu and Kashmir. We have signed an MoU with the State Government that prohibits us from making any further recruitment into Government services. This Agreement was signed by the past National Conference Government. That Agreement was reviewed by the current Congress-PDP combine Government. The Agreement does not allow us any further Government recruitment. All we

can do is private sector employment, and without an adequate package of incentives that will not be possible.

We are not asking for a rail coach factory. We are not asking for a rail wheel factory and other factories that come about on political considerations. We are asking for our right. We are asking for what is due. We are asking for what is justified and, I am sure, the Finance Minister will give a patient hearing to my demand.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Finance Minister, in his speech, mentioned a number of airports that are being taken up for modernisation. It may please the Finance Minister to know that in May of last year, the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited my constituency, Srinagar. During the visit to my constituency he laid the foundation stone for an expansion and modernisation programme for Srinagar Airport. Srinagar Airport is the only civil airport in the Valley. It is the only airport that caters to a large population. This airport was to be modernised and made to international standards.

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, Sir, more than a year has passed since the foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister, and but for a minor expansion in the size of the tarmac of Srinagar Airport, no work there has happened whatsoever. This was supposed to involve the expansion of the tarmac, a new terminal, aero-bridges and the airport was to be made to international standards, but there has been no progress on this whatsoever. I would humbly request Hon. Finance Minister that in the list of airports that he is proposing to modernise and improve, the airport in Srinagar, which is an ongoing project on paper, initiated by the past Government, be also taken up in this list of airports so that Srinagar also receives an airport of international standards.

The airport that is currently there was built during my grandfather's time, perhaps when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, and the Finance Minister will appreciate that this airport is long overdue for expansion and modernisation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the Finance Minister's Budget means for this nation, only time will tell. How much his education cess will actually be spent on education, we will have to wait to see. How much of the 29 per cent or so or whatever per cent increase in Defence Budget that has been made available is actually spent on Defence, only time will tell. But as a Member of Parliament, representing the J&K State, all I can say is that once again the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been

paid a lip service in announcements at the Centre. What sounds very good in words, translates very poorly into action.

I would request the hon. Finance Minister most humbly to take note of the concerns that I have raised, the points that I have raised. Please do justice to the people of Jammu & Kashmir because of what they deserve, because of the sufferings they have gone through, because of the promises that have been made to them and not yet fulfilled. I am sure the Finance Minister will not let us down this time.

(Translation)

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHWAHA (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while respecting and supporting the present budget, I would like to say that our country had been very prosperous. If we want to make an all round development of the country, attention should be paid to farmers and tribal people for whom there are no roads, water and shelter and who are living a very hard life. However, there is no scheme for their upliftment in the budget. An estimate of 1146 crore and 1180 crore has been made for the schemes formulated for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people respectively. This provision is definitely inadequate in proportion to their population. Therefore, Bahujan Samaj Party oppose the budget proposed and register their objection in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a newly elected member. I want to raise not only budget related issues but also the issues concerning my Parliamentary Constituency where feudal lords set thousands of houses on fire and ruined the area. State Government and SDM witnessed the incident silently. This area is a part of Lalganj area of my Parliamentary Constituency Mirzapur. There is nobody to hear my concern there. Murders are very common and law and order situation is deteriorating there. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to mention it in the budget discussion. Farmers play major role in forming the Governments but the farmers and his children are unemployed, uneducated and do not get any opportunity to develop their personality. I would like to submit in this House before the members that the subsidy given to farmers is only a show off. Through this budget session, I would like to state that if we wish to provide facilities to the farmers, members of all the parties should work in this regard. India is an agriculture based country. Marketing facilities all over the world should be made available to the farmers so that they could get the remunerative prices of their produce. Farmer is not able

[Shri Narendra Kumar Kushwaha]

to make assessment of his own produce. Is it possible to uplift the farmer in this way?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister and hon'ble Prime Minister to make a provision in the budget by which farmers could get market all over the world. Our coriander seeds are sold in Australia at the rate of Rs. 250 per 250 grams. but in our country its prices remain at Rs. 2-3 per kg. Business men purchase it and export it. A policy should be formulated in this regard in the interest of the farmers. The scheme formulated for the dalits in the present budget is partial, more provision should be made in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. Having been elected to Lok Sabha for the first time, this is my maiden speech. My thanks go to Dr. Kalaignar, my leader and a senior statesman of India, who has chosen me to contest the election and who has proved that an ordinary man like me also can become a Member of this august House, as well as the untiring, dynamic leader of the young generation in Tamil Nadu, the Jupiter of Tamils, Thalapathi M.K. Stalin.

Next, I should thank the voters of Tamil Nadu in general and the voters of Krishnagiri Constituency in particular from where I have been elected. I feel very much privileged to be a Member of this House in which late lamented Murasoli Maran had adomed.

I also thank Annai Soniaji and our Prime Minister Manmohanji on this occasion. I congratulate our hon. Finance Minister Thiru Chidambaram for his agro-oriented Budget. I stand to support the first Budget of the United Progressive Alliance Government.

First of all, I welcome the announcement regarding the setting up of the desalination plant at Chennai with a cost of Rs. 1,000 crore. The first desalination project was set up in Tamil Nadu during the DMK rule headed by Dr. Kalaignar. I request that adequate funds should be allotted for the completion of this project on priority basis so that the acute water shortage prevalent in Chennai can be solved.

Handloom and Textile industry is one of the core industries in Tamil Nadu. Lakhs of workers are engaged

in handloom and powerloom. The Central Value Added Tax imposed previously struck a bolt on this industry. I, on behalf of my leader, my Party and also on behalf of myself, place on record the appreciation for the abolition of CENVAT on handloom as well as in powerloom. But again our leader, Dr. Kalaignar was the first person who was against the imposition of CENVAT and demanded its abolition.

The liberal allocation for education and health sector is a welcome one. The allocation under the Indira Awas Yojana should be increased and should be ensured that every family gets one house at least in the rural areas.

Turning to the agricultural sector, due to concessions, the price of tractor has been reduced considerably and even the poor farmers can now afford to purchase it. Liberal agricultural credit would definitely boost this neglected sector but I would like to mention here that the agricultural workers and small farmers remain unemployed during off-season and they are unable to carry on their livelihood. I demand that a special scheme for employment of agricultural workers and farmers during their off-season should be included and in case if it is not possible, they should be given liberal off-season allowance to assist them. In our country, where agriculture is the major revenue earner, it is a matter of shame that for purchasing a tractor on loan, so many formalities have to be completed and that too, with high cost of interest whereas for purchasing a passenger car only minimum documents are required and loan is given at low interest. Rs. one lakh concession to Income tax assesseees is a welcome decision.

The Sethu Samuthiram project in Tamil Nadu is a long awaited one and the Minister of Finance has assured that it would be taken up soon. I demand that the project should be taken up immediately and adequate funds should be allotted for its early completion.

Our Party leader, Dr. Kalaignar has been demanding the linking of inter-State rivers for the last many years. In fact, he envisaged this project many decades ago that this only would meet the needs of drinking water and irrigation purposes on a long time basis in the parched States.

I demand that this project should be undertaken on urgent basis so as to bring the unutilised water to the scarce States from the perennial rivers.

Now, I like to turn to my constituency. Horur town in my constituency is a commercial centre and has many

tiny industrial units. But it has no adequate infrastructure facilities. I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary action to set up an IT park. A Software Technology Park here would meet the needs of these industrial units and it should be set up immediately with Central assistance. Fruits, vegetable and flowers are growing in plenty in my constituency, but there is no processing unit to process and export the products.

Being perishable in nature, they cannot be put to worthwhile use. So, a food processing unit should be set up by the Central Government to exploit the availability of fruits, especially mangoes and roses so that they can earn considerable revenue through export.

Another important item grown in large quantity is tamarind. A Tamarind Research Centre should be set up here to boost the growth of tamarind.

Sir, there is an acute drinking water shortage in my constituency. The Hoganekal Drinking Water Project was to be set up with the Japanese assistance, and a blueprint was laid down when Dr. Kalaignar was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. But the successor Government has not taken any step in this regard. I demand the revival of the project at the earliest by allocating adequate funds so as to solve the drinking water problem in my constituency.

Even though it is a discussion on the General Budget, I have to thank the hon. Minister of Railways, Thiru Lallu and Thiru Velu for the announcement in the Railway Budget to review the new railway route between Jolarpettai and Hosur *via* Krishnagiri. Several lakhs of people will benefit by this scheme.

Sir, I know the time constraint on this discussion. Our United Progressive Alliance is committed to the welfare of the common man, and I appreciate this Government for including the schemes contained in the Common Minimum Programme.

I also demand a package for the debt-ridden Tamil Nadu farmers who depend on Cauvery water for irrigation purposes. My thanks also go to the hon. Prime Minister and Annai Soniaji for declaring Tamil as a classical language, the issue which was untouched and ignored by the previous Governments. In the election manifesto of the DMK and during the election campaign, our leader, Dr. Kalaignar had promised the people of Tamil Nadu that if the United Progressive Alliance comes to power, Tamil language will be declared as a classical language.

His promise and request has been acknowledged both by the people and by the UPA Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have spoken in Tamil. Why should you read it?

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: I once again thank my leader Dr. Kalaignar and Thalpathi Stalin. On this occasion, I remember my beloved leader, Murasoli Maran who has been my inspiration, and it would be a fitting memento if his statue were erected in this august House.

I would like to quote a couplet from the classic Thirukkural written by *Ayyan* Thiruvalluvar 2000 years ago.

"Ithanai Ithanaal Ivanmudikkum Entainthu Athanai Avankan Vidal"

It means, 'select a person with appropriate means to tackle the jobs and entrust it for efficient management.'

The nation has selected the right persons and entrusted them with right job and we can expect efficient management from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you should come prepared. Since it was your maiden speech, you were allowed to read. Hereafter, make it a point that you can either speak in Tamil or you may come prepared without reading from the written speech.

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Sir, this was my maiden speech.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance, my good friend, Chidambaramji.

The economy of our country has on many occasions been volatile and vibrant but it found its firm foundation during the rule of the NDA Government under the leadership of Vajpayeeji. I, in support of this statement, would like to quote certain statistics from 'The Economic Survey, 2003-2004' presented by the Government to this august House.

It has never been heard in the past history that during such a short span of time the economy of this country, in fact, grew at 8.2 per cent. During this period, agriculture grew by 9.1 per cent, industry by 6.9 per cent and services by 8.4 per cent. The inflation rate would usually hover around five per cent to seven per cent but the average percentage of inflation during this period was

[Shri S. Bangarappa]

5.5 per cent despite pressure from rise in oil prices and things like that. Before the elections we were told that the foreign exchange reserves were \$ 109 billion but it had actually touched \$ 119.3 billion, a fantastic growth. These are not statistics that I am giving on my own these are Government statistics that appear in 'The Economic Survey, 2003-2004'. These figures actually relate to the time when we had the NDA Government under Vajpayeeji. It is not that I have said this for the first time but this has been said by the IMF, the World Bank and even advanced countries like the United Kingdom, the United States of America and other European countries that there has been a good amount of development that has taken place in our country.

During this period, the combined Centre-State fiscal deficit dipped to 10.1 per cent, which is unheard of in the economic history of this country. The food grain production touched 210.8 million tonnes as against 174.2 million tonnes in the previous year. Coming to Kisan Credit Cards, 114 lakh credit cards were issued during this period compared to 6.1 lakh in 1999.

We have to sustain all these developments like the growth in the GDP rate. We have to keep in mind that we have to sustain the GDP growth at 7.8 per cent and find out how to do that. You would have to keep the inflation rate around five per cent. You should also aim at pushing agriculture growth through diversification and agro-processing. This is very important since our economy is first an agricultural economy. After that comes our industrial economy, as all of us are well aware. Then, the industrial growth at ten per cent is to push employment. That you have to keep in mind. The other important aspect of fiscal management is controlling fiscal deficit—cutting government expenses and increasing revenue. In fact, for all these things, you have touched upon the inflow of the FDI in many sectors. As far as Telecom sector is concerned, you have gone up to 74 per cent from 49 per cent and as far as Civil Aviation and Insurance sectors are concerned, it has been raised to 49 per cent. Therefore, what I feel is that unless you maintain the FDI matter in a perfect perception, you will not see the growth rate of the economy at the point which you have now fixed in your Budget Speech. So, in the case of Telecom Sector, the FDI limit was increased to 74 per cent from 49 per cent. As far as Civil Aviation Sector is concerned, it has been raised to 49 per cent from 40 per cent, and as far as Insurance sector is concerned, it has been raised to 49 per cent from 26 per cent. Like this it goes on. Now, wherefrom will you get money to manage this fiscal deficit? The hon. Minister

of Finance is banking upon 24 per cent hike in tax revenue. But whether he will be able to collect this money to meet the demand of the fiscal deficit is also a question. I have my own doubt about all these things.

Now, you have not touched upon in your Budget speech the impact of the several agreements entered into by our Government with other Governments under WTO. If we go through the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance, we find that you have not reached an area where our thinking will have to be internationalised. It may be about the quality of the items that we produce along with quantum. For that, we have to impart training to our people. That is very important. In fact, you have not touched upon this thing in your Budget speech. If you do not do that, then how will you manage to cope with the demand under each of the agreements under WTO? Therefore, I am appealing to the hon. Minister that when he replies, he should come out as to where exactly we stand as far as these issues like agriculture sector, excise sector, industrial sector, fertiliser sector, etc. are concerned. A number of agreements are also there under WTO. Though I have got many of the details yet owing to paucity of time I am not going into all these things. But the point is, you please come out as to where exactly our country stands because a lot of things have been said in previous years also.

Now, you have increased the tax on steel. That is going to touch the common man. Many of the hon. Members have also said about this aspect. So, I hope while giving your reply, you will keep this aspect also in your mind.

Then, for a sustained higher economic growth, you will have to take many measures to cut the worrying fiscal. But you have not come out with that. So, sustain-deficit ability in many of the areas will have to be there.

Actually, I find in the Budget Speech that you lack in your approach boldly in the matter of reforms and in many areas it was fairly disappointing.

Fiscal management and revenue deficits are the matters that are to be kept in mind. But if you just look at all these things, I find that your speech is almost like an oasis in a concrete jungle. You have just created a huge thing in the minds of the common man that certainly you are going to give or create an oasis; but do not forget that there is a concrete jungle.

As far as the agriculture of this country is concerned, actually the agriculturist is called the backbone, a strong man of this country. But he is tired of being called a strong backbone of the agricultural economy of this country. He is tired of being called a strong man. Therefore, I appeal to you that you actually make him rally feel strong by making a lot of allocations. I know that you have said in your speech that you have gone up to 30 per cent in excess when compared to previous years. That itself is highly insufficient. Hard decisions come actually from resolute minds. But I find it very much absent here in your Budget speech. That resolute mind is required to tackle all these things.

In the matter of investment sector, actually we would like to have assistance in the form of FDI. But where exactly is the resource generation well within ourselves, in our country? On that part, I think, you will have to come out with all the details. I am offering this only as my suggestion on this.

Coming to the other sectors like conservation of water etc., you have said in your speech about water conservation by ponds and wells and something like that. But you are forgetting one thing there about the difficulties like floods in certain areas. You take the example of this year itself. States like Assam and Bihar are highly flooded. The flooding there is no account of cloudburst and this is continuing, whereas in other areas there are heavy drought conditions. You have set apart some money for this. I do not say that money should not be set apart for conservation of water in all these ponds and wells and something like that. But if you see the past records concerning all the areas of the country for many years these tubewells and bore wells are dug in a very-very loose manner and too deep. In almost all the areas that has completely eaten away the ground water table. Even if you have spent money on ponds and wells and something on these tubewells, borewells, etc., they will just eat away all the water tables.

I request you to please think over it. Let us think of bringing certain legislation. This is my suggestion only. There should be legislative control over digging of bore wells also in our country so as to see that the water table and moisture in the soil is very much conserved. You have not touched that part in your speech.

I will now come to the point of bringing up the rural economy. What I feel is that apart from the credit facility etc. that you are trying to extend to the farming communities in many of the areas where drought

conditions are very heavy in these areas, sometimes this money is wasted also. You have to come to know of it. How to control that? How to give the benefit to the farming communities of these areas? That has to be kept in mind. These are all matters that have to be kept in mind and we have to sit together and by exchange of views also we will have to come to a conclusion. That is not that easy.

You Government is completely depending upon the support of the Left parties. You take up the matter of FDI increase. I just now heard our Samajwadi friend saying that FDI should not go to 74 per cent or something like that. I do not know what advice our Left Parties will give to you while coming up with this legislation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bangarappa, please conclude.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA: Therefore, I would now give only one suggestion. The Left Parties are actually harping on your pound of flesh. I know that and you also know that. I would say that managing with the Left Parties, who are almost the coalition partners—though they have not joined the Government, they are extending full support to the Government from outside—is quite important, but if you just yield to the pressure tactics of the Left Parties, where will you be landed in managing all these things, if we see their threat? I am giving you a hint only. Side by side, when you bring up a legislation for passing in this House, our Samajwadi Party friends will also certainly fall upon you. You take it from me.

There are many other things. I do not want to go into the details.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a little surprised to hear the members from that side. On one hand Shri Malhotraji called the budget as anti-poor, anti people but on the other hand he said that there is nothing new in this budget. This is the repetition of their budget.

17.47 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SINGH *in the Chair*]

I do not know what they had been doing in the previous years. In fact I was feeling that the reaction expressed by him was not for this budget but for the 6 budgets presented during the tenure of their Government.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

We all are aware of the situation of the poor farmers during their tenure. The economic reforms made by them were initiated by the Congress. Congress was well convinced that at one time they attain an economic status from where the Government may withdraw gradually and promote industrialists and that there was no harm in it but simultaneously it has realised its responsibility.

In this budget we have tried to rectify the mistakes made during the last six years of the implementation of policy.

[English]

This has rightly been termed as an innovative, a progressive and growth-oriented Budget.

[Translation]

If we assess the growth rate, one year does not make six years.

[English]

As one quarter does not make a year, one year does not make six years. The Congress, as has been promised by the hon. Finance Minister, has the target of sustained development of seven to eight per cent and we know how to achieve it. I was hearing Shri Bangrappa talking of a resolute mind. Where else could you have it other than the Congress?

[Translation]

Where the development has taken place till now. I do not want to go into the figures but is it not true that the GDP loan was 51.2% during 1998-99 which increased to 64.4% in 2003-04. Revenue deficit was 4%. It was in view of this that they announced the implementation of such programmes which will reduce it to 2.5%. They enacted the "Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act." We supported this Act. We knew that during our tenure we should fulfil some responsibilities. A target was fixed for 2007-2008 but work was not done to achieve it. In view of this, if Finance Minister has extended it for another one year, there is no need to criticize. However, there is a need to realise that each and everything has been analysed in detail and it has been decided that the promises would be fulfilled.

It is being repeatedly stated that there is nothing new in the budget. But how it can be ignored that the issues which were neglected till now, have been paid

due attention. Before me, the point regarding the allocation of funds for increasing the water level has been mentioned. Really, it has happened for the first time that the redundant filthy water tanks in our villages would be reused for agriculture. This is a step taken in this Budget.

[English]

It is an ambitious project, but at the same time a realistic one.

[Translation]

I was also surprised to know that they are making fun of withdrawing excise duty on agricultural implements. Are they not aware that even today the farmers in our small villages purchase the goods manufactured here only? They are saying strange thing that how the farmers would be benefited by it. They cannot realise this because they are never concerned about the farmers. It did not come to their minds that 80% of the Indians live their lives on bare essentials. As per the policy we adopted earlier, a little foreign investment is required in some sectors for the progress of the country and to generate employment. It would be inappropriate if we talk about the growth but could not generate employment opportunities for the people. Do they have objections if we take steps to generate employment and to ensure the growth of the country? Are the responsibilities changed just by shifting to that side? Only a few months have passed since the formation of the Government. Do they think that the Government has some magic wand to improve the economic condition of the country which deteriorated during the past seven years? Congress had done it earlier. Rolling Plan was formulated in 1977. What was the purpose of Rolling Plan? At that time, Bhartiya Janata Party with some other name was part of it. The meaning of the Rolling Plan—was no plan. They felt no need to formulate any plan. They were also planning to withdraw the 5 years plans formulated very carefully. However, after the come back, Congress again set the economy on right path. Such changes take place in democracy and I do not want to comment in this regard. We play our rules as per our responsibility. In a very short time, this Government has understand how the economic situation can be brought on the right path. The reforms made by the previous Government by-passed the common man.

[English]

Your reforms by passed an ordinary man, a common man of the country.

[*Translation*]

That's why I have mentioned that our Government has brought the reforms keeping in view the common man's needs. Everybody will be benefited of it. But they are not paying attention towards what is new in the budget. Hon'ble Finance Minister has stated that the Government will bring a new bill and take responsibility on its own to provide at least 100 days' work on minimum wages to every poor man of the country. Is it a very small thing? It is a revolutionary step. There is a need to understand it. Government has understood its responsibility and assured that whatever investment made in agriculture sector, would be doubled in the three years. The present Government has realised its need. It is true that we have to move towards industrialisation but the country cannot progress till we pay attention towards the improvement in agriculture sector. For the first time another major step has been taken. I do not say that our Public Distribution System was up to the mark during the regime of Congress Government but the previous Government ruined the entire system. They gave a new definition to it. They gave the new definition in the name of doing something for the poorest of the poor people. However, as per this definition if a person owns even only a fan, or a cycle he deems to be above the poverty line. He would be considered as a rich person and will not get the benefits of PDS. What an irony that we have ample stock of foodgrains only because of the policy formulated by Smt. Indira Gandhi.

[*English*]

When Johnson was giving a short shrift to the country.

[*Translation*]

At that time he had talked of Green Revolution with a sense of self respect. But a poor man works day in and day out to eke out his living. Therefore, a step in form of the pilot project was taken. For the first time the people were benefited in the real sense of the term. A provision of food camps was made and from anywhere one can go and buy one's commodities. Should it not have been appreciated?

[*English*]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): It is being implemented in only one district.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It is a pilot project.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is a pilot project.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It has to start somewhere. There is a Chinese proverb which says, "Even if you want to walk a thousand miles, you have to take the first step somewhere". Please read the Budget Speech.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: I hope, it will continue.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: If it succeeds, it will continue. It is only an experiment.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: It was about the resolute mind. I shall speak with a sense of self confidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bansalji now your time is over.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am just going to conclude. I wanted to speak in the last. I would not like to speak much. Many of our friends are yet to speak. I would like to refer to one or two things. It has been stated for the first time that drinking water be made available to one and all. At that time Shri Rajiv Gandhi had formed a Technology Mission on it. The work had just started thereon. After that what happened to it? At that time Housing Schemes were being thought of. Prior to me a senior Member of the Bharatiya Janta Party was speaking in the House that names of all schemes had been changed. If seen in retrospect you will find when and what projects were started? What is the progress of work during the 6 years? Only names were changed and there was nothing else except that. I leave this matter here. Again I come to the point that we have at present made the commitment that drinking water and electricity will be provided to all and more housing schemes will be formulated. What happened during the last five years? People can migrate from one place and settle down anywhere in India. In their view there was only one way to eradicate poverty i.e. if people are living in slums, demolishing their huts through bulldozers and throwing them out. They had only this solution. They never thought about their welfare. Loans from the Banks could have been advanced. They boast of having reduced rates of interest but whom was it meant for? It was for those who have been taken lakhs and crores of rupees from Banks as loans. No, the rates of interest should be reduced for the poor people. We could have referred to it if the money was to come from abroad and I would like to urge the Members of the Samajwadi

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

Party that we stand for the same principle in that matter. The Congress had done so. At that time such an atmosphere prevailed in the country when we should have taken that way. But we have to keep pace with time. Can we forge ahead if we go on insisting that foreign investment is not required? I agree that there are some areas where we shall have to do it after a lot of thinking but we shall go for it in those areas where it is beneficial to do so and the investable capital of the country will be utilized for welfare of the poor. We can advance loans to them below the Bank rates as the hon'ble Finance Minister has just referred to the Self Help Groups. In that area we have been able to make a headway.

18.00 hrs.

The scheme has benefitted the people and it was formulated in 1992. But, during the last six years you never made mention of the scheme as to when it was formulated. Now, we want to proceed with that. It is our commitment for those people that we have to do something for them.

I would like to say a thing or two in form of suggestions. For a long time I thought that the Service Tax is perhaps a burden on the people but it is not so, it is innovative. One the one hand the Government are trying to reform our tax regime, lower the rates of interest and on the other, it is required to set off somewhere else. If we abolish the Income Tax and the Direct Tax, Consumption Tax can be imposed as is often suggested. If we save money on one count, I have no compunction in suggesting that agriculture should not be brought into the tax net. If they have good income and they also want to spend on costly items, there is nothing wrong in it if Service Tax is imposed on them. It, therefore, follows the middle path between the two extremes and I would not like to term it 'trapeze' as the Members sitting on the opposite side have used this word. It is a balanced budget and it has been formulated to take care of each and every person and not merely for pleasing the people. The Budget deserves a word of praise. I would like to give an example of tent. There are many a people who can spend Rs. 10 lakhs on it in marriage functions and on the other hand there are those who cannot spend even Rs. 2000 or 5000 on it. I think that there must be a threshold for it. The Finance Minister should think over it lest it should land people in difficulty because the Government manifests through people at various places.

[English]

People will not see the Government of India in the Finance Ministry. People of India will see the Government of India in the form of the Inspector there.

[Translation]

As the Government is seen in the 'Patwari', therefore, people can face difficulty. I am sure you will see to it.

It is very good, we should have appreciated that some relief has been given in the Income Tax was very much in demand. I remember that it was at the time of the Congress Government that the range of the Income Tax was last revised to Rs. 50,000. At the time I had heard Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee saying that it was very low and it should have been Rs. 1 lakh. Eight years have passed since then and the range has not been raised to Rs. 1 lakh. What has been done this year is innovative. You have tried to find a new way to help those who needed it. Even it is being ridiculed that what a new idea has been thought out. You do not approve of new methods. You want to sit with closed minds. The Finance Minister has stated:

[English]

"I would revisit this subject if I find a better compliance."

[Translation]

What is wrong with it. If there is good earning from that a few more works of Government will be accomplished. Next time we shall ask for that also. But I would like to say only this in this regard that you have exempted from the Income Tax only those persons whose income is Rs. One lakh per annum. If seen calculation-wise, we find that the person whose income exceeds the limit of Rs. 1 lakh by say Rs. 500 or 1000, he will have to pay a minimum amount of Rs. 9000 thereby lowering his income from Rs. 1 lakh. Therefore, please, take note of it.

The time is very short. I have not to speak much. I have not compunction to say that you have framed a good budget. But for the next budget you will have to initiate the process right now. That will, indeed, be your budget. This Budget has been made keeping in view the prevailing circumstances. In many areas it is like fire fighting, full of foresightedness and it is also a perceptive budget but the budget making process for the next budget should be started right now with a view to simplify the tax laws so that the people do not have to face any difficulty. If it happens and the amount payable in tax is reasonable, people will pay the taxes willingly but it should also be backed by incentives. It should not happen that if some one given one's name for tax, officers begin to eye them with suspicion. Instead he should be given

incentives for that and regarded as citizen who is participating in the progress of the country.

With these words, I appreciate and support the budget made by you. I am highly thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[*English*]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Sir, I rise to defend the Union Budget for the year 2004-05 on behalf of the *Pattali Makkal Kaatchi* and its Founder President, Dr. S. Ramadoss Aiyya. In our view, the hon. Finance Minister deserves our fullest appreciation and compliment for presenting a Budget which addresses the current challenges facing the economy and its people.

Sir, the Union Budget, for that matter any Budget, can be better evaluated and appreciated if we keep three factors in mind. Firstly, the Union Budget is a major document which provides a direction to the Government about the way in which the country will be taken in the next one year. Secondly, the Budget is not a planned document which addresses the medium and long-term measures while the budget addresses the current important challenges facing the economy. Therefore, we should not confuse with the long-term issues of an economy which have not been solved in the last 50 years and comment that these have not been solved by this Budget. Therefore, we should keep this distinction between a Budget as well as the planned document. The third consideration which one should keep in mind while evaluating the Budget is that the Budget has to be an exercise in political economy. It cannot merely be an economic document nor can it be a purely political document. If I can understand politics as a kind of a public service, then those public service activities should be reflected in the Budget. This is what the present Budget does.

Therefore, from the point of view there is good politics in the Budget and not political compulsions on the part of the Hon. Finance Minister. And there is good economics and economic principles in the Budget as foreseen by the great economists of the country as well as different countries of the world. I remember of a statement purported to have been made by the hon. Prime Minister when he was the Finance Minister that there cannot be good politics without good economics and there cannot be good economics without good politics. Now, here is a Budget which combines the elements of good politics as well as good economics. By keeping these

considerations in mind only, we will have to evaluate this Budget. When you take these considerations into account I have every feeling to say that this is an excellent Budget which the country needs today. We are happy that the hon. Prime Minister as well as the Congress (I) President Smt. Sonia ji have given necessary stimulus to the hon. Finance Minister for presenting this excellent Budget. We appreciate this Budget not on any subjective consideration but on many objective merits rather intrinsic merits that we are able to see in the Budget given the constraints under which the Budget has been prepared itself today.

Firstly, from a theoretical macro fiscal economies point of view, we find that this Budget satisfies all the canons of a good Budget. The tax proposals satisfy the canons of taxation like the ability to pay, the canon of convenience, the canon of compliance, the canon of resource mobilisation, and the canon of least sacrifice. From the expenditure point of view, we find that the Budget strives to achieve the maximum social advantage, economy, prudence, greatest happiness of the greatest number, which is the ultimate goal of every welfare State. When we come to the deficit part of it, we find that there is a lot of element of fiscal prudence and fiscal discipline in this Budget. Therefore, taking the tax component, the expenditure component and the deficit component, one cannot but feel that this satisfies all the canons as enshrined in the various theories and theoretical frameworks.

The second merit of this Budget is that it is prepared in a highly professional manner, and we should congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for having exhibited the high skills and dexterity in the Budget-making exercise. Perhaps his past experience as the Finance Minister and his commitment to this country has enabled him to show this amount of professionalism. This Budget has been prepared in the background of the Fiscal Responsibility and the Budget Management Act of 2003 with concomitant three documents—Mid-term Fiscal Policy Statement; Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement; and Macro Economic Framework Statement. I think that in the last 54 years, no Finance Minister has given all these documents and has shown a responsibility for Budget-making exercises in this country except the present Finance Minister, who, therefore, deserves all appreciation. I think that this is an innovative idea, in the fiscal history of India and arena of the fiscal responsibility. The Budget Management Act opens a new era in the Budget-making because here is a Government which says that: "we will be responsible for all the actions of the Government."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, now.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, let him continue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Please carry on.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The Government has laid for itself a *Lakshman Rekha* and says that it will not transcend the limits of this *Rekha* and it will act with a greater responsibility. Sir, not only that he has given that commitment but has also shown it in the Budget by reducing the revenue deficit. The commitment is that the revenue deficit of the Government would be wiped out by 2008-09 and the fiscal deficit would be reduced to three per cent of the GDP by that period. True to this commitment, the present Budget itself has reduced the revenue deficit to 2.5 per cent and fiscal deficit to 4.4 per cent. This reduction has come despite the fact that there are compelling factors on the expenditure side. But he has been able to reduce the non-plan expenditure also to a greater extent, and thereby, he is able to show a greater amount of fiscal discipline and prudence.

If you look at the economic crisis of 1991, it was only the fiscal profligacy and indiscipline on the part of the Government that landed the country into an economic crisis. Therefore, if the country has to remain stable we will have to have this kind of fiscal responsibility. The Government of India, and the UPA deserve a lot of appreciation for bringing this Bill. I think, the Indian economy would not derail from the path of economic stability hereafter.

All the nagging problems of this country, whatever problems that have been dragging on in the past decades, have been addressed very ably by the hon. Finance Minister in this Budget. He has given a growth-oriented strategy. The people have been asking whether the growth rate of seven per cent to eight per cent is possible. This is quite possible. When the BJP Government without a human face could achieve 8.1 per cent in the last year, why not this Government with all these initiatives can do this? The evidence of this growth path has been shown by an increased plan outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore this year alone. The total plan outlay now is Rs. 1,45,599 crores. Not only that the Planning Commission has been advised to reprioritise all the items and the non-plan expenditure has also been reduced. Keeping in view the growth path, the hon. Finance Minister has emphasised on the need for investment in the economy, investment not only in the industry but also in all the sectors where investment has become a crying need of the hour.

Agriculture holds the key to food productivity and employment.

Sir, in the last 10 years or so, agriculture has been considered as a big casualty in terms of investment. Agricultural investment has been continuously declining. The Eighth Five Year Plan has outlined it. The Ninth Five Year Plan has indicated it, and this Budget gives a clear indication of the fact that the agricultural investment would be stepped up.

Therefore, this Budget is an agriculture-oriented Budget. There are measures for industrial development; there are measures for development of small scale industries, traditional industries, etc.

The most gratifying part is that the glory of the public sector has been revived by the present UPA Government. In my view, the public sector has been the pride of this nation and the public sector has been built out of the money of the taxpayers of this country. Therefore, we would not tolerate any kind of denigration of the public sector. The hon. Finance Minister has brought about a golden compromise between wholesale privatisation and wholesale public sector by having a trade off between the two and by giving due importance to the public sector. He has established a Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises which shows the greatest concern of the Finance Minister for public sector restructuring.

More than anything else, in today's federal structure about which the hon. Leader of Opposition was talking a great deal, the Finance Minister wants to build up a congenial relationship with the State Governments. Whatever our forefathers wanted, whatever Dr. Ambedkar wanted while drafting the Indian Constitution, whatever Jawaharlal Nehru wanted about federation have been translated in this Budget. He has made a provision that 28 per cent of the total resources of the Centre would be allocated to the State Governments. No other Government so far has done that. It should be able to please all the State Governments and it would be a great step forward in the area of Centre-State relations. He did not stop with that. He has announced debt relief for States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I will take only two minutes.

The last merit is his promise towards backward States. We know that without development of the backward States, India cannot progress further; we cannot

achieve the goal of attaining the developed status by 2020. We know about BIMARU States. I feel that we should also include two more States, namely Assam and Orissa to that list. It should not only include backward States, but also the backward districts in various progressive States. There are a number of backward districts like Vidharba in Gujarat, Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu and a number of other backward districts in Andhra Pradesh. All these districts are to be taken into consideration, and we should be able to constitute a kind of Backward States and Backward Regions Commission, instead of the Grant or Commission fund that the hon. Finance Minister has giving.

Therefore, what we need in the present context is, as Dr. Ambedkar said, that we have to adopt a policy of 'unequal treatment to unequals.' We cannot think of giving equal treatment to all the States which have had wide-ranging development. We have to give special treatment to Backward States. All those BIMARU States and the two other States of Assam and Orissa have 62 per cent of the population of our country. If 62 per cent of the population cannot be uplifted, then our planning process will not have any meaning.

There are many more points like this about which I can speak even for an hour. But since you have already rung the bell, I will stop here. At the same time, I would like to give some areas of concern which the hon. Finance Minister can take note of. Please give me a few more minutes.

In defining development, we should not often be tied to the growth strategy in terms of per capita income and national income. We should think in terms of human development index. The Planning Commission has started working out human Development Index for all the States. That should be the guiding factor for allocating resources. Rather than insisting on growth strategy of 7-8 per cent of GDP as well as per capita income, we should emphasise on HDI because these celebrated measures have lost their relevance in many countries and UNDP insists on HDI nowadays.

Therefore, we should think in terms of human development index. We should also evolve an effective delivery mechanism for rural credit. The Finance Minister has said that he would constitute a Task Force on the cooperative credit system. I would once again appeal to you Sir to go through Khusru Committee *i.e.* the

Agricultural Review Committee, etc. which thought in terms of a National Bank for Cooperative Credit. Debt relief can also be given to the farmers.

There are some areas in the CMP which have not been touched by the present Budget like the unorganised sector, the welfare of the people in that sector, fishermen. Some other categories of weaker section have also not been touched by him. In the whole of this country, Pondicherry is the only Government, which is providing relief to fishermen during the off-season period. For 45 days it gives Rs. 300 plus 90 kg. of rice. Perhaps the Union Government could think of a national scheme to give relief to the distressed of the fishermen in future.

It is true that education, and more so primary education, is important. But what is more important is, we must know whether what is being taught in the primary schools is relevant and whether they have infrastructure etc. or not. Mere massive investment will not do, as we have seen in the case of Kumbakonam some two or three days back. Therefore, we should think of the infrastructure facilities.

Providing food is one innovative scheme.

To sum up, I should say that this is a Budget for human welfare, a Budget for growth, balance development, smooth Centre-State relations, translating the vision of the Common Minimum Programme, satisfying the aspirations of the common men of India who have voted the UPA to power. The Quintessence of this Budget could be expressed in terms of what the great poet of Tamil Nadu Mahakavi Bharathiyar has once said. Somebody was saying that it is a dream Budget. Early morning dreams always come true. For the last 45 days our Finance Minister has been working throughout the day and night, including early mornings. Therefore, we hope that his dreams, as desired by Bharathiyar, will come true. I would like to quote what Mahakavi Bharathiyar has said:

"Vayitrukku Sorida Vendum - Ingu
 Vaazhum Mavitharukkellam
 Payittru Palakalvi Thandhu - Intha
 Parai Uyarthida Vendum
 Nerungina Porul Kaipada Vendum
 Kanavu Meipada Vendum
 Kaivasamavathu Viravil Vendum
 Dhanamum Inbamum Vendum
 Tharaniyil Perumai Vendum"

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

I will translate it in English for you.

"The hunger of one and all on earth

we must appease;

Train them all in many arts and education

for the whole world to advance

Quick dividends

dreams fulfilled

wealth and happiness

and fame on earth."

I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will be able to achieve this vision and translate it into a reality in the next four years in which case we will have a permanent Congress led Government in this country.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA (Tura): Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. Shri Ram Manohar Reddy in his article in *The Hindu* on the 17th of this month has observed and I would like to quote:

"The Central Budgets have long ceased to be the major policy documents. They are now prepared for the TV studios and headlines in the morning newspapers."

I could not agree more. Our Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram is a very eminent lawyer. He is very articulate and has amply demonstrated his skill in presenting the Budget.

The first Budget which Mr. Chidambaram had presented before this House — I was presiding over this august House — was described as a dream Budget. That dream Budget had a very rough weather as to whether it would be passed or not. I had to find out a lot of ways and means to get that Budget passed. This Budget has been described by your well wishers as a dream Budget come true. I really do not know whether it is really a dream Budget. I do not find any new grounds, any new direction and any new approach in the present Budget.

I can understand the constraints of the Finance Minister. I have been following you very closely for a long time. I have been reading your articles in various newspapers and magazines. I do not find any reflection of what you have been writing and saying in the present Budget that you have presented. I was particularly

impressed by an article which was published on the 21st of January, 2002 in the *India Today*. The title of your article was '*Poverty Eradication—Spending is not investment*'. I quote:

"Our approach to poverty alleviation is illogical and perverse. We attack poverty through subsidies and through too many anti-poverty schemes."

This is what the Finance Minister had to write and today in this Budget what do we find? It is all schemes. We find schemes after schemes. I have gone through, at least, 23 schemes. The Finance Minister has just followed the on-going schemes which the previous Governments have introduced. There are schemes after schemes and what did the Finance Minister do in those schemes? I have tried to analyse each scheme. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana and the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, these are two schemes where there has been no enhancement at all. In your Budget Speech, you were very proud to announce the kind of importance the UPA Government is giving to the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. But what is the allocation? The allocation is just the same as it was before. It was Rs. 2800 crore in 2003-04 Budget and it is exactly Rs. 2800 crore in the present Budget. Where is the pride in that?

Now I have identified six on-going schemes where, in fact, the Finance Minister has reduced the budgetary support. As regards Food-for-Work Programme, the food component of this Programme has been drastically reduced. The allocation has been reduced for Farm Income Insurance Project. As regards upgradation of the Industrial Training Institutes, I had been the Labour Minister of this country for nine long years and I had tried my best to see that the schemes for rural boys and girls are upgraded. The condition of our ITIs is very bad. I had an occasion to visit one of the States in the North-East. In their Automobile Section, I found a vehicle. When I asked them where did they get this vehicle from, they replied that it was left by the Britishers during the Second World War. I tried to upgrade ITIs. I am sorry to say that the Finance Minister did not give a single *naya paisa* more for upgradation of Industrial Training Institutes.

How is the Finance Minister going to complete the schemes? Take the examples of the schemes like the Universal Health Insurance Scheme, the Seed Production Programme, the National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oil Development Board. I do not find any increase in allocation for these schemes. Therefore, the Finance Minister has certainly not been allowed to present his

Budget. It is certainly not his Budget. It is certainly not according to his thinking; according to his perception and according to his policies. It is because I am a regular reader of his articles and his articles are politically correct and therefore, I find a different Chidambaram in this particular Budget.

Sir, a lot of things have been said in regard to emphasis having been laid on agriculture in this Budget. Where is the emphasis on agriculture in the Budget? What has the Finance Minister said about agriculture in the Budget? He has only said that credit availability to farmers will be doubled in the next three years. The Finance Minister has put the farmers at the mercy of the financial institutions. Where is the investment? I do not find any significant investment in the agriculture sector, though he has been advocating for it. I have already quoted from his articles. Public investment in agriculture has been stagnant at constant rate of 1.5 per cent of the GDP. That is what the hon. Finance Minister had stated in his articles. Where is the investment here? Except that, he has said that the credit availability will be doubled in the next three years. I come from a village. I know how the financial institutions behave and who are the creditworthy farmers. It is they who have not been able to pay their loans that they took earlier and when they go to the financial institutions, they say, 'you are not eligible. Please get out. You cannot get any loan'. Where is the investment in agriculture?

Sir, I wish to raise a particular point since my availability of time is very less. It is about Brahmaputra Flood Control. What is the allocation for this? Today the hon. Prime Minister is in Assam. A lot of people have already died. A lot of erosion have already taken place. Millions of people have got stranded and have got uprooted from their homes, but the hon. Finance Minister speaks so much about the North-Eastern region. How much has he allocated for Brahmaputra Flood Control? This is an on-going programme. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 10 crore and this year, the Finance Minister has allocated another Rs. 10 crore for this project. It is just Rs. 20 crore in all. How would this sum help in the control of floods in the Brahmaputra?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the last Government you were the hon. Minister for Water Resources. Once when I had spoken on this subject on the floor of the House and approached you through the hon. Prime Minister, the then Prime Minister instructed you to release a sum of Rs. 50 crore immediately and you were kind enough to do so. I am grateful to you for what you did at that time. But today what has been allocated in the Budget? A Government that has so much of a soft corner for the

North-Eastern region has allocated a sum of Rs. 10 crore more than what it was last year for the Brahmaputra Flood Control programme. I am sorry this is not acceptable.

Sir, for the State of Bihar a sum of Rs. 3500 crore has been allocated for this purpose. I have a point on that also. How much has been the allocation in this Budget for flood control in the Ganga basin? A sum of Rs. 5.5 crore more than what was allocated last year. What is the position in Bihar today? Shri Nitish Kumar was telling me about the kind of sufferings people are undergoing owing to flood in the State. Today it has not been possible for him to be present here. But in the Budget it has been very proudly mentioned that the Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 5.5 crore more than what it was last year.

Sir, it has been mentioned that the Government is committed to speedy development of the North-Eastern region and all Ministries and Departments have been mandated to allocate at least ten per cent of their planned Budget for the schemes and programmes of the North-Eastern region. Is it a new thing? We have been hearing this from the days of Mr. Devegowda. As the Prime Minister, Mr. Devegowda went to the North-Eastern region and, as I was the Presiding Officer at that time, I did have some influence on him. He came out with a suggestion that every Ministry will earmark ten per cent of their budget for the development of the North-East and, if that money cannot be spent, it will go to the non-lapsable pool of resources. The Finance Minister has exactly said what Mr. Devegowda had said many years ago. What did you give us? Please tell us, Mr. Chidambaram. What did you give to the North-Eastern Region? Did you provide a single paisa more for the North-Eastern Region? You are just following what Mr. Devegowda has done. I am sorry that this is not the way to mislead the people of the North-Eastern Region.

I have watched the Finance Minister on the television. He has been repeatedly saying that they will carry on with reforms and he has also said recently that they are the original reformers. What is that 'original reformer'? And how are you going to carry on with your reforms? I really do not understand. I was a member of the Council of Ministers when the reforms started in 1991. I was a member of the Cabinet and we were discussing about it in the Cabinet. The then Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had been repeatedly saying that we have to see that the money is being spent for the public sector

[Shri P.A. Sangma]

undertakings and if the public sector undertaking is not able to cope up or come up with any improvement, then the money that we saved from the investment towards the public sector undertaking should be given to the social sector. That was the idea.

I had the most difficult task those days of being the Labour Minister because labour unrest was there. Out of 224 public sector undertakings, 58 of them were chronically sick. The then Finance Minister told the Labour Minister that he cannot give the money and that it had to be closed down. I have been fighting for it. The argument was, "No, we have to close down because the money which we are wasting has to be given to the social sector." And what did your Budget say today? You have gone back from that.

Coming to State Electricity Boards, the then Finance Minister who is the Prime Minister today has been repeatedly telling in the Cabinet meetings and in the meetings of the Group of Ministers as, "Today, the biggest burden on the country's economy is the Electricity Boards of the country. The loss is Rs. 25,000 crore every year and we have to do something in that regard." I do not find a word about the public sector in your Budget speech. What is your plan about the power sector? Not a word is found in the Budget speech. Now, when talking about the power sector, I do not know how you are going to carry with your reforms. It is not possible. I do not find any answer on those points.

As regards FDI, I have no quarrel about FDI with you. The reform process has to go on and you carry on with that. But the problem is whether you will be able to carry it through. The NDA has said that they will oppose the enhancement of your FDI cap. The Samajwadi Party has said that they are going to oppose it. Your allies, the Left Front, have said that they are going to oppose it come what may.

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY (Nandyal): You support us.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: You say, "We do not normally bark. We only bite." And when you bite, you bite very bitterly. Let us see how do you bite on this preposition. I have a strong feeling that as far as FDI and other major economic policies are concerned, we must have a national consensus. We should not take it on political lines. I would appeal to the Left Parties in this regard.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You appeal to the right also.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I would appeal to the whole House on this issue. Why cannot we have a serious debate on this? Why cannot we have a national consensus on this major policy decision?

For my Left friends, I would like to point out the policy of China. What is the policy of Chinese Communist Government? I tell you that. Generally, the Chinese policy is that the capital from foreign parties should not be less than 25 per cent. So, they have set the minimum limit and not the maximum limit. Here, you are saying that the Government cannot go from 29 per cent to 49 per cent. The hon. Finance Minister himself has asked as to what is the difference between 29 per cent and 49 per cent. It is only a question of control, that is control by the Indian company of Indian Government or private investor or foreign investor. The hon. Finance Minister himself has repeatedly said that there is no difference between 29 per cent and 49 per cent. I do not know how the Left sees so much of difference in that.

I think it is better if the Left Front friends learn something more from the Chinese experience. Let them see what the Chinese are doing. I have some figures about China. In FDI, they have surpassed everybody. They have even surpassed, I think, the United States of America. In 2003-04, Foreign Direct Investment in China is 52 billion US dollars, whereas for the United States of America it is only 40 billion dollars. Why? It is because they have set the minimum limit, a minimum limit of 25 per cent. There is no maximum limit. Above 25 per cent, you can invest anything. But it cannot be below 25 per cent. Here we are making so much of noise. I do not know what we are talking about.

I would like to point out one more thing about fiscal consolidation that the hon. Minister talked about. He has projected that he would bring down the revenue deficit to 2.5 per cent of the GDP. I really do not know how he is going to achieve it. I am not going into the monsoon factor, I am not going into the issue of Left and the Right opposing his FDI proposals and all that. The fact is that the projections that the Finance Minister has given to this country are highly optimistic. I have my own doubts. What does he say? He hopes to get across tax revenue to the tune of Rs 62,810 crore. That is his expectation. This is 25 per cent more than what has been realised last year. Mr. Minister, do you agree? He hopes to collect service tax to the tune of Rs. 14,150 crore. It is 70 per cent higher than what has been realised in the preceding year. Now, he is getting into the problem of transaction tax or turnover tax. You have projected a revenue of

Rs. 14,170 crore, which is 70 per cent higher than what the Government got last year. He hopes to collect corporate tax to the tune of Rs. 88,436 crore, which is 40 per cent higher than the realisation of 2003-04. As regards income tax, he hopes to get Rs. 50,929 crore, which is a hike of 26 per cent over the realisation of last year. I think it is over estimation. I have gravest doubts on the projections that he has made to bring down the revenue deficit to 2.5 per cent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know about the limitation of time. You are not interrupting me. You have been very kind to me.

I am worried about one thing. Budget will come and Budget will go and we will keep on debating about it. There are certain things which are happening in this country. I had an occasion to speak about how our institutions are decaying. We have not been able to keep up our institutions. We have our systems and our systems are not working. As I said earlier, our institutions are completely decaying—I do not know, I am very sorry to say that. Look at the kind of Governors. What has happened in Arunachal Pradesh? MLAs were going and gheraoing the Governor. They were asking him, by force, to sign. Where is the institution of Governorship? Our Speaker in this House is repeatedly saying everyday that the whole world is watching us, the whole country is watching us and we should behave properly. Where are the Parliamentary institutions going? Now, the latest victim is the institution of the Prime Minister himself. The Office of the Prime Minister has become the latest victim in this country. I do not understand what is the meaning of this National Advisory Council? What for is it required? It is a dangerous thing that you are doing. I am not going to elaborate much. I want only to warn this Government that it is going to be a dangerous precedent. Somebody is going to Chennai and saying: "I will give rupees one crore?" From where will it be given? *...(Interruptions)* Who is the authorised person for that? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, he is setting a wrong precedent. You cannot allow it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is on his legs. He will reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: You have every right to say what you feel. I have every right to say what I feel. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the hon. Member is certainly entitled to make a comment as long as he does not unwittingly ignore a certain fact. The announcement was made by saying: "I have been able to come here. The Prime Minister has asked me to make the statement. On behalf of the Prime Minister, I am announcing that from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, a sum of rupees one crore is given." *...(Interruptions)*

Just wait for a moment. If Mr. Sangma, when he was the Speaker or when he was a Minister, had occasion to be one of the earliest visitors to a place of tragedy and the Prime Minister asked Mr. Sangma — even as a Speaker — to make an announcement on his behalf, I think Mr. Sangma would have been perfectly right in making the announcement. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is clear.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I fully agree with the Finance Minister when he said that as the Finance Minister of this country, he can announce this on behalf of the Prime Minister. But who has announced it? With what *locus standi* was it announced? If it is a Minister announcing it, I have no objection. We used to do that. *...(Interruptions)* Do not take it lightly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I am talking of a very serious issue. You do not know that I am a responsible man. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Madam has every right to announce it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): On behalf of the Prime Minister, she has announced it. She has got every right to do that. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, my learned friend Shri Sangma made a very thoughtful speech on the Budget. I have written a page of notes. Now, I am hoping to respond to him. It is a very thoughtful speech. But why does he do this? I think there is some chip on his shoulder. He is carrying this personal campaign to the extreme limit. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sangma, please conclude now. Your time is up. I am worried because so many hon. Members are to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: You do not have to come to his rescue. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the parents of the children are already hurt. Let him not quote this incident. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sangma, please conclude. Many Members want to participate in this debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I am not boasting. I have been in this House for more than 25 years. I have presided over this august House. I have been a Union Minister for more than 15 years. I have been the Chief Minister of my State. I have been the Leader of the Opposition. Whatever I am saying, I am saying it with full responsibility as a citizen of this country. What is being done is not good for the country. Tomorrow, if they come back to power. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM: Sir, the parents of the children are already very much hurt and are undergoing a great trauma due to this tragedy. He should not add fuel to the fire. ...(Interruptions) So, he can quote some other incident. This is not fair. Today, an opportunity may be there. But he should not quote this incident. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Finance Minister has already clarified the matter. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I am not opposing the money which has been given. It should have been more than Rs. one crore. I am only saying that the manner in which the person by whom it was announced was not correct. That is all I am saying.

They have provoked me so much. Let me put it very bluntly. Tomorrow, if they come back to power and they have a National Advisory Council chaired by the RSS President or VHP President, how will the Congress oppose it?

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Mr. Chairman, Sir, every Budget has got its own excitements and controversies. Likewise, the Budget of 2004 is no exception. It will be remembered for the introduction of turn over tax generating some revenue for the Government, but the turn over tax may succeed only in inhibiting the entry of individual investors and this may not be good for the healthy growth of the market as well as for the development of the country, as a whole.

Sir, much was expected from the new Government's Budget because, after all, it was the first really serious policy document of the Government since the National Common Minimum Programme is a mere wish list of the proposed policies and programmes. It is just a replica of the National Common Minimum Programme rather than an action oriented document with any direction.

Certainly, the Budget speech was filled with many references to agriculture, education, health and employment. Some measures do indicate a commitment to changes in certain areas. For example, the Finance Minister has proposed to impose a two per cent cess on taxes for mobilising around Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. It is a good move to improve the education system in the country. Likewise, the concessions announced on medical equipment in the way of either waiver or reduction in customs duty will be helpful to the poor patients.

Sir, here the Finance Minister has conveniently forgotten some people who are hearing impaired. The hearing aid is manufactured in India but the imposition of CVD on hearing aid is making it expensive in comparison to the imported ones.

The hon. Finance Minister has decided to revive the public sector enterprises. It is a good gesture. It has sent a ray of hope in the working class. But it should not be in toto and we must also keep in view the perennially loss making PSUs where the money should not be dumped or wasted.

Likewise, there are some positive moves for the agriculture. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund has been revived. The Intention to double the agricultural credit in three years is a positive move towards the farming community. But any action taken for the benefit of farmers should not boomerang, rather it should be helpful to them. It should not harm the farming sector. To cite one example, in a good sense the Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with some packages and also brought a Bill of moratorium on private lending for six months. This has created a problem in the

agricultural sector where the banks and private moneylenders are not in a position to sanction loans to the farming community, immediately when there is a need, out of fear. Nobody is coming forward to lend them and the farming community is in a lurch of money. Such a situation should not be there. Because of this, in some places, the private moneylenders, in spite of moratorium, are playing havoc with the farmers in realising the loans from the farmers.

Yesterday, in an incident, where a private moneylender in order to realise the loan had beaten a farmer severely. Fortunately he has survived. In spite of having such moratorium, any Government action should not be of such type. It should be helpful to the farmers.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has made a special allocation of Rs. 10,000 crore in terms of budgetary support for the Central Plan, supposedly to implement the NCMP. But this amount is really nothing compared to the huge need of funds required to go even some way towards fulfilling the promises already made. This allocation needs to be increased further as this is not sufficient.

There is a budget allocation for crucial rural employment programmes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana. It is not more than the Budget, which was allocated by the previous Government. The 100 days Employment Guarantee Scheme in rural areas is merely on the paper than in any action plan. This should be implemented immediately to stop starvation deaths, suicides and migration from rural areas to urban areas. Any Government before coming up with any plan should work out the actual and then implement it. The farmers are dying, people are migrating from one place to another, half of the country is drought prone and half of the country is in floods. How long do we have to wait for the Action Plan to come? My request to the hon. Finance Minister is that in such types of cases, they must come out with an Action Plan so that it is helpful to the people in rural areas. It is because the 100 days employment programme is intended for rural people.

The other schemes, such as rural sanitation and drinking water, which are very important, the increase in outlay are relatively modest, in the range of Rs. 40 crore to Rs. 100 crore. Now, we have a severe drinking water problem throughout the country. The allocation should be enhanced for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. There are more than 50 Members who wish to participate in this debate.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, I will conclude in two minutes.

Sir, electricity and drinking water are needed by everybody, but no mention has been made about them in the budget allocation. How is he going to raise money for them?

Coming to the backward States, a Backward State Grant Fund has been created by the hon. Finance Minister and a sum of Rs. 45,000 crore has been proposed. It is merely a renaming exercise rather than allocating some money on it. The exercise has been made to transfer funds from one head to another head. This needs a practical approach. It is a good programme. There is a disparity among many States and because of this in most of the States anti-social activities are occurring.

19.00 hrs.

Regional disparities are coming up because of this disparity only. We must have a national outlook. My request is to see that this is materialised and funds are mobilised. We should come out with the ways and means to achieve this target.

Sir, Defence is a good thing. Defence budget has been increased to Rs. 77,000 crore which is very much needed at this juncture. This will get the Defence forces modernised.

Sir, now I come to steel. There is 8 per cent to 12 per cent increase in excise duty on steel. Steel is required and it will be used in the real estate sector and in construction field to build up infrastructure. Though it seems to be only 8 per cent, indirectly this will raise the cost of construction and it will become a hurdle in the infrastructure building.

Then I come to the welfare measures. For SCs and STs, you have mentioned in the Budget document or in your Budget speech that you have got a special liking for these people; but that is not reflected in your Budget allocations. Sir, for the 25 per cent population of the country, only Rs. 100 crore increase is there than the previous Budget. I believe that you have got a great respect and love for these people but this should be reflected in the Budget allocations also. My request to you is that you should see that the Budget allocation for them is increased.

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

Regarding State Governments, Sir, no effort has been made to correct the fiscal squeeze faced by the States. You said that the interest rate has been brought down from 10.5 per cent to 9 per cent. The Central Government is the usurious money lender to the States. Without any security, the Central Government gives money to the State Governments. You take loans from various institutions at the rate of 4 to 6 per cent and lend to the States at the rate of 10 per cent. It is a great injustice. The interest rates on loans to the States should further be reduced.

Then, FDI is a welcome gesture. Though we need FDI for the development, it should not be at the cost of the loss of the domestic industry. We must be very careful.

Then coming to the overall Budget, I feel it is very disappointing. It is very disappointing for the reason that no concrete measures have been proposed for the employment generation. As I said earlier, the allocation is meagre for the welfare of SCs and STs. It should be made in proportion to the population of the country. Twenty-five per cent of the population consists of SCs and STs. For them the Budget allocation should be 25 per cent of the total Budget of the country. What is essential for the development of farmers...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, I will take one minute more. Sir, the legendary engineer and the former Minister Shri K.L. Rao had proposed long back about linking of rivers. We are seeing now in the country that in some parts of the country floods are coming. Most parts of the South—your State is not an exception, Sir, you too hail from South—namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu have become now perennially drought-prone States. During the NDA Government, the issue of linking of rivers was taken up in a big way and that goes with the opinion of Shri K.L. Rao. Sir, water which is wasted and which goes to the sea comes from glaciers of Himalayas. The glaciers melt and then the water comes. They are perennial rivers. Whereas the rivers which are not perennial are—I am saying it in the context of the rivers of Southern States, say Godavari, Krishna and Tungabhadra—deficient of water because of the failure of monsoon. Unless we connect these rivers, the problem will not be solved. When we connect them, then only the entire country will prosper and the farming community will prosper.

Nothing has been mentioned in your Budget about the linking of the rivers. In your reply, you have to say

something about the linking of the rivers because it will help the farming community.

Then, Sir, no concrete measures for mobilisation of funds have been proposed. That is why, the Budget is disappointing. You would not have got enough time frame the Budget because soon after you got elected, within 40 days' period you have framed this Budget. I hope, your next Budget will be helpful to everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget 2004-2005 presented by the Finance Minister. The UPA Government has been formed in accordance with the wishes of the crores of people. I understand that the Government has presented this budget keeping in view the Common Minimum Programme, masses of the country and their requirements, and the requirements of the backward States. Through this budget the Finance Minister has tried to convey a message that our economic growth rate will remain upto 8%. He has given assurances regarding education, medical facilities, agriculture, employment and has also given thrust to investment. The Government have made a number of commitments for fulfilling so many objectives like reforms in the fiscal deficit. The Finance Minister is learned and thinker with vast experience and he has also been the Minister of Finance earlier. I am sure he will work in favour of the poor, unemployed and those struggling with economic hardships in conformity with his thinking.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards my State Bihar. I think the Members belonging to all parties have put forth their views on Bihar. The announcement made by the Minister has led to a confusion about which I will elaborate later on. Since the time is short and many members are there to speak. Therefore, I shall confine myself to the State of Bihar only. Bihar is the second poorest State of the country. It's condition is extremely pitiable. The percentage of the people living below the poverty line is 42.60. I would frankly say that even after almost 57 years of Independence, the State of Bihar is still neglected. It has been neglected since the time of the First Five Year Plan which was formulated for development of States and for providing economic assistance to them. Even now Bihar is backward due to imbalance and inequality. Had investment been made there since First Five Year Plan, keeping in view poverty of Bihar, the present condition would not have been so pitiable.

Sir, the economic situation of the State further deteriorated as a result of its bifurcation. 70% resources of its income went to Jharkhand and contrary to this 70% of the population remained with Bihar. Today, Bihar does not have the resources required for development of this 70% population. At present Bihar is spending 30% resources for improving the economic condition of that 70% population. After bifurcation of Bihar every party particularly the NDA Government had assured that a special economic package will be given to the State of Bihar. In Bihar Assembly Members from all political parties had demanded a special economic package for compensating Bihar. About Rs. 1,89,000 crores were demanded for Bihar. But NDA Government did not release even a single paisa for improving the economic condition of Bihar. Floods and drought hit Bihar every year thereby further deteriorating the economic condition of the State. The hon'ble Members have also discussed it in the House that Bihar suffers losses worth billions of rupees due to floods and this year about 70 districts of North Bihar have been completely ravaged by floods and about 100 persons have died due to floods as well as property worth billions of rupees has already been destroyed. Due to floods roads are in dilapidated condition and the communication system has been wholly damaged and day after day the economic condition in Bihar is further worsening. Unless and until the attitude of the Union Government changes, the situation of Bihar will not improve. The hon'ble Finance Minister is a learned person and his attitude towards Bihar has been positive. Keeping in mind the same positive attitude I would like to submit to the Finance Minister that the Union Government was to give Bihar an amount of Rs. 700 crores but a condition was imposed that first hold elections to Panchayat and only then the money will be released. Panchayat elections were held and a delegation also came to meet the then Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in order to draw attention of the then Government of India towards this aspect and despite that not a single penny was released to Bihar out of that sum of Rs. 700 crores. That amount is still lying with the Union Government. I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister to release the money to Bihar which was due to Bihar and which was its rightful claim so that development can take place there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the amount being released under the Indira Awaas Yojana is quite inadequate. I would like to request you to increase the amount being given under the above scheme so as to materialise the dreams cherished by the poor of concrete houses. The

Government is also making laws and releasing money for this purpose but the amount being released is very much inadequate. Kindly increase it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadavji, please speak briefly. Other hon'ble Members have also to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken ten minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, other hon'ble Members from our party have also not spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, it seems your annoyance with Bihar is growing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is not so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, in view of the flood situation the Chief Minister of Bihar has drawn the attention of the Prime Minister as well as the Finance Minister through a letter and she has asked for assistance of Rs. 1000 crores so that effective steps could be taken there but only Rs. 30 crores have been released so far. It is a meagre amount. I, therefore, would like to request the Finance Minister to make a special arrangement for Bihar so that relief works could be undertaken properly for flood victims in the State.

Sir, water logging which occurs every year is the biggest problem in North Bihar. The situation cannot improve unless the problem is properly diagnosed and an appropriate provision of funds is made. The check dams have also given way there. The State of Bihar cannot improve unless other arrangements besides roads are made there. As far as the special package is concerned, there is some confusion. The Finance Minister should clarify the position in this regard. He has stated that Rs. 3225 crores will be provided. The Prime Minister of the previous Government Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had announced that an amount of Rs. One thousand crores will be provided every year out of which only Rs. 400-500 crores have been received. I would like to know as to whether this amount of Rs. 3225 crores is in addition to that amount? We have heard that this is the amount which is given under the Rashtriya Shram Vikas Yojana. Under this scheme money is being provided to whole of the country. We would like it to be clarified, whether the amount is provided under the above scheme

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

or is it separate from that? We would like to know the stand of the Government particularly on Bihar State. The hon'ble Members of the House want to know. Please do some positive work in this regard. Whether any amount under the Rashtriya Sharm Vikas Yojana was released for Bihar during the year 2002-2003? I would like to know whether Jammu and Kashmir and the North East States have also got their share in this provision of Rs. 3225 crores during the year 2004-2005 and how much share these States have?

If so, how much of the funds have been allocated to the North-Eastern States and how much funds are to be given to Bihar?

It has been stated that 6 hospitals of the level of AIIMS would be opened throughout the country. A decision to open such hospital in Bihar was taken by the then Government and the hon. Vice-President laid the foundation stone for it at Phulwari in Patna. More than six months have passed since the foundation stone had been laid but the work is yet to be started. No budgetary allocation has been made in this regard. Should we take it as a denial to the demands of the people of Bihar? The poor people of Bihar especially come here for treatment. They don't get treated here. There is a need to set up the hospital immediately in view of the demand of the people here and it should not be confined to laying down of foundation stone only. You should certainly pay attention towards it. I would like to know when you are going to take action in this regard?

A very meagre amount of money has been spent in Bihar as far the CD ratio is concerned. The money deposited by Bihar is allocated to the more developed States and as per the law, we must get our money. Adequate funds are not spent in proportion to the CD ratio, which further deteriorates the condition. After the bifurcation of Bihar, except agriculture Bihar has not been left with any resources and the agro-industries are not being set up here, since all agro industries have gone to the State of Jharkhand. Until the adequate attention is paid towards the farmers of Bihar it can not develop. Economic Review is the roadmap of economic measures proposed to be taken by the Government. I would like to draw your attention towards the state of confusion on the issue and I would also quote it. You have mentioned about the various measures and steps claimed to have been taken for the welfare of the farmers. Bihar is dependent on its agriculture and you are unable to check corruption that is causing lot of problems for the farmers. It has been stated in the economic review that.

"Increase in procurement results in an increase in stocks as well as in the outstanding food credit, while increased off-take results in decline in stocks and in the outstanding credit. During the last one year, the increase in off-take has been much higher than the increase in procurement resulting in a decline in both stocks and outstanding food credit. However, the decline in food stocks has been higher than the decline in credit reflecting the particular method of stock valuation."

The purchase of the produce of the farmer is not upto the desirable level. Arrangement to sell it in the open market is made that involves large scale fraud resulting into the farmers getting deprived of their due share. Hence through you I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to bring all these points to the notice of the Agriculture Minister and to take suitable measures so as to ensure that the farmer gets the proper remunerative price for his produce received by putting hard labour.

With these words, I hope that the hon. Finance Minister would pay attention towards the points raised by me. The countrymen feel that Bihar has been given a special package but it is not so. I would like to submit that a special package to Bihar has been given with a view to remove the poverty and backwardness of Bihar and to make it march on the path of progress.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs will make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, with your permission may I make an announcement? Dinner will be laid at 8 o'clock in room No. 70 for hon. Members and members of the Press and in room No. 73 for the members of the staff. I have great pleasure in inviting them all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, dinner arrangements are made. Before calling the next hon. Member, I must request all the hon. Members that a large number of speakers are still there to speak and if you kindly cooperate, we will be able to complete this debate. Each hon. Member will be allowed to speak for two or three minutes, to a maximum of five minutes.

Shri L. Ganesan to speak now.

SHRI L. GANESAN (Tiruchirappalli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, with all sincerity and honesty of purpose at my command, I wish to congratulate, appreciate and to pay highest tributes to our hon. Minister of Finance for having presented an admirable Budget. My admiration grows by leaps and bounds when we take into account the various constraints and restraints under which he had to play his role. First of all, ours is only a coalition government and as such, there are conflicting interests among the partners themselves.

19.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri Chidambaram, the hon. Minister of Finance was able to satisfy the conflicting elements of the very coalition itself. He has satisfied Shri Lalu Prasad and at the same time he has satisfied Shri Sharad Pawar. He is able to satisfy MDMK as well as the PMK and so many elements. It is really a very wonderful thing and he has done that.

Not only that the political parties are satisfied, that apart all sections of the people and all sectors of the people are also satisfied. The haves and have-nots; the industrialists and the agriculturists, and every section and every sector of our society, of our nation have been satisfied. In a way, if I am to put it in a nutshell, this is a populist as well as a reformist Budget.

As far as the Budget is concerned, it should declare the aims and objectives of a political body elected by the people at large to govern the country. It should delineate the ways and means of achieving the aims and objectives. It should spell out the determination and the directions of the governing body and as such to present a Budget for a far-flung nation consisting of diverse elements and conflicting sections is really a Herculean task which our hon. Minister of Finance had done admirably.

Some people are afflicted with congenital disease, the disease by birth. Also, some nations are afflicted with problems from very origination. The problems that we are facing now are not new ones, say poverty. It continues from pre-Independence days. The same is the case with inequality, not only economic but also social. These perennial problems have been there from even pre-Independence days. Therefore, I say that our Finance Minister is not an Aladdin. He is also not having a magic lamp in his hand. He is not a magician. So, by mere flourishing his wand, he cannot get things done.

After all, I wonder, since I know him pretty well, how it is possible for such a man to present such a Budget. A man is a creature of heredity and environment. He belongs to, he hails from a famous community, banking community, in our State. In good old days, in colonial days, his ancestors had gone, settled and done banking business in Malaysia, Singapore and so many other colonies. Therefore, perhaps the quality to manage the affairs is his inheritance. Not only that, he is awarded also. Let us look at his education. He has been educated in Harvard. Therefore, both of them have joined together and helped him in preparing this admirable Budget.

Sir, for want of time, for shortage of time, I wish to cut short my speech and go to very important things. On behalf of the people of India, of India, particularly the people of peninsular India and notably the people of Tamil Nadu, I thank the Finance Minister for having decided to implement Sethu Samuthiram Project with determination. The Finance Minister is well aware that the project is a long pending dream of the people of Tamil Nadu. Every leader of Tamil Nadu had pleaded for the implementation of the project.

When my General Secretary or rather our General Secretary, Shri Vaiko had been a POTA detenu, he wrote a personal letter to the former Prime Minister which I wish to quote. It says:

"The Sethu Canal would achieve international significance like the Panama Canal and Suez Canal, boost the entire economy of India earning huge foreign exchange, provide enormous employment opportunities, give fillip to industry and agriculture in southern districts of Tamil Nadu. Once the Sethu Canal Project is implemented, Tuticorin Port will become a pivotal international port gaining importance than Singapore Port.

There had been more than nine committees constituted during the British days to make a thorough study of this important project. After Independence, in the fifties, the Government of India taking cognisance of the vital significance of the project constituted Shri Ramasamy Mudaliar Committee and initiated measures to implement the project with all sincerity. When Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister, the Union Cabinet gave clearance in the year 1962 for the implementation of Sethu Samuthiram Canal Project.

Unfortunately, the Government of India abandoned the decision to implement the project and put it in a

[Shri L. Ganesan]

cold storage to oblige the objection raised by the Sri Lankan Government. In the backdrop of Chinese aggression, India wanted to develop friendly relationship with Sri Lanka even going to the extent of compromising the future benefits and welfare of India. Such an injustice was done to Tamil Nadu."

I quoted this from the letter my General Secretary wrote to the former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

On 15th September 1998—when MDMK launched the historic Renaissance rally to celebrate the birth anniversary of social warrior and a revolutionary Periar and the wisest man Anna—our General Secretary Shri Vaiko persuaded the former Prime Minister, who attended the function, to give a solemn assurance before several lakhs of people in Marina Beach to implement the scheme.

For the first time, the Union Government made a reference about the Sethu Canal Project in the Parliament in 1999. But, subsequently its reference was lost in the successive Budgets. At last, you have declared in the Budget of 2004-2005 that the UPA Government will implement this project. In the implementation of this project, hon. Minister Mr. T.R. Baalu—your colleague—has a very vital role to play. I think that proper time has come for implementation of this project. The hon. Finance Minister and the Shipping Minister will—I ardently hope—implement the project. I can tell both of you that your names will shine like a morning star in the history of Tamil Nadu if you implement it expeditiously.

In this Budget, you have given much more importance to Agriculture and Rural Development, and more funds are allocated for both of them. I, as one who, was born in a agricultural family, and that too from the remotest village shall have to thank you for the same, and if I fail to do so, then I will be failing in my duty.

At the same time I will also be failing in my duty if I fail to point out a shortcoming in the Budget. There is no doubt that you have done your best and allocated more funds for agriculture. There is also no doubt that you have made provision for improvement of irrigation, but you thought about agriculture without thinking about agriculturists and that is the problem. So, whatever things you do for the sake of agriculture will not suffice if you do not take into account the living beings called agriculturists.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, conclude your speech.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, I appeal to you to kindly allot me two more minutes. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister that unless and until you rescue the agriculturists, peasants, farmers who are born in debt, live in debt, die in debt and pass on the debt to their children, they cannot be helped. This is the main problem. I know the restrictions or should I say the difficulties of a Finance Minister. But I appeal to you strongly that you should waive the debts of the agriculturists. If it is not possible to waive off the entire debt, at least the penal interest and the interest should be waived. I am particularly speaking about the agricultural debt, and the agricultural loans, and not about all the other loans. I appeal to you to seriously consider about this issue because this is a very vital issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, please give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, it is not possible for me to do it. I have a long list of speakers, who are yet to speak on this subject.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, I would request you to give me two more minutes. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please be patient. Irrigation is another problem, which I would like to touch upon in my speech. We cannot look at irrigation in bits and pieces. It should be taken into account in a big way.

The inter-State rivers should be nationalised. There is no use of constituting Tribunals. Sir, with great difficulty Dr. Kalaingar got the Tribunal constituted in the good old days of Shri V.P. Singh's regime, and it is all right. The Tribunals have given Interim Award, and it is all right. What happened by doing so? Nothing happened as a result of doing it like that. The Supreme Court has given a direction in this respect. Did they follow the directions given by the Supreme Court?

This morning I heard one hon. Member and I could not tolerate when he was talking about the sufferings of the agriculturists. He is a senior Member, and I have every respect for him for that. Which agriculturist was he referring to? He himself kicked on the belly of Tamil agriculturists, and he depicts as if he is very benevolent.

The Prime Minister had made a request, and it was turned down. What happened to the agreement relating to Sutlej? In Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan the

agreements are torn to pieces and thrown to the winds.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down. Next speaker is Shri Kharabela Swain.

SHRI L. GANESAN: I am sorry, but I would request you to kindly give me some more time. I have no grievance against any individual in the Central Government. We are the actual sufferers. We are suffering for the past so many years. Therefore, if anything is to be done, the inter-State rivers should be nationalised. This is the solution that should be followed in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. No, this is not allowed.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, please give me one more minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please sit down.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister to please consider and waive the interest and the penal interest of the agriculturists. You are a young man and you have got time with you. The hon. Prime Minister is also with you. So, please nationalise the inter-State rivers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I cannot give you more time. Shri Swain is already on his legs to speak.

SHRI L. GANESAN: I would request the hon. Minister to kindly use all his efforts to nationalise the inter-State rivers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI L. GANESAN: Sir, with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I was listening with full attention when Prof. M. Ramadass was speaking. He said that the Budget is not a plan document. Yes, it is not a plan document. He said that it is related to politics and economy. He said that in one year all ills cannot be solved. It is all right, and I fully agree with him that it is not a plan document. But, is it not a policy document of the Government of the day? Does it not spell out the direction in which the Government wants to take the country? Is it not what really the Budget is? Yes, it is.

What does the Finance Minister have to say in his speech? He says that the people have sought a change in the manner in which this country is run, a change in the national priorities, and a change in the process of focus on governance. He also told who would have the first charge of development. It is all right. These are all very well intentioned statements, and they will fetch him very good votes.

It is the height of glorification of poverty, but it is not to take away the poor from the abyss of poverty. It is just to keep them in that way all the time by just giving them some loans or by giving them something so that they remain poor, and you can always say that you are working for the poor and let us get the votes.

What does the hon. Finance Minister have to say about agriculture? He wants to give a boost to agriculture. The way it is being projected is as if the previous Government did nothing and it is this new Government which wants to change the priority. Let me come to the point of agriculture. The capital formation was raised to 2.3 percent from what it was in 1998-2004. When the NDA Government came to power in 1998, the agricultural credit stood at Rs. 32,000 crore. We have increased it from Rs. 32,000 crore to Rs. 80,000 crore in 2003-04. Then, we distributed Kisan Credit Cards to 4,27,00,000 farmers. I am quoting all these things from the Economic Survey, which the hon. Minister has published. Only 14,00,000 *kisans* were left without any Kisan Credit Cards and they were supposed to have distributed them by 31st March, 2004. Now, to say that they have increased it by leaps and bounds, how does it hold any water?

Now, I am quoting from page 161 of the Economic Survey. The previous Government, the NDA Government, wanted to give to RIDF through Lok Nayak Jayprakash Narain Fund. An amount of Rs. 20,000 crore was provided in the Interim Budget presented by hon. Jaswant Singh this year itself. This Fund has now been reduced; rather it has been eliminated or done away with and a new Fund with Rs. 8 crore has been proposed by the hon. Finance Minister. Ultimately, only Rs. 136 crore was allocated more in this year's Budget for agriculture. Let me again point out that only Rs. 136 crore more was provided for agriculture and the drumbeat is being done as if agriculture has been given the prime of its importance.

This Budget does not have a thrust, and the goals set by the hon. Finance Minister are not achievable. It is an accommodation in conflicting expectations.

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

One of the hon. Members, Mr. Ajay Maken, said at the end of his speech that the hon. Finance Minister should not look at the Stock Exchange; the Minister should look at the agriculture and rural sectors. That is why, I am asking the Minister a very simple question. Why did the hon. Finance Minister go to Mumbai? What is the heading in *The Economic Times*? It says, "FM talks, but Sensex does not work". He wanted the Sensex to work, he wanted that it should rise, but it did not. However, their own people said, "Why did you go to Mumbai? You should not have looked at the stock market." The hon. Finance Minister, who is a great votary of reforms, knows it pretty well that the stock market is the creator of wealth. If he wants money, he will only get it from there, and the money will be got from there only. The Finance Minister, most probably, got his compulsions, he is not confused, but his Party is thoroughly confused because it seems from the speech made by one of their speakers whom, I found, the hon. Minister ably supported with slips, facts and figures. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I do not send slips to anyone.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The moment the hon. Finance Minister submitted his dream Budget many years back, seven or eight years back, it went bust; and the moment he became the Finance Minister just two months back, the business world was much less enthusiastic. Shri Sitaram Yechuri spoke only one sentence on TV about disinvestment and, immediately, the Sensex plummeted down to 800 points. The Foreign Institutional Investors wanted to withdraw the funds. This is how the image of the Government is. The Sensex, till now, does not want to rise; it has remained as it was just about two or three months back when this Government assumed power.

Another Economist, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, who was made the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, said: "We want hard decisions to have a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent." Where are those hard decisions? It was the NDA Government which took the hard decisions. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): It is because of those hard decisions that you are sitting there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There should be no running commentary.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: We brought down the interest rates. We had a very soft interest rate which

actually facilitated the growth of the economy. Hon. Members from the left prodded the Finance Minister to hike it to 12 per cent. Can he do that? Has he been able to do that? It is simply not possible to do that. If you hike the interest rates now, it will be difficult to give loans to the industry. We are giving loans to the industry in order to create employment opportunities in this country. If the industry does not grow at 10 per cent rate annually, to achieve a growth of 8 per cent is impossible. Hon. Finance Minister knows it.

My point is, the Government is thoroughly confused. They say that it may not be possible to achieve eight per cent growth this time. After a growth of eight per cent last year, it may not be possible. That is what the Minister has said. He said that it may not be possible, but I say, it will not be possible.

Mr. Maken said that because of the administrative inability of the NDA Government, tax collections could not be improved upon. He said that we had brought down the tax to GDP ratio from 9.03 to 8.76. He said that they want to increase it to 10 per cent and that there would be greater tax collections. He said that we could not collect more tax, but that they will be able to do it. My best wishes to the hon. Finance Minister! Please let him show us after seven months that he has been able to achieve his goal, that he has been able to collect more, and that he has been able to show a human face to everybody.

The question is - has the Budget 2004 got a human face? Here is this week's issue of *India Today* magazine. *India Today* has interviewed very prominent economists like Mr. Damodaran.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Sir, he cannot quote from that. He cannot show it to the Chair. As per rules, he cannot do this.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Why? I am not making any allegations.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: It is not a document. He cannot show a magazine to the Chair like this. He cannot quote from a magazine. Sir, you should not allow him to quote.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He can quote, but he cannot show it like this. Mr. Swain, please continue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thank you, Sir.

This is an opinion given not by me but by Mr. Damodaran, who is now the IDBI Chairman, who is now the UTI Chairman. Mr. Rajaraman was there. It was moderated by one of the members from the Congress party, Mr. Jairam Ramesh. Mr. Tendulkar, Mr. Gokam, Mr. Debroy, everybody was there. What do they say in reply to the question, "Does the Budget 2004 present a new human face?" They say, 'No.' Why do they say? They say that the Budget does not go beyond putting fresh paint on the human face of the past budgets. This is their opinion. But the Finance Minister has taken a view. ...(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: What is your opinion?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My opinion is the same as what they say.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is not a document. A magazine cannot be a document.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, if I say this on my own, they would say that it is because I belong to NDA, because I do not belong to the ruling party, so I am criticising them. So, I am simply quoting from the comments made by the prominent economists of the country.

The hon. Minister has said that he is like an Investment Minister and that he will bring in investments. However, the moment he assumed power, foreign institutional investors wanted to withdraw their money from the stock markets. That is what they wanted to do. So, where is the investment coming from? If this is the sort of an impression being given by the Finance Minister, by the Government, who will come forward to invest in India?

Another gentleman, Mr. Jyotiraditya Scindia, who is sitting just behind the Minister, said that unless there is a savings rate of 36 per cent, we cannot grow. He said that China has grown because it had achieved 36 per cent savings rate.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (Guna): Forty per cent.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I will simply make the point as to what is there in this Budget to boost

savings. Has the Finance Minister done or said anything in this Budget which will boost savings, savings with regard to the creation of investment climate? Financial system in India has got funds at its disposal but it does not find borrowers now a days. I was the Member of the Finance Committee for the last five years. I have been told that the banks are sitting over heaps of money but nobody is coming forward to take the loan because they get it from outside, even with a lesser amount of interest. Hence, they simply refuse to take the loan. What else the Finance Minister has done which would give boost to the investment environment?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you should give me some more time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of more than 20 speakers.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: This is the Budget discussion. Sir, please give me five more minutes and I will conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you take more time, other Members of your party unit won't time to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you can add half an hour to it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If your party agrees on it. I don't have any objection.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I cannot conclude my speech within two minutes. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As you wish.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma—Not present.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, I will not take much time. I will simply make a few points.

At the outset, I congratulate the Finance Minister. After many years I have been able to find such a nice and good Budget which satisfies the aspirations of the poor people in general in this country who have been looking and demanding their own share from what the Government distribute through the Budget. When this Budget was presented, many titles or many headlines appeared in a number of newspapers the next day. One of the headlines was that he taxed India and funded *Bharat*. Until recently what I had seen of the Budgets, these people were sitting there herein taxing *Bharat* and funding India. The *Bharat* has shown the door. Earlier, they were sitting here and now they are sitting over there because they neglected all these years the poor people, farmers, agriculture labourers, the unorganised sector, and the women. I mean to say that they have all been left out from the earlier Budgets of the NDA Government as a result they have to suffer.

I was looking at the Constitution. In fact, the word 'Budget' is not in the Constitution. It is mentioned as the financial statement of the Government. I was also looking at the Directive Principles of State Policy. I am very happy to see that this Budget in fact tried to satisfy those Principles for which I have been striving all these years—State particularly striving to minimize inequality in income and making endeavour to eliminate the inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities. Apart from that, it also states that the State shall rise the level of nutrition and standard of living, improve public health and primary duties and endeavour the whole economic interest. The State shall promote, with special care, education, economic interests and weaker sections of society and in particular, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall also protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. I am so happy to state in this House that this Budget tries to fulfil all those Directive Principles which have been in fact mentioned in the Budget.

20.00 hrs.

Sir, the Budget is not merely a document of financial statement. In fact, it is expected that it should create a society which is based on equity and social justice with egalitarian income; and there is an income parity and not income disparity.

But over the years it has seen especially during the regime of NDA Government that their Budgets have created an income gap between certain sections of the society and the upper layer of the society. That gap has widened. Not only that, their policies have created a

regional imbalance between regions and regions, and States and States. But this Budget of the UPA Government has tried to minimise all these imbalances and disparities. This Budget is taking the masses of this country to the upper level and it is decreasing this income gap.

Sir, I have also tried to read the strategy through this document. There is twin strategy, and I can make it out that it is this document which always first starts with generating employment. It is a direction tower which creates employment opportunities for the poor people, for the masses of this country. By creating a policy statement, it is inviting investment in certain sectors especially in the primary sectors, and also inducing its own money by 100 days for the work. It is the State's commitment. It is giving, investing and spending money in order to create employment opportunities. It is distributing financial resources which go into the rural India of this country.

So, Sir, this Budget would be creating more and more employment opportunities. Besides that, it is investing money on health and education. Having health and education, it also prepares its own human resource which can grab the opportunity which is created by private investment as well as the Government investment, and thereby giving an income in the hands of the people of this country who have been neglected so far by the NDA Government. I hope and I am very confident that this twin strategy which is being enshrined in this Budget document will definitely work.

Sir, these people who are there in the Opposition now, have always tried to propagate that they are nationalist. But looking at the Budget document, I have found that in the last two years they did not make any capital outlay for Defence purchases. It is this Government only which has allocated nearly Rs. 33,000 crore in the capital outlay for Defence. I was just looking at the Expenditure Budget and I found that the Air Force, Navy and all other sectors have been given enough money by the present Finance Minister. So, I congratulate him for doing all that. Not only that, this Budget has provided more than Rs. 10,000 crore over and above the money for which the provisions were made.

Therefore, Sir, in fact, it is the UPA Government which has come out very openly in support of the Defence services and provided them enough opportunities to equip themselves with such a huge amount of money.

Sir, having said this, I have a little bit of concern. The task for the Finance Minister is very daunting

especially with the fiscal responsibility and Budget Management Act. While passing this Act, we had expressed our apprehensions when they were there. We said that it would tie down the hands of the Finance Minister. So, he would have to either generate resources from this country, and have less borrowings. He would have to curtail expenditure. Then, we had already expressed that the money which is allocated for social services may get affected. But I am very happy to say that the present Finance Minister has not decreased any allocation for the social services. In fact, he has increased it much more. Almost 27 per cent to 28 per cent of the money of the Government of India goes in meeting the interest payments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, give me two or three minutes more, and I would conclude. I would not take much time.

Sir, nearly 16 per cent to 17 per cent of our money goes in meeting the defence expenditure. Around 11.5 per cent go for meeting non-plan expenditure. This has tied down the hands of the Finance Minister and as a result it could affect allocation, but it has not.

I have 2-3 suggestions to make for the Finance Minister. The first one is that almost 92 per cent people in this country are in the unorganised sector and they also produce. I do not think there is any mechanism to measure their production and their share in the GDP. This is what my impression is. I think, we should find out some mechanism whereby the contribution of the unorganised sector in this country is measured so that they could get their due share.

My second suggestion is this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I have not even taken five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of 16 Members from your Party.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Please give me 2-3 minutes more. I am just giving the points.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have the names of several Members of your party who are to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want three minutes only. I won't speak anything else except the relevant points. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

My second concern is about the whole criteria for deciding the number of poor people. I am just drawing your attention so that you could look at the criteria for deciding the number of poor in this country. What these people did last time was that even if one person has one fan or some units of electricity or if one person has one radio, etc. they are considered as if they had crossed poverty line. In fact, they have changed the definition. Instead of raising the income of the poor people, they did that. I would just request you to look at the recent survey which is having a number of questions. One of the questions that is irritating is on the number of pairs of cloth that one has. If one has four pairs of cloth, it means that he has crossed the poverty line. So, I just request you to look at the whole criteria of deciding the number of poor people in this country because the entire allocation depends on this.

In the entire planning exercise, skill and labour are not considered as assets. Artisans who have skills have been neglected. There is a necessity to create a Board to look at this issue of artisans; and artisans who have skill should be given a due place in the planning, and also in the allocation of money.

The third concern is specially with regard to Gujarat. You have mentioned about irrigation. I request you to look at the whole Narmada Yojana, which can provide water to a number of areas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Please give me some more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I cannot give you more time.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am just giving the points. I am not making any comment on anything else.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Please conclude.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am just talking about some points with regard to Gujarat. I have only 2-3 points more to make.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of six Members from your Party.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I know. But I have taken not even seven minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken about 10 minutes.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Please look at Gujarat. The entire tribal belt of the country is on the upstream of the major dams and those areas mostly remain unirrigated. There should be a special provision to look at the entire tribal belt of this country and they should be brought under irrigation because wherever water goes, it brings prosperity.

Look at Gujarat; it has a very long coastline. There are rivers and in fact, siltation takes place. Dredging has not been done. I would say that Bharuch could be an ideal port; Surat can be a port; Valsad can be another port. There should be enough money with the Shipping Department, which could get these things done.

Lastly, Special Economic Zone in the earthquake-ravaged areas of Kutch is there. You did mention in your speech about this, I just request you to extend the facilities for another year or two so that people in the Kutch region could get benefited; and it could help people in the affected areas of Kutch.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak a few words on the General Budget 2004-05.

As a representative from the State of Orissa, I am particularly concerned about the implications of this Budget for the poor people of my State. I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister as to what made him forget a State like Orissa while he was pondering over the backwardness of Bihar. Why is Orissa the typically forgotten State? Why is Orissa mentioned only as an after thought? I want to make it clear to my colleagues from Bihar that I have no complaint against the Bihar Package or for that matter to the Northeastern States.

Sir, I would like to highlight the fact that when we make a comparison of the socio-economic conditions of Orissa and Bihar, we find many similarities between these two States. If we take the number of people living below the poverty line, the figure is 47.15 per cent in Orissa and 42.60 per cent in Bihar. I would like to bring to the knowledge of the hon. Minister the fact that the number of people living below the poverty line in Orissa is the highest in the country.

Sir, I do not want to go into the obvious political considerations of the Finance Minister which made him announce the special package for Bihar. But I have a very simple question to ask the Finance Minister who is known for his uprightness and sense of balance. I want to know whether the Finance Minister also considers Orissa fit case for a special package. If he does, he should announce a similar package for Orissa as well. If he does not, then I would like to know, why.

Sir, it is my demand and the demand of the Biju Janata Dal that a special package for Orissa be provided in view of the hard facts. Orissa with the highest number of people living below the poverty line, with 42 per cent of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population, needs and deserves special assistance from the Centre. Moreover, year after year, Orissa is devastated by flood, cyclone and drought continuously. Thus to ignore Orissa because there is no election round the corner in the State, would be not only politically cynical but also highly unethical.

Sir, I wish to further add that there are nearly 10 lakh youths waiting for employment in the State. About 99.5 per cent of the State's revenue is spent towards the payment of salary, pension and other non-plan expenditure. What is left for development schemes can be well understood. The debt burden on the State at the end of 2003-04 financial year is to the tune of Rs. 32.312 crore. The State is going through a severe economic crisis.

Sir, I would finally like to mention that there is obvious disparity with regard to Orissa's share in Central taxes and grants. I need not furnish the statistics as the Finance Minister himself is fully aware of the fact. This disparity has to be removed.

Sir, with these few words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the debate on the General Budget 2004-05.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2004-05. Budget always evokes the interest of the masses as to what provisions are likely to be made and how it would affect their own expenditure throughout the year and also whether the budget would have inflationary effect or whether it would reduce the cost of living and it is on these points that the budgets of the previous and succeeding Governments are compared.

As far as Budget is concerned, it is an administrative mechanism but a common man forms his opinion after comparing the present budget with the budgets of the previous Governments. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister especially towards the people of Uttar Pradesh that has been the nerve-centre of Indian politics. All the Prime Ministers of the country since the independence until 45 years hence belonged to Uttar Pradesh and they have belonged to both Congress and BJP. The other non-Congress and non-BJP Prime Ministers include the names of Chowdhari Charan Singhji, hon. Devegowdaji and hon. Chandrasekharji but they didn't enjoy long stint to perform. If they had the opportunity to work for a relatively longer period of time the condition of the farmers of Uttar Pradesh would not have been the one like the present one. The farmers and labourers of Uttar Pradesh have been among the most disappointed people as far as the budget presented by hon. Finance Minister is concerned. Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had demanded a special package of Rs. 18,230 crore for Uttar Pradesh vide his letter dated 12th June. Secondly, he had urged to provide another special package to pay the outstanding Rs. 500 crore due to the sugarcane farmers. Whenever the sugarcane farmers have staged demonstrations to get their outstanding dues, previous regimes have dealt with them firmly. Today the sugarcane mills are lying closed there and the farmers are on the verge of starvation. Today the Centre is giving stepmotherly treatment to Uttar Pradesh. I would like to demand from the hon. Minister of Finance to sanction a financial assistance for Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the largest State of the country and without its progress the country can not progress. An amount of only Rs. 50 crore has been allocated in the budget for the economic and educational development of the minorities while the minorities comprises of Christians, Sikhs, Jews, Jains and Buddhist also. Today 20 crores of Muslims in the country are in a deplorable condition. Had there been a separate

package of Rs. five crore for Muslims alone, some improvements in their condition could have taken place.

Through you, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Finance to allocate Rs. 4650 crores for power, Rs. 2050 crores for industrial development, Rs. 1442 crores for irrigation, Rs. 2744 crores for rural drinking water, Rs. 1350 crores for urban drinking water, Rs. 2195 crores for primary education, mid-day meals and scholarship, Rs. 500 crores for U.P. State Highway Authority, Rs. 500 crores for Integrated rural development, Rs. 530 crores for nutritional diets, Rs. 130 crores for old age and farmers' pension, Rs. 566 crores for forestry and Rs. 1100 crores for second structural adjustment loan for Uttar Pradesh. Only then, development of Uttar Pradesh is possible and the prosperity of Uttar Pradesh will lead to the country's prosperity.

I would also like to tell the hon. Minister of Finance that all the hon. Members of Parliament are of unanimous view that since the constituencies of some of them have five assembly segments, while others have 9-10 assembly segments. Every Member of Parliament gets Rs. two crores per year under MPLADS, which if raised to Rs. five crores, will make the development of the local area possible. My party is of the view that the insurance and civil aviation sectors should not be privatised, otherwise their condition will further deteriorate because foreigners will come to our country and take our money to their countries and we will be left with nothing here and on account of this our country will remain lagging behind.

Sir, I urge upon you to allocate Rs. 18,230 crores in this budget in view of the overall situation of Uttar Pradesh. Besides, I would also like to say that the State Government has made payments to the sugarcane growers of the State but still there is an outstanding amount of Rs. 500 crores. This is my specific request to you to provide financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh. Keeping in view this demand of mine so that Uttar Pradesh could prosper. Development of Uttar Pradesh will lead to the development of the country.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude.

[English]

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Taran Taran): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me this opportunity to speak on the Budget. Sir,

*Translation of the Speech Originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

for the last more than 50 years, Budgets have been presented in the House every year but the people of India continue to reel under poverty. Either those who present the Budget have not been up to the mark or those who implement the Budget proposals have failed in their work. Whatever facilities are provided for the poor in the Budget fails to reach these poor people. I want to appeal to the Finance Minister that whatever facilities are provided for the poor in the Budget must reach them. This should be ensured. This is something important.

Sir, I represent Punjab and my constituency is a border constituency. I would appeal to the Finance Minister that those districts which fall in the international border area should be declared 'backward' districts. People who reside in the border areas face a lot of problems. We have fought several wars against Pakistan. For instance, wars were fought in 1965 and 1971. Sir, a large area of cultivable land belonging to the farmers falls beyond the barbed wire fencing. These farmers face restrictions. The gates are opened only at 6 A.M. and 5 P.M. We have been trying our best to provide assistance to those farmers whose land falls beyond the barbed wire fencing. But these poor farmers are suffering.

Sir, the NDA Government had decided to pay compensation to such farmers at the rate of Rs. 2500 per acre but now, even this relief has been stopped. So I appeal to the Finance Minister to restore this compensation to these poor farmers. It is urgently needed as Punjab is an agricultural State.

There has also been some talk regarding diversification of crops. Some farmers tried this but for the last 3 years, those farmers who grew sugarcane have not been paid the price of their sugarcane crop. Whenever we raised this issue, we were told by the Congress Government in the State that the cooperative mills have not purchased sugar. So, the farmers have not been paid. How will diversification succeed?

Sir, Punjab contributes 60% of food grains in the Central Pool. We cultivate wheat and rice. But water is essential for irrigation purpose. Sir, injustice is being meted out to the people of Punjab. Sir, on the SYL issue, our point of view has been forcefully presented by my colleague Sardar Dhindsaji.

Sir, in Bhatinda work on a refinery was started by the NDA Government. But for the last 2-3 years, work on this 14,000 crore refinery has come to a standstill.

So, I appeal to the Finance Minister that work on the refinery should begin again in right earnest, so that people of Punjab gain out of it.

Sir, Jammu & Kashmir is a border State. Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are also border States. But, so is Punjab. So, the facilities that have been extended to these States should also be granted to Punjab. I do not say that the facilities granted to them should be withdrawn. Their facilities should be continued. But, Punjab too should be provided with such facilities so that people of Punjab too could gain out of it. And industries of Punjab could prosper. As of now, the industries in Punjab are in shambles. They are shifting to other States. Other neighbouring States like Jammu & Kashmir are providing concessions to these industries in the form of exemption in sales tax, income tax, etc.

Sir, the Finance Minister has provided for a cess in the Budget to fulfil the educational needs of the poor. Sir, education is the need of the hour for the poor. Especially those who live in the border areas face a lot of problems. There are almost no schools. If there are a few schools, there are no teachers there. No fans are there. So, we must take steps so that education reaches the poorest of the poor, and the people of border areas too benefit out of it. In a few schools that are there, no drinking water facility is present, health problems are there, and no electricity connection is there. Also, there are no desks and benches for students. So, keeping in view the plethora of problems faced by the people of border areas, special concessions should be granted to them. These border areas should be declared 'backward' and liberal assistance should be given to them.

Sir, the Budget mentions the small-scale industries too. They are provided to these small-scale industries. No markets are available for their produce. Sir, for the small-scale industries to flourish, we must provide them with raw materials as well as marketing facilities.

Sir, regarding diversification of crops, I have to say that the farmer of Punjab can grow all kinds of food grains. But, he faces an acute marketing problem. Until and unless durable markets are provided to the farmers, the scheme of diversification will remain a pipe-dream.

Sir, in my constituency, the previous NDA Government had started the four-laning work of GT Road from Jalandhar to Wagah border. But this work has now come to a standstill. Sir, Governments may come and Governments may go but the development works should

be kept out of politics. Development works should be implemented irrespective of the change in Government. So, this four-laning work of GT Road from Jalandhar to Wagha border should be restarted.

Similarly, Sir, some work is going on at the international Raja Sansi Airport. But the work is going on at a snail's pace for the last 5-6 years. Sir, work at the airport should also be expedited. We start several projects but they are not completed in time. These projects go on and on for 20-25 years. People suffer due to this lethargy. So, sir, work at the international airport should be completed soon.

Sir, Punjab is a hard working State. People of such States should not be punished. Rather, they should be provided more facilities. The hard working farmers of Punjab brought about the 'Green Revolution'. Punjab is called the 'Granary of India'. So, such a State should be especially taken care of by the Centre.

Sir, I am grateful that you allowed me to speak on the Budget.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am representing the second largest constituency of Hindustan, consisting of 32,40,272 voters. So, what I am expressing here is the feelings of my voters. I am neither going to criticise the Budget nor am I going to bite you as your colleagues have said. I know the dog is a pet animal. We keep dogs in our houses to protect the owners. If anybody encroaches, he should bark at them and he should bite them. I do not know what sort of friends you are keeping with you that they want to bite you yourself. So, be aware of the dogs!

When WTO agreements were signed, our industrialists were asking that they must get a level playing field. Their demand was a just demand. But in India it is happening in your tenure that for the same product, there are different taxes. I am referring to the company, Wimco which is in my constituency. I have written a letter in that regard to remove this injustice. But under the garb of protecting the cottage industries, in your Budget you have increased the excise duty from 8 per cent to 16 per cent saying that it will be CENVAT. Do you know that in the cottage industries maximum workers are children? You are increasing or putting 2 per cent cess on all the Central Government taxes to give good education to the children of our country. Under the banner

of cottage industry, ITC is doing the entire business. Wimco, a Company of 80 years old, which has done a lot of social work is suffering now and it would be compelled to close down. May I request you that for one product, there should be the same taxation policy. You should apply excise duty to the entire match box industry irrespective of where it is produced and introduce eight per cent excise duty with CENVAT. Then and then only this Company will survive. If you can give an opportunity to me to meet you in person, I will be much more thankful. I am confident that injustice meted out to Wimco will be resolved by you. I hope so. I do not know why the Leftists have not taken up this issue of protecting a Company in India which is suffering because of disparity in taxation policy. The original Company is from Kolkata, but they are not taking care of their own Company.

We are always talking of NPAs. VDI Scheme was announced in order to collect the black money of our country. On the same lines, can you come out with a scheme for NPA account holders? Till December 2004, if the NPA account holders want to repay their loan in any form, either in cash or gold or silver or land properties, Income Tax Department will not question them from where they have brought the money. If such a scheme is brought, I am confident that more than 70 per cent of NPA account holders will be able to repay their loans. There is another problem with this. The Reserve Bank has got some policy for repayment of these loans. But in Maharashtra, the cooperative banks are not adopting the policy of the Reserve Bank. I would like to request the hon. Minister that the RBI guidelines should be made mandatory to all the cooperative banks which will give them a good result.

Thirdly, Mr. Minister, in your own speech, you said in 1996-97 that a huge funding for 178 irrigation projects was made. But only 28 have been completed so far. I would like to know the reasons for not completing this job. I want to know whether we have to make a lot of changes in our Forest Act or in the Environment Act also. Otherwise, simply saying that you raised the funds but the work was not completed is of no use. Since we are governing, we should know why the money allocated to certain jobs has not been used properly, why the work has not been completed.

A very bad thing has happened in the country because of supplying *kitchidi*. Hundreds of innocent boys and girls died because cooking was taking place in the school premises. I have raised this issue with my State Government also. The point is that instead of giving the

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

kitchidi; something else can be given. We have seen in person what sort of materials or foodgrains are supplied to schools. The worst quality of food is supplied to the schools because we have got excess food with us. I think this matter is still with the court and all that. If you can arrange to give eggs to our boys and girls, the poultry industry will also come up. When I was a School Committee Member in my Corporation, I introduced giving threptin in biscuits. You cannot give those biscuits every day. You have to give them only twice a week because it is very difficult to digest the threptin biscuits. So, I will be thankful to you if you can shift it. Without increasing any budgetary provision, instead of giving *kitchidi*, if you can introduce eggs to the small boys and girls, threptin biscuits to the senior people, I will be very much thankful to you.

One more irregularity is there. ...*(Interruptions)* There are only two points. I know that I have got only five points to make. There is the Monthly Income Scheme. Generally, all the retired people or those who have taken VRS, are depositing the money in post office in the joint account having two names. The maximum limit is rupees six lakh only. Out of these two persons' joint names, if one person expires, the post office is compelling the other one to withdraw 50 per cent of that amount. It is something surprising to me. Suppose I keep rupees six lakh in the joint name and if one partner from the joint name expires, the post office is asking that 50 per cent money should be withdrawn immediately.

Then, there is one more point. There is the 15 Point Programme of senior citizens. As on today, we have got 8.17 per cent senior citizens in our country. Out of all their demands, only one demand is having some financial burden on the Government. To my surprise, all the Ministers concerned, who are holding the portfolio where these demands are sent, are senior citizens. But a person like me, who has not yet become a senior citizen, has to bring to the notice of those Ministers—who are already senior citizens but are not solving the issues—the genuine issues of medical, health or a pension scheme or an LIC Scheme or something like that. They are not looking into it.

Last but not least, there is disparity in the MPLAD Fund. I have given a letter to you, to the hon. Prime Minister and also to Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad. The point is that a Member representing a smallest constituency of our country having 36,000 population, gets rupees two crore as MPLAD Fund. I am having the second largest constituency representing 32,40,000 population. I am also

getting only rupees two crore. Mr. Minister, you are always talking of removal of disparity. But here is the disparity that starts from the MP only. So, I would request you that the MPLAD Fund should be based on the number of voters. We will then get justice. Hardly, 23 Members are having more than 15 lakh voters in their constituencies. This increase will be only for five years because next time when the elections would take place, delimitation would come into operation and the constituencies would be at par with others. So, my request to you is to increase the MPLAD Fund in proportion to the number of voters.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and I would like to give some suggestions during the time allotted to me.

I have listened to the hon. Members and scholarly leaders of both the sides. A number of Members referred to the budget as proposeless and criticised it in many ways. Criticism is quite natural. The hon. Minister of Finance should make a budget reflecting the face of the country and in keeping with its socio-economic condition while keeping political situation in mind. A budget is the assessment of the economic system of any country. Our country is poverty ridden and mainly a country of farmers. So poverty alleviation and providing a life of prosperity to the farmers should be the supreme objective of our budget.

Sir, agriculture and industries are the prerequisite for the prosperity of any country. In our country, some of the States have agriculture and others have industries but no State is endowed with both. So both agriculture and industry should be promoted equally.

The natural wealth, the means of production available in our country are grossly under the control of individuals. There should be a social control on them because absence of social control paves way for exploitation and breeds poverty. In order to strengthen our economic prosperity. Our budget must provide that the means of production and the natural wealth available in our country are not possessed by individuals. And for all this we need transportation, irrigation, education and industrialisation and for all that money is required.

Sir, floods and droughts are a regular feature in our country. No Union Government or State Government has yet formulated any plan to channelise the flood waters to drought hit areas and to raise the water table wherever ground water is depleting sharply. At some places water crisis is so acute that people have no water to drink. In a number of States the water level is depleting sharply and to check this, if flood water is conserved, dams are constructed we can raise the water table in those areas. We can use this water for irrigation and power generation also. Such long term schemes have never been formulated in our country.

20.43 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Our hon. Minister of Finance is an expert of economic matters. The extent of knowledge regarding financial discipline and management and economy that hon. Chidambaramji has as, I think, possessed by very few people in the House. He has tried to leave no stone unturned in this budget. In the given demographic configuration of our country, he has tried to please every one. One of our hon. Members has just said that a number of power generation plants irrigation plants, and major irrigation canals have remained pending for years in Uttar Pradesh. It has not been possible to construct the Saryu Canal till today. There are many such projects. Funds should be given to complete these projects so that the people could benefit from them.

With these words, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards some specific things. The national schemes meant for the benefit of our rural areas, are fraught with a lot of complications, a lot of restrictions, be it an issue of getting bank loans or availing any other facilities. Gramin Banks are there in the villages but they are subordinate to all banks. They fail to do anything in comparison to lead banks.

Sir, either the other bank should be closed or the Gramin Banks should be made independent because it is through them that the benefit of many schemes reach the poor living in the villages. The other banks do not find rural schemes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude because you promised to the hon. Deputy Speaker to adhere to the time limit. So, you conclude now.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am about to conclude. A very large part of our budget is

dedicated to our country's defence. Nobody can help it. Security of the country is supreme and paramount.

Sir, a lot of money is being spent on the adult education programme meant for those who are in the winter of their lives. There is no scheme for our children, the future of our country who need education, but we do have the adult education programme for the old in our country. We are wasting the money being spent on this adult education programme. They are not interested in this programme and this Budget would not serve our purpose to mitigate the gap between haves and havenots and to bring prosperity as it is directionless.

Sir, Sangmaji has left the House after criticizing the budget. He is not sitting here now. He talked about the budget of China. Our leftists also talk about the budget of China instead of the budget of our country. They compare our budget with the budget of China. We should be concerned about the budget of the country we live in and we should know about that. I would like to tell those friends of mine that India has got a mixed economy. Our Devegowdaji, Sangmaji and friends from the opposition should be aware of this fact.

Sir, keeping in view the mixed economy of the country, the budget presented by Shri Chidambaramji is a right budget and it deserves every appreciation. There is less scope of criticism in it. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose the budget for the year 2004-05 presented by Hon. Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaramji in this House and I seek your protection. I hail from Chhattisgarh State which came into existence hardly three years and eight months back. Hon. Minister of Finance has not been kind towards this State and he has overlooked this State. Only eight months back the people sitting towards that side have been rushing to that State. They have been assuring to the people of Chhattisgarh State that if they are voted to power, they would certainly give something to this State. We were voted to power in Chhattisgarh. We got 10 out of 11 seats and they bagged one seat but he also failed to deliver anything to Chhattisgarh. Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to express my views about what Shri Chidambaram has said while presenting the budget and would also like to conclude what he has stated in the budget. In the budget he has stated that the economy seems to be in good shape and the position of balance of payment is also strong. Although there is short term pressure on the prices, yet the economic scenario during this year seems

[Shrimati Karuna Shukla]

to be favourable. I have been listening for a long time. The people sitting that side have been singing in self-praise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of the National Democratic Alliance, led by former Prime Minister honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji has laid the strong foundation during their six years rule. Chidambaramji has also mentioned about that for which I would like to thank him. But there is little realism in the method by which he has tried to build the nation at strong foundations. The declarations in the Budget are imaginary. He will never achieve anything with this imaginary world. The people of this side have cited a lot of examples in this regard and tried to present the real picture before you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as Bihar is concerned, it seems to me that either the people of Bihar have been cheated or Laloo Prasadji, the Minister in the Union Cabinet, has been cheated. Now it is for the people of Bihar to decide that whom you have cheated, either it is Lalooji or the people of Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this budget so many things have been mentioned. NDA Government had given a great scheme to the country during the last six years and that scheme will always be remembered in the history of the country. Kindly do not see this with a political view point. The Government of Atalji had given Golden Quadrilateral scheme which benefited all and sundry of this country. But he has not made any mention of it in his Budget. This Budget had no mention of linking of Rivers Scheme initiated by hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. It was first scheme of its kind during last 56 years since our independence.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, the way 10 per cent service charge has been levied on tents and catering service, it appears to me that marriages would become more expensive. The poor people of middle class have to borrow money in order to bear the expenses of marriage of their daughters. By imposing the service charge, you have tried to come in their way.

Sir, people talk about sports. Olympic games are going to be started and you have reduced the allocation for sports by Rs. 8.33 crore in budget. We have been discussing the farmers' issues for a long time. Farmers in this country are committing suicide one after the other. They used to pass on comments when they were occupying the opposition benches. I have come here for the first time and I have been watching the people of

both sides on T.V. I have seen this side or that side in this House for the first time. He talked about the farmers and made an abortive attempt to establish the human face for the rural India. He did not do anything for farmers and the poor in the Budget so that they may feel happy and bless him. Our former Minister of Agriculture had reduced the rate of interest from 14 percent to 9 percent and he has stated nothing to implement the scheme further. On the one hand we had talked about giving subsidy on tractors to the farmers on the other hand he has hiked the prices of diesel and steel. It appears to me that what he has given with one hand and taken back with the other hand. Sir, I want to tell about one more scheme. So many people have expressed their views. It appears to me as if people have perhaps forgotten Shri Jai Prakash Narainji. The Government of NDA had perhaps provided budget to the tune of fifteen thousand crore rupees but he has not mentioned anything in this regard. Jai Prakash Narainji was one of those great personalities of India whom the people of this country should always remember.

Sir, I want to mention two-three points and thereafter I will conclude. In this budget speech, Hon. Minister of Finance has provided budget for the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana but I have failed to understand that under what provisions he has provided budget for Sonijai. For that I would like to say to the Minister of Finance- "Tarikh ki Ankho Ne Weh Hall Dekha Hai, Lamho Ne Khata ki Hai Sadiyon Ne Saja Payi." The way he is doing it, he is not trying to understand as to what will be the consequences of this in future because in politics, things go on changing and in the time to come, when we will be there in power things will take a different shape.

Sir, towards the end of his speech, Chidambaramji has stated that those people who follow the path of conduct and ethics, do not commit any crime and tread the path of honour and courage, they are the best rulers. On these words, I would like to say that when ideology is left without prudence, then conduct gets blinded. It appears to me as if the ideology of honourable Chidambaramji left with prudence and he has presented this kind of conduct. Sir, he has not been kind to give even a penny to backward States, be it Orissa or Chhattisgarh. Injustice has been done to the new State. I conclude my speech having opposed this budget. I thank you very much for providing me this opportunity to express my views.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an

opportunity to speak on Finance Bill. Since former speakers have spoken a lot in appreciation of this budget, I do not want to take much time and I associate myself with them I can clearly perceive the multi-dimensional results of this budget for the common man. This is a good Budget and it has certain good features.

I do agree with the points stated by my previous friends. But I would like to add a few point in the context of Bihar. Bihar is a State which has always been neglected, particularly during the last five years, when NDA Government was there. Each and every effort was made then to dispel the pace of development there. Injustice has been done to the State. This State has also had a major chunk of natural calamities. Bihar is a State which depends on agriculture as its source of livelihood. After the creation of Jharkhand, it solely depends on agriculture. Farmers there are facing lot of problems due to the floods and drought situations. They are unable to get the price of agricultural produce. Our food grains are procured at national level. There is a central pool and we want that a quota be fixed for procurement in the central pool. I would like to tell you that during last year the production of Bihar was ten lakh metric tonne. That should be procured according to the surplus produce whereas only eight thousand metric tonnes of produce was procured. This is the major imbalance as compared to other States. I think this injustice is being done to them for the last several years. Therefore, I would like to request you that special attention be paid towards the procurement of the farmer's produce and particularly minimum support price, which has been fixed at Rs. 560/- per quintal should be enhanced as made flexible with the rate of inflation or price rise. The Government should take care of other crops too, which are not covered by minimum support price. After the creation of Jharkhand out of Bihar, Bihar has been reduced to a State having industries for the name sake.

Thus, the agriculture-based industries particularly fruits and vegetables, whose support price has not been determined by the government, should be taken care of. Projects should be set up there for the value addition of those crops. Under the value addition projects, cold storages, food processing industries and agro export zones should be set up there. Cargo activities should be started there and the export house of Government of India should actively participate in it, so that the agriculture produce could be exported from there and the farmers there may get the remunerative price.

21.00 hrs.

All public sector units of Bihar are now in Jharkhand which is causing unemployment there at a large scale.

I would like to request that budgetary provision be made to set up public sector units at a large scale in Bihar so that employment could be generated there and productivity could be raised. There is a need to invest more on infrastructure there. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance to make provision in the budget for infrastructure development of the State which includes power sector and means of transportation. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ALOK KUMAR METHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding within two minutes. *...(Interruptions)* Irrigation is an important issue in Bihar. There is huge potential for hydro projects in Bihar. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken five minutes, so please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I demand that canal network should be developed there. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many hon. Members are also willing to speak. Please take care of them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ALOK KUMAR METHA: Power generation, flood control and water management are different aspects of this project. Through you, I demand that provision should be made in the Budget for this propose. Mr. Chairman, Sir, human resources are available in large number there, so the training institutions like ITI, Engineering College and Medical College should be opened. These are in very limited numbers in Bihar.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance, through you, that work should be undertaken for skill development and human resource development in other fields. Budgetary Provisions should be made for this purpose. There is a need to work in the field area of rural development and environment because after the creation of Jharkhand, industries, mines and forests have become non-existent in Bihar. I would like to request that

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

scheme should be launched in Bihar by making provision in the budget for these three sectors and there is need to bring Bihar at par with other States by way of compensation.

Discussion on financial package to Bihar is going on here ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, now please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance that the financial package is important not because that Bihar is a backward State but also because injustice has been done to the State for years. ...*(Interruptions)* After the division of Bihar all revenue resources have gone to Jharkhand, so a financial package is needed to compensate that.

With these words, I would like to request the Hon. Minister once again that proper assessment of the destruction caused by floods in Bihar be made and money be disbursed accordingly.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Lonappan Nambadan.

...*(Interruptions)**

*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I will be speaking in my mother tongue, Malayalam.

Sir, the last election demonstrated a very strong protest against the policies of globalisation which were initiated by the Congress Government in 1991 and were being implemented vigorously by the previous BJP Government.

The proposal to raise the sectoral cap for Foreign Direct Investment in three strategically important sectors, namely, Telecommunication, Civil Aviation and Insurance tantamounts to throwing the people's mandate to winds and is against the national security.

*Translation of the Speech Originally delivered in Malayalam.

LIC has been providing financial assistance to various State Governments for their economic development activities. It was in 1997 that this public sector undertaking was first sought to be privatised. It was the same Mr. Chidambaram who had led that endeavour. At that point of time, the left was the one in the forefront to oppose that move successfully. This time again the left front will successfully perform its duty. The previous Government's policy of selling off public sector undertakings will not be allowed to continue. I strongly oppose the declaration that NTPC, a profitably running public sector undertaking, will disinvest 5% of its holding in spite of the class assurance in the Common Minimum Programme that no profit making public sector undertaking will be privatised under any circumstances.

Sir, the Finance Minister's promise to double agricultural credit in the next 3 years is laudable. Throughout the country thousands of farmers commit suicide under the burden of debt. In Kerala alone, about one thousand people have committed suicide. The rates of interest of the agricultural loans provided by banks should be reduced. Penal interest should be done away with absolutely. The poor farmers should be saved from the brink of suicide deaths by writing off at least a major portion of the outstanding agricultural loans. The Reserve Bank's norm that 18% of the total bank loans should be given to the agriculture sector should be strictly followed. Seeds, fertilizers and pesticides should be made available at lower prices. Immediate steps should be taken to ensure fair price for agro-products and cash crops. Legislation for land reforms in the model of Kerala should be made and implemented in other parts of the country. Agricultural land should be given to farmers. Funds should be allocated to build protective wall along Kerala's coastal line to prevent the erosion of seashore.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister who has made possible the development of a container terminal at Vallarpatam. The formation of a fund of 100 crore rupees as a beginning of revival and protection of such traditional industries as coil, handloom, etc. offers much relief.

This Budget contains a subtle objective to turn the Indian economy further right. A situation should not be created by acting in contravention of the Common Minimum Programme where the stability of this Government would be in peril.

The support of the left parties of this Government is for ruling on the basis of Common Minimum Programme. But a few of the proposals in the Budget presented by Mr. Chidambaram are against this. Therefore, I request the hon. Finance Minister to repeal such proposals and conduct the financial administration in tune with the aspirations of the people.

Generally I welcome this Budget.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget on behalf of the Asom Gana Parishad.

Before I speak on the Budget, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to consider one important aspect. The present system of post-Budget deliberation by Members of Parliament is a mechanism of befooling ourselves, befooling the Members of Parliament. The Budget is prepared in consultation with the industrialists, trade unions and many other groups related to trade and commerce like chambers of commerce, etc., but the political parties and Members of Parliament are not consulted before the formulation of the Budget. It is a bureaucratic exercise. We are made to speak on the Budget which is already prepared. Hardly some changes are made after deliberations of several hours in this House. I hope, in future, there would be pre-Budget consultations with hon. Members of Parliament. After that, the Budget should be placed before the Standing Committees for scrutiny by them and then there should be another post-Budget analysis. I think, this would give better results in future.

Coming to the Budget, I appreciate the compulsions of the present Minister of Finance by way of getting very little time to put in for preparation of a balanced Budget but he has tried his best. I appreciate his efforts to give more thrust to infrastructure and education, especially through the cess on education and also the education loan.

As far as tea industry is concerned, the Budget Speech did not talk at all about the tea industry which is facing a burning problem of the present time.

As far as employment generation is concerned, it is stereotyped that some figures have been given that so much of employment will be created, but nothing tangible is visible in the Budget Speech of the hon. Minister of Finance. I do not know as to how the employment will

be accelerated. As far as 'Food for Work Programme' is concerned, these are all temporary arrangements and nothing to do with the permanent employment and it will not help in the long run.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, it is a basic thing for development. Power is basic infrastructure for any development. I can give one example of broad gauge conversion of Rongia Murkongchek Section. A sum of Rs. 900 crore were sanctioned, but the hon. Minister of Finance has allocated only Rs. 3 crore. So, it will take more than 50 years to complete this project.

So far as the national highways to be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation are concerned, not even Rs. 100 crore were provided in the Budget. The total requirement was Rs. 6,000 crore during the Tenth Plan. So, these are the basic requirements of the development. I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will put emphasis on this particular aspect.

Now, I want to touch upon the issues relating to the North-Eastern Region. I am from a Regional Party. The North-East Industrial Policy was declared in 1997 when you were the hon. Minister of Finance. You were the key person for formulation of those incentives. This Policy was for creation of employment opportunities because insurgency was the root cause of unemployment considering the geographical isolation and backwardness of the region. So, that is why, the Industrial Policy was declared. A number of times the NDA Government modified this Policy by withdrawing certain incentives which has ultimately made many prospective investors to withdraw from the North-Eastern Region. Some of the incentives were not only withdrawn but some industries were also forced to recover the amount they enjoyed as excise exemption with retrospective effect. So, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to examine this issue and restore all incentives granted to the industries operating in the North-Eastern Region. I also request to withdraw the notification asking recovery of the excise relief granted to chewing tobacco and other industrial units under the policy which continued to operate in the Region despite withdrawal of incentives midway.

Moreover, I also request to declare additional incentives to North-Eastern Region because declaration of some incentives to other regions like Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal has attracted the investors to these regions instead of going to the North-Eastern Region to face the insurgency problem and also to go to a very distant geographically isolated area.

[Shri Arun Kumar Sarma]

The World Bank Millennium Development Goal indicated that at least five per cent of the GDP should go for infrastructure in the developing countries. I want to know from the hon. Minister of Finance as to what percentage of GDP has been allocated towards infrastructure in this Budget.

As far as flood control issue is concerned, it is a burning issue in many of the States like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar etc. Assam is the worst sufferer from the time of Independence. Every time whatever investment is made and whatever allocation is made, it goes to water because everything is washed away by floods. A lot of money is spent on repair and maintenance of roads every year.

The Centrally Sponsored Schemes, which are being operated in these areas, are yielding no result because every time floods damage it and investment becomes wastage. So, I hope the hon. Minister of Finance will declare flood as a national problem because when the assets of any State is considered as assets of the country then why not problems and liabilities of a State is not considered as liabilities of the country. This time only Rs. 30 crore is allocated for flood control works, but during the United Front Government's time Rs. 500 crore were allocated only for the Brahmaputra Flood Control Works. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your time is over. Shri Bir Singh Mahato.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Bir Singh Mahato.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I am from a backward area and I hardly take much time. I take very little time. I am from a regional party. I should be given a little more time. I have seen that many other hon. Members are given some concession to speak more. I am speaking on a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak on Finance Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak on the Finance Bill.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I feel that this way the problems of our region are not being highlighted. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bir Singh Mahato, you may speak now.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I have not taken even five minutes' time. The flood and erosion problem is not a problem of Assam but it is a national problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: More than 40 hon. Members want to speak. How can I give time to all? Shri Mahato, you speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak on Finance Bill which will be taken up later on.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: The Central Government should have a 100 per cent funding programme for the flood problems of various States of the country.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The speech of hon. Member will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Sir, I want to speak on the non-lapsable fund. Ten per cent of the budgetary allocation was given to the North-East and the unspent portion goes to the non-lapsable pool. So far more than Rs. 6,000 crore is accrued in this pool. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is not going on record.
You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the maiden Budget of the UPA Government. The hon. Minister of Finance has opened his Budget speech by citing the Common Minimum Programme as the guiding light. The Common Minimum Programme spells out seven economic objectives. As the first step to meet poverty and unemployment problem, an additional provision of Rs. 10,000 crore in the gross budgetary support for Plan fund has been earmarked and the programmes are—food for work, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, mid-day cooked meal, healthcare, irrigation benefit, drinking water, more public investment in agriculture, roads and other infrastructure.

The thrust areas are also well-defined—electricity for all, universal telecommunication facilities, more housing and access to medical care. The noteworthy aspect is the flow of agricultural credit, completion of incomplete large and medium irrigation projects, repair, renovate and restore about half-a-million water bodies. All these programmes will boost the agricultural and the rural economy.

The hon. Minister of Finance extended the Antyodaya Yojana to take the total coverage to 20 million people.

Sir, there will be a new Food for Work Programme in 150 backward districts. In the Budget, a provision of higher education has been provided for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, minorities and self-help groups. Guarantee of 100 days of employment for the breadwinner is a unique feature of this Budget.

In the area of tax, there is no significant resource mobilisation beyond the estimated Rs. 2,000 crore, but the relief that the people with income up to rupees one lakh would not pay tax should benefit almost 14 million income tax assesseees. Receipts from disinvestment have been pegged at just Rs. 4,000 crore in comparison to Rs. 14,500 crore realised in 2003-2004. Decision to establish Backward States' Grant Commission is a very good thing and it will strengthen the federal structure of the nation and eliminate regional disparities.

*Not recorded.

Regarding the proposal to raise FDI limit in the telecom sector from 49 per cent to 74 per cent, in the civil aviation sector from 40 per cent to 49 per cent and in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent, I would say that it is uncalled for. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to roll back this proposal to raise FDI limits. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of RSP, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance of United Progressive Alliance Government. Through this budget hon'ble Minister of Finance has tried to give a direction to the country. We were worried about employment, health, rural areas and the progress of farmers but hon'ble Finance Minister has made an honest effort to make budgetary provisions for all these sectors. There is a big challenge posed before the hon'ble Finance Minister either to raise the present growth rate or to maintain it.

People have welcomed the announcements made by the hon'ble Finance Minister and common man have a sigh of relief. However, today the expectations of common people have increased and hon'ble Finance Minister has to fulfil all those aspirations for which he would require cooperation from all the Cabinet Ministers otherwise in spite of his good intention, hon'ble Finance Minister would not be able to achieve success and the country would not progress. Hon'ble Finance Minister has tried to give emphasis to industries. However, the major foreign exchange earning industry i.e. tea industry is in such a bad shape that the workers engaged in this industry are facing the problem of unemployment. Although we talk about providing employment but Hon'ble Finance Minister has not shown any concern for these workers. Hon'ble Finance Minister should find out the ways and means for the development of tea industry and to improve the condition of tea industry workers. Otherwise, unemployment will keep on rising there. Besides, hon'ble Finance Minister wants to provide loans to farmers in which RBI is playing an important role. Therefore, more autonomy should be given to RBI. Otherwise, commercial banks which want their domination would have monopoly over it. Therefore, autonomy should be given to RBI. There is a mention of providing Rs. 30 crores to Brahmaputra Board. This board will ensure the safety of valley and also the country. I have been demanding for this since 1996. In its absence, country and farmers are facing losses. Bengal is also suffering due to this. I also demand steps for Indo-Bhutan Joint river so that our

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

national resources, tea gardens and northern Bengal could be protected.

Sir, I am a Member of Let Party. We have difference of opinion with Central Government on some policies. The Government should try to remove these differences through Coordination Committee. We would certainly cooperate with the UPA Government to rule for 5 years but this Government will have to take every step on the basis of Common Minimum Programme. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The budget for the year 2004-2005 was propagated much that the budget to be presented by the Finance Minister is going to bring happiness for poor people, farmers, Government employees and industrialists. But it was much ado about nothing. When Gujarat was hit by earthquake, relief came not only from within the nation but from abroad also. Other State Governments also extended their help. But no package has been given to Gujarat in this budget. Kutch district has suffered heavy losses due to earthquake. A package is being given to Bihar, nobody is opposing to it but there is no change in the situation of Gujarat. People from different States are visiting Gujarat to see check dams, ponds are being made deeper. Hon'ble Chief Minister has got one lakh feel-pots made during one year. Efforts are being made for water harvesting also. Gujarat has marked the highest sale of diesel but the State is not getting its due share. Gujarat honestly pays excise duty but injustice is being done to the State. The sympathetic attitude which the State deserves in export-import sector, is not being shown. The amount allocated to Gujarat under Crop Insurance Scheme is very meagre, I do not want to go into the figures. Besides, hon'ble Finance Minister has given exemption from Income Tax for income upto one lakh rupees. But tax has to be paid even if the salary exceeds this limit by one thousand. This exception is just like giving candy to a child. Now the employees are understanding the implication of this exemption and are getting annoyed.

Excise duty on tractor has been reduced but the prices of iron have been increased. Maruti company has already increased the prices of cars. Farmers are also feeling that Finance Minister has made the promises which are impossible to fulfil. The network of service tax has been widened and even the small services like halwaiwala and tentwalas have also been included under it. Today, it has become costlier for a poor man to marry off his daughter. People whose trades are being included under

it are getting disappointed. Adequate allocation for the rural areas has not been made. Therefore, I say that the figure given in this budget are not going to bring any change in the country. The present Government has not taken any new step. Only the steps and the actions taken by the NDA Government have been continued under new names. The people of the country want to know about this. The budget has been presented with the old schemes under new names. It has been mentioned that the budget is village oriented but no step has been taken in this regard. They are talking about development of villages but not taking any steps towards it. Development cannot be made in this way. NDA Government reached the villages and tried to remove their agony. Their voice of concern was raised from Panchayat level to Parliament by NDA and development was undertaken.

Just now, my sister has mentioned that NRIs were impressed with the Golden Quadrilateral scheme and during Delhi Conference stated that they would return to India if the development of the country continues in such a manner. They were greatly impressed by the construction of new roads, development of rivers, construction of dams and development of villages. Our NRI friends have mentioned all this. But these have not been mentioned in budget. No provision has been made for these schemes. Today, people and rural workers of the country are in distress. Youth are in distress and are demanding jobs. They are seeing their future dark. Hon'ble Finance Minister has shown willingness to make expenditure in this regard but has no finance. He has not mentioned source of funds. No mention has been made for the development of Public sector or Cooperative sector. Also the foreign investment has not been mentioned in it. Retired people were having great hopes from the budget but it only disappointed them. Nothing has been done for the senior citizens. The ambit of service tax has been widened because they want to keep the people in dark and extract money through it. 2% cess has been levied which would make everything costlier. Big claims have been made to provide drinking water but no mention has been made as to how this task would be accomplished. People of various villages are in trouble due to non-availability of drinking water. There might be a severe famine this time. They have mentioned that the loan of Rs. 2800 crore would be provided to State for irrigation purpose but what is their cooperation in it. The Government has mentioned to provide 100 days employment but how the employment opportunities would be generated.

It has been stated that the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe people will be provided with jobs and

their children will be given scholarship and financial assistance for studies. It would encourage them. Even after the 57 years of independence the SC/ST people are living in the same pathetic condition. There has been no change in their life style, houses and income. They are still in distress. They are being played with in the name of Scheduled Caste/Tribe and it is being done at the places especially where Congress is in power. When we were on ruling side, they used to shout and raise the issue of farmers suicide. Whether such suicides have stopped now? Farmers are still committing suicide. Mr. Finance Minister, farmers are still committing suicides in the States where Congress is in power. What has been done for Andhra Pradesh? Farmers there are committing suicides. No provision has been made for them. They are still committing suicide in distress. Farmers are neither able to repay the loan or the interest. That is why they are compelled to commit suicide. During the road shows, ruling party members shed crocodile tears for the plight of farmers and stated that farmers are committing suicide in the absence of money and food. Has any change been taken place in their lives now? No change has taken place in their lives. As I have already stated, nothing has been done for Andhra Pradesh. Their Government is accountable for all this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): This is the problem relating to the entire country and the entire farmer's community.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Why are you interrupting let me speak. During the tenure of NDA Government, approximately 4 to 4.5 crore farmers were given credit cards. Our Government initiated this step. Before that, no one was paying attention towards the farmers. This was done by our Government only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please wind up. Other members of your party also want to speak.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Government has started a project to construct 10 crore houses. Several people were allotted houses during our regime but the present Government has not even initiated any step in this regard. The entire country is divided into 500 districts but the present Government has selected only 5 districts for technology development. This is just like a drop in the ocean.

Our country has witnessed great leaders like Shri Deen Dayalji Upadhyaya and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. The names of the institutes given after them

are being changed. The present Govt. may remove the name of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee from the road hoardings but his name will always remain in the hearts of the people. 2% cess has been levied on education. It will earn Rs. 5,000 crore for the Government. However, I would like to know as to where all this money will be utilized. When NDA Government was outgoing, the country was having a stock of 120 billion dollar of foreign exchange. Such a position of the country was never before during the tenure of any other Prime Minister. NDA Government has left such a huge stock of foreign exchange, they need not to be worried about it. Before this, country's gold reservoir were on the stake. We got it back. Golden Quadrilateral scheme was formulated during the tenure of NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please sit down. The time fixed for your party members will be cut short.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Cess was being imposed on crude oil and Rs. 47000 crores were collected through it at that time. I would like to request Hon'ble Finance Minister, to tell us as to where that amount is being utilized. In education sector, the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Varma ji, what I am saying is on justification not on mere information. Now you please sit down. Mr. R. Prabhu.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding in a minute.

"Vitt Mantri Shri Chidambaram,
Mahnga ho gaya tel, sasta hua rum,
Logon ke ummedein pahley say thi kam,
Budget suneney key bad, toot gaya kisano
Aur Mazdooron ka dam,
Media, Patrika dwara failaya gaya bhram,
Aur ankho maiy nirasha thi Shri Chidambaram,
Aglay budget maiy Vayedey kama ab bahut kam,
Kisan, mazdoor, dalit aur sam janta ka
Na Nikaleyam dam. ...*(Interruptions)*"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Varma, now your speech will not go into records. Please sit down. Mr. R. Prabhu.

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI R. PRABHU (Nilgiris): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2004-05.

Sir, we witnessed one of the most tragic incidents in the recent history in Kumbakonam where 100 children were burnt to death. It is a great shame that a man who has presided over this august House tries to use this incident to score personal points and political points. I would like to place on record that the Congress President was only conveying the approval of the Prime Minister that he had released Rs. 1 crore for the victim of this tragedy. I would just like to place this on record. I will make my references very pointed because I know there is a constraint of time.

Whenever you make a budget or formulate a budget for this vast country with its vast population, we should take into account that every rupee spent by the Government should reach the maximum number of beneficiaries. I am happy to say that this is the underlying principle in this budget with a human face.

Very innovative schemes have been programmed, especially the one for education where a cess of two per cent has been levied on all Government taxes. A fund of Rs. 4,000 crore or Rs. 5,000 crore has been specially earmarked for education of children and development of their mental and physical faculties. Another great thrust has been put on employment programme—hundred days of employment to one member of every family.

I would like to state that this Budget was focussed on rural India. The main problems in rural India are lack of protected drinking water supply, sanitation in the villages and health for all. All these are interlinked. If you are going to spend money, they should all be integrated. The hon. Finance Minister has stated in his Budget that he will try to give funds directly to the *Panchayats*. I wish he could do it. I know that most of the State Governments are going to object to this. But maybe in five years time, we could reach that stage where we can directly give the funds to the *Panchayats*.

We would like him to create a website which would give us information about how much money is allocated to every block in this country to implement each of these schemes. At least the Members of Parliament could be the watchdogs in their constituencies to see that these schemes are implemented. But what happens is that when

we travel in our constituencies, all the *Panchayat* presidents complain to us that funds have not been allocated and that States have diverted the funds. Because of these complaints, I would request the hon. Minister to make the website available at the earliest.

I join my friend from Assam. He was very disappointed that the hon. Minister has not done anything for tea industry. The tea industry is one of the largest employers in this country. After the WTO has been signed, tea imports have started, which has affected the tea industry in this country. We are the net exporters of tea and one of the largest producers to tea. Even though the customs duty for import of tea is 100 per cent, but still according to the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, imports from Sri Lanka for tea are at a concessional duty of 7½ per cent. This is affecting our tea industry especially the small-scale industry of the tea industry where we have 65,000 small growers who particularly belong to my constituency. I am very happy and thankful to the hon. Commerce Minister and the hon. Finance Minister for giving two rupee per kg. green leaf subsidy to the small growers for four months as soon the Government came in place. I would like to request them to extend the subsidy for 12 months so that the small growers could join the mainstream.

I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister on behalf of a large number of powerloom and handloom weavers of Tamil Nadu for abolishing the mandatory CENVAT cess.

I would also request him to think about the large number of employees in this country. Sir, this Budget is with a human face. Every rupee spent should make more human smile. Now, interest on the Provident Fund in this country is at eight per cent. We want this to be increased to 9.5 per cent. After all, we have one crore employees in this country and the total financial implication of this would be Rs. 1,000 crore. The Provident Fund has got Rs. 12 lakh crore assets in this country and one thousand crore of rupees extra is not going to make any difference. It will make one crore employee smile and.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI R. PRABHU: I am concluding, Sir. I am not making any great speech, just making points.

In one of the pages—I do not want to quote because there is no time—the Finance Minister wants to give banks

with a proper risk management system and more leeway to the investing in the stock market. Banks are permitted to invest five per cent of the advances. If this is to be followed, SBI invest crores of rupees. I think he should reconsider this and let no banks invest more in the stock market because it is not far back we have seen UTI US-64, scam recently and Cyberspace Infosys Limited scam two years back. They are still in our memory. So, he should reconsider this aspect. I would also request him to reconsider taxing the interest on deposits of NRIs.

He wants to increase the FII exposure to this country from one billion dollar to 1.75 billion dollar. When he is doing that, he should not tax the NRIs who invest in this country. NRIs will not come and deposit their money in this country if we tax the interests on their deposits. So, I request him to reconsider it.

With these proposals, I support the Budget.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV (Jaunpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in budget discussion.

The great and erudite leaders of freedom struggle are not with us today. They had visualized a dream about rural India because our country is a nation of villages and 80% of the population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Even today the figures show that 71% people in the country depends on agriculture. To strengthen the country through that dream, a document was written which we call as constitution. The constitution gives all importance to public. Schemes were formulated by the elected Governments formed on the basis of public mandate. But if we look retrospectively in the 57 years of independence, we found that no elected Government or the Finance Minister has truly favoured the farmer. Rain God is the only Finance Minister of the farmers. Even today our farmers are dependent on rain. Even if the rains had delayed for a month, no arrangements have been made on the part of the Government to provide drinking water let alone the irrigation. And in case of torrential rains, Governments have failed to make proper drainage system. This is really an unfortunate situation. Therefore, I would like to say that hon'ble Finance Minister is a learned person and has taken initiative this time. Such efforts have been made earlier also. Many budgets have been presented in the name of poverty alleviation and upliftment of poor people above the poverty line. But I have no hesitation to say that poverty could not be

alleviates though the poor people have been losing their lives. At the time of independence, country's population was 35 crore which has now increased to 100 crores. Unemployment is rising at an alarming rate. Efforts are being made to provide the basic facilities of education and health by our Government, even the voluntary organisation are working for this purpose but not more than 58% people have been provide with education so far. Education is the basic need for the development. Education develops the character of a person. In many countries, progress in education has led to the development of these countries but unfortunately this has not happened in our country. I would request the hon'ble Finance Minister that irrespective of Government of any party, our intention should be clear to solve the basic problems of the country.

If the intent is not clear, irrespective of how many programmes are formulated, they will have no significance whatsoever. Hence the intents must be clear.

Sir, Uttar Pradesh is a vast State and it can be called as the lungs and heart of the country. The body will suffer without heart and lungs. No provision in the Budget has been made for 17 crore people of Uttar Pradesh. Further, I would like to say that religion is a matter of faith and it is entirely upto one's faith whether one would like to worship in a temple or offer 'Namaj' in a mosque or pray in church. However, the way faith has been mixed with politics, has pushed, Uttar Pradesh which used to be the heart of India and which has given maximum number of Prime Ministers to the country, into the bracket of the poorest States in the country alongwith Orissa and Bihar.

Sir, no budgetary provision has been made for a poor State like Uttar Pradesh in this Budget. It is the State where the controversies and disputes over Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura have been going on and the hard earned public money is being wasted over these disputes. The hon. Chief Minister of the State has dreamt of turning Uttar Pradesh into a prosperous State. Hence, I demand that a sperate budgetary provision be made to realize that dream. I request you that unless the financial condition of the farmers improves, the country can not progress. The moment the financial condition of the farmers in the country would become one of the most powerful countries in the world. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House should be adjourned till tomorrow. Tomorrow, we can skip the lunch hour and continue the discussion on budget till 3.00 pm. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, Shri Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is getting very late.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdas Bandu Athawaleji, you take your seat, Everything has been finalized in the BAC meeting, which is attended by the leaders of all the Political parties.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is getting very late now. Therefore, please adjourn the House till tomorrow and we can resume the debate on Budget tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep patience, Shri Athawale.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI (Anantanag): Sir, the budget presented in the House by Shri P. Chidambaram is a common man's budget, whether he hails from rural area or urban area. This budget speaks for the welfare of common man in both rural as well as urban area. Unfortunately, even 57 years after independence, the farmers are not getting water for irrigation and as the hon. Minister has due mentioned, the city dwellers have to stand on long queues at old houses to fetch a bucket of water. It is good that the budget focuses on creation irrigation facilities but in my opinion the biggest challenge is how this woved by implemented. As economic reforms were initiated, similarly there is a need to set political reforms to take the benefits of the budget to the woves. Let the political reforms begin from this very forum. Administrative reforms can follow. When there is failure of political and administrative machinery, judiciary should come forward, but it does not happen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the economic reforms started by Congress in 90's were met with stiff resistance from all quarters. We should likewise take a step to bring in reform in political, administrative and judicial systems as well. Only then the benefits of this budget could percolde down to the common men. Only then you can eradicate corruption, nepotism, favouritism, misappropriation of funds, etc.

Sir, the hon. President stated during his address that '21st century is going to be India's century.' Why not? Of course, it will be. Unless and untill we tap the potential of all the countrymen, it won't happen. Women comprise half of our population and we should tap women's potential fully. If we are able to extend the benefits of our resources to the minorities and deprived sections of society, we could render a great service to the nation. We will be able to achieve our full potential.

Sir, the formula of providing reservation to the people belonging to minorities should be adopted in the center on the lines of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh for unless the conditions of the deprived section of the country is strengthened, our country can not achieve its full potential. I will now come to my own State, Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a General Budget but as everybody knows the condition in Jammu & Kashmir is not normal. There is a war like situation prevailing for the last 15 years. We have been fighting a battle there. It is a conflict like situation prevailing there. This problem is discussed in every part of the world, including Geneva, Washington and U.K. where we are called to argue our case. However, I am of the view that the solution to the problem of Jammu and Kashmir could only be found back at home and not abroad, the Government has to find solution. Until the people are made aware of the crux of the problem, it can not be resolved. There is a faulty political system and surging emotions behind this problem. The unjust treatment, unemployment and rising poverty among the Kashmir people are the root causes behind the prevailing conflict there.

Sir, as far the political solution to the Kashmir problem is concerned, hon. Shri Vajpayeeji took some initiatives. He took many steps which were path breaking. That include the Lahore Bus Journey, announcement of unilateral ceasefire, offer of unconditional talks with the people of Jammu and Kashmir and the efforts to improve Indo-Pak ties are commendable. I would also like to say that whenever he adopted such steps, the opposition *i.e.* Congress party extended full support to these measures.

Now when the role have reserved, I hope NDA will not somer sault as it did on the issue of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) and take U-turn on this issue, but rather fully co-operate with the UPA Government solving to improve to solutions with Pakistan as well as Kashmir.

Sir, I am happy that the measures taken for confidence building with Pakistan and in Kashmir have begun to show results but I want to say one thing that interaction with Pakistan is very good but people from Pakistan should be allowed to visit Delhi, Mumbai and Kashmir if they want to come.

[English]

We have nothing to hide.

[Translation]

We are thankful to Bharat Scouts which organised a scouts programme in Gulmarg in which boys from Bangladesh, Bhutan and Pakistan too participated. I want to say that 15 boys who came from Pakistan must have had a certain image of Jammu and Kashmir which changed tremendously when they went back. We want that more people should come and visit Jammu and Kashmir. They should see what Jammu and Kashmir is.

Sir, the best result of confidence building measures is the cease fire on our borders which has really provided a great relief to the people. We expect that our External Affairs Minister who is visiting Pakistan these days would hold dialogue with them and ensure that ceasefire is implemented internally too and from both sides. Once Vajpayeeji implemented unilateral ceasefire for six months but it did not work since it did not get any response from them. If ceasefire is implemented, it would really benefit our people. Wagah border has been opened, buses and trains are being operated but neither Wagah border nor Karachi Ferry Service would provide solution to the problem of Jammu and Kashmir, if it can be found, it lies in opening Mujaffarpur road, Askaradu road, Siyalcote road and Rajouri-Punch road. This will lead to the road map of friendship between India and Pakistan. No other way will lead to solution, we got an opportunity after elections were held in 2002. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

[English]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: Sir, please give me some more time as I am from Jammu and Kashmir which has a special status due to article 370.

[Translation]

We got the opportunity to set up a new regime. We made an effort. Congress is the biggest partner in our coalition Government, our biggest achievements is that we could sustain our ties with common masses.

[English]

At the cost of even risking our life.

[Translation]

As you heard yesterday, the Members of Congress Party went there and could escape by a hair breadth but we did not break up the ties. The biggest thing is that people have confidence in this Government. But as far as holding dialogues with Pakistan or solving Jammu and Kashmir issue or the issue of Mujaffarpur road is concerned, there the role of New Delhi or our Government is only 50 percent, the rest 50 percent is that of the newspapers. We talk about economic measures, it must have been noticed that the best thing we have done is that we accelerated the process of development. The hon. Finance Minister is here. I would like to ask him to call the officers of Planning Commission and ask them whether Jammu and Kashmir has topped in fiscal discipline or not in the last two years. If it is not so, I will not ask for anything. We have given account of everything and utilized each coin wisely as a result of which when recently I went to inaugurate a fly-over, a grenade was thrown which fell 200 meters away but even then it was attended by thousands of people.

[English]

That means people want development.

[Translation]

Sir, our infrastructure, schools, hospitals, roads, floyovers are in ruins. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have said that there are big projects in development process but small roads are being constructed. In my region, roads to Laddakh, Gurez and Tandon are fair weather roads, they are closed for around 6 to 8 months. We need to construct alternative routes. Alongwith converting Kashmir Airport into an international airport, we need Kargil Airport too. I want to say that we need money for infrastructure so that we can seek involvement of people in day to day life.

[Shri Mehbooba Mufti]

22.00 hrs.

Our biggest problem is unemployment. I know that unemployment is prevalent in the whole country but I want to tell the Finance Minister that I am not talking about common unemployed youth. I am talking about those young persons of Kashmir who have pursued their education hidden in rooms and under the shadow of gun during the last 15 years. When our whole system collapsed, poor persons sold their land and valuables to send their children to other parts of the country for getting education. Those who did not have the means, arranged for private tuitions at home. Those kids have now grown up to the age of 30-31. Some persons in the villages got their young boys who were studying in 9th and 10th Standards married as they were apprehensive that they might take to militancy so they thought it better to get them married as family responsibilities would prevent them from taking to militancy. Right now they are the centre of concern for us. These are the persons who were very cynical and sarcastic about us during the elections of 1996. They felt that whole election process was a fraud. But gradually they are not taking part in the election process. These are the persons who come to our election rallies and cast their votes on the day of election at the risk of their lives. You might often have seen on TV that these persons cover their faces at their parents request so that the militants might not see them. They cover their faces so that their parents are assured that their son attended the rally or casted his vote but militants could not see him. They can not be included among general youth. I request you all to think of the future of these youths.

We lack in industrialization. Moreover MOU has been signed against recruitments, that is, there is a ban on recruitment, it should be removed. There is no other way, if we cannot do this, we will not be able to do anything. Secondly, I want to say that hon. Finance Minister had said last time that the Government would make the States powerful

[English]

by devolution of sources.

[Translation]

It is a very serious issue. When we talk about injustice, I consider it is not about political injustice, that is, erosion of article 370 or how the resolution of

autonomy was thrown out of the window or how it affected the people of the region. How the erosion of autonomy or article 370 affected the relations of Jammu and Kashmir with the nation.

[English]

I do not want to talk about it.

[Translation]

Sutlej, Beas and Yamuna rivers have been discussed during the last few days but I think very few of my colleagues from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan are aware that the sacrifice of people of Jammu and Kashmir contributes a lot towards the prosperity of their States as in the Indus water treaty, Pakistan has been awarded the water of our rivers, Chenab and Ravi. Their farms got the water and in turn they irrigated the lands of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan but what did we Kashmiris get? We are in loss as we can not generate 1600 Megawatt electricity which we could have as there is a ban. Pakistan says that we are their brethren but every year they measure and take account of every drop of water and create furore if they feel that Kashmir has taken even a little bit of water, the loss that we have incurred due to this.

[English]

it has not been monetized.

[Translation]

In winters water level goes down due to snow and it restricts the power generation due to which we have to purchase power from the central pool which is too expensive for us.

Ours is a special category State and we should be given grant and aid in the ratio of 90:10 but since 1991, we got it in the ratio of 70:30 which has resulted in huge losses. The Government have to decide in this regard. We are not asking for anything big, we are not doing that for which the Government are ready for unconditional dialogue. We are asking for what is our right in Indian Constitution. If our water is being used and it is irrigating the land of Pakistan and our land too then we should get compensation for it. This kind of injustice should not be continued. I think it is a national issue. It is said.

[*English*]

Kashmir is embedded in the soul of India. It is the soul of India. It is the core of nationhood. It is high time that we should give it a thought. We should learn to take care of that soul.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak. I rise to oppose the budget of 2004-2005. Firstly, I want to say that there is no occupation in India which is not profitable, but agriculture is one occupation which is unprofitable. It has not been made profitable till date nor support price of commodities given to the satisfaction of farmers. Some relief was provided when the NDA Government increased the support price. There are two ways to make this occupation profitable. Firstly, the price of inputs should be lowered and price of produce should be more. I want to submit that if there is water in canals then the cost of inputs is lower as water is available at low rates. Alongwith this the price of seeds and fertilizers should be lowered. The subsidy being provided is quite inadequate. I request the Government in the interest of the farmers to increase the subsidy.

Alongwith this there is one problem that a person who manufactures a needle, fixes its price but the farmer who produces crops worth crores of rupees can not fix the price of his produce. There is a simple solution for this. If the farmer does not want to sell his produce in the whole sale market at a particular time then there should be a provision that the farmer is paid 3/4th of the total price with no interest so that he is not compelled to sell his crops at very low rates.

In this country on one hand there is the problem of floods for which relief worth crores of rupees is provided and on the other hand Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat face drought for which thousands of rupees are spent. The NDA Government formulated a scheme to link the rivers if that was implemented, hon. Finance Minister is not here, whatever Ministers are sitting here they might note that by linking rivers, India can get prosperous, every farm can get water and every village can get potable water. It is not appropriate on the part of the Government that they have not included this scheme in the budget.

I request the Government to take up the job of linking of rivers under the scheme of NDA Government which

was prepared by Shri Suresh Prabhuji. I would also submit that Pradhanmantri Gramin Rojgar Yojana has been stalled. A farmer adds one and a half rupee to the relief fund when he buys diesel for his tractor. He gives that money so that roads are constructed in villages and money might be collected for Pradhanmantri Gramin Rojgar Yojana and for long and wide roads. The Government take money from us. If a truck runs on roads, money is taken. I do not know where the money would be used? In this budget there is no scheme to construct roads in villages. As time is short. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep in mind the time.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Sir, Rajasthan as a State which has been in grip of drought for the last three years. It is still in grip of drought. There is no drinking water there. I want the rivers to be linked so that Nagaur district from which I am elected might get water from Rajasthan canal. I asked a question in this regard too. It was replied that this is a State subject. The State Government does not have resources. That is why I request the Central Government to formulate a special scheme and allocate funds to bring the water of Rajasthan canal to Nagaur district and direct the State Government to release water. ...(*Interruptions*) You have rung the bell. I am speaking for the first time.

I would only submit that if farmers are to be prevented from committing suicides they will have to be given remunerative prices for their produce. For this, the Government need to take two measures first, implement Crop Insurance Scheme throughout the country and second lessen the cost of inputs of the farmers. Make the farmers happy by giving them remunerative prices of their kharif crops. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the budget presented by hon'ble Minister of Finance in the House. During last 6-7 years, this is first time that farmers, labourers, people from lower sections and low salaried employees in the country have got benefit whether it is exemption from tax upto the income of Rs. one lakh or reduction of 16 percent excise duty on tractors or reduction of excise duty on poultry, fishery from 16 percent to 8 percent.

Handloom and powerloom industries were flourishing in Panipat area. The NDA Government had destroyed the handloom and powerloom works but our Government

[Shri Jai Prakash]

have done a lot for benefit of weavers. I want that agriculture should be given the status of industry. I had listened the speech of hon'ble Minister of Finance. It was mentioned therein that they will double the quantum of loans in three years. The NDA Government had provided Kisan Credit Cards to gain undue mileage. I would like to mention the losses incurred by the farmers due to credit cards. Golden cards are issued for three years, when a farmer goes to bank for the second time after three years then he has to follow the same procedure that he had followed in the beginning. My suggestion is that as limit is fixed for industries, trade likewise limit should be fixed for farmers so that they may not have to go the bank and the department of Revenue repeatedly. I am talking about Haryana State. There are many nationalised banks. The hon'ble Minister of Finance used to talk about banks. There is rampant corruption in the banks. The Branch Manager sanctions loan to the farmers after taking bribe of Rs. 5,000-10,000. There should be some check on them.

Paddy crop is grown on large scale in Haryana. In 1996, Shri Chidambaram had removed sales tax on the export of paddy. But the Government of Haryana has re-imposed it. Today, paddy of the farmers of Haryana is being sold at cheap rate because of excess sales tax. I would like that steps should be taken to make up this shortfall.

It has been stated that tax will not be imposed on the acquisition of land of the farmers not only of Haryana but from all over the country w.e.f. April, 1. Heavy income tax has been paid by the farmers whose land had been acquired earlier. My suggestion is that this tax should be waived off with retrospective effect and not w.e.f. April, 1 because farmers are suffering heavy loss.

This issue of loan to farmers is raised quite often. Nationalised banks offer interest-free loans for car but they charge 14 percent interest for tractor loans sanctioned to farmers. I would like to request the Government to give instructions to banks to grant interest-free loan for tractors as is done for motor cars so that the farmers may progress. ...*(Interruptions)*

The Government have said that it would encourage floriculture. Potato is cultivated in my constituency. The Government should fix support price of potato and Government should keep it in its stores to ensure that it is not bought below this price. There is support price for mustard also. Regarding pulses and oilseeds Govt. have

not adopted such procedure till now in this regard. The NDA Government had advised to grow flowers. Is there any airconditioned vehicle available in the whole State of Haryana where flowers may be kept? The farmers are being fleeced for the last six years as the price of oilseeds and mustard seeds remained lower than that of support price. Sitting here in the Lok Sabha the then Minister of Agriculture kept saying that they had paid maximum price to the farmers. Last year, the support price for mustard was Rs. 1600 per quintal but the farmers were being fleeced by selling them at the rate of Rs. 1200 per quintal. My suggestion is that there should also be the support price for potato, oilseeds, mustard etc. then only the farmers will progress otherwise the economic condition of the farmers of the State of Haryana and rest of the country as well will get deteriorated day-by-day. The NDA Government did not ensure remunerative prices for the farmers for the last six years, which caused heavy loss to them. There was NDA supported Government in power in Haryana State also.

22.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Nine farmers were shot dead in broad day light however the Chief Minister of Haryana said that they were anti social elements and not farmers.

In the end, I would like to suggest that there are many problems in the State of Haryana where we come from. Especially in the villages where Harijans do live. Another day, a Member of Parliament said that toilets should be provided not only in the Harijan colonies in villages but in the whole area because jungles are not there any more. Unless and until toilets are provided in the residential areas of Harijans and Dalits, ladies belonging to those classes will have to bear insult as there is no lonely place in villages. Now there are no more jungles. Therefore, my request to the Government is that it may not be possible for the Govt. to provide toilets in the whole of India but the Govt. must construct toilets in Haryana State. I have visited 500 villages before this session and the only problem of every villages was that toilets should be provided there and panchayat should bear this responsibility.

Our Government had said one thing. I would like to give some suggestions. I am speaking only about farmers and poor people. I don't fight for high class people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a long list. If you take so much time it will continue by two of the clock. Then it would be next day.

[*English*]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukk): Sir, you may kindly adjourn the House now. We can have it tomorrow.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be better.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Mr. Speaker, Sir I have only few more points. If you insist, I would sit down. I am not forcing myself. There has been a long discussion in our State of Haryana on the issue of water. You are sitting on that chair and, therefore, you are not speaking. But gross injustice is being done against us. The way the Government of Punjab revoked the Yamuna Water Agreement. I request the House that we should fight on this issue. I condemn the decision of the Government of Punjab for revoking the Rajeev-Longowal Agreement by passing a regulation and I request the whole House to unanimously pass this matter and urge the Government that digging-up of SYL canal be re-started with immediate effect for which the Supreme Court had given one month's time to the Central Government. I would like to request the Central Government that SYL canal be dug-up because this is in their interest also. When there was the NDA Government in power in the year 2002 the hon'ble Supreme Court held that the Government of Punjab will get completed the work of digging-up of canal. As there was good relation between Om Prakash Choutala Sahib and Badal Sahib, work was not done at that time. There was NDA Government in power in the Centre also. Even the NDA Government did not undertake the work of digging-up of the canal and now the way in which all political parties of Punjab have got together to enact this regulation Act as law for gaining political mileage, I request the House that this Act should be repealed and the canal should be dug-up in Haryana.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be very brief. Kindly give us the suggestions only.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to tell you one thing that it would be better if you give suggestions

and not long speech. I have such a long list that we will have to continue till next day. Therefore, it would be far better if you give only suggestions giving no. 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. it is very simple, if so much is spoken on behalf of Congress what will others do, hence be very brief.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the budget. This budget has been brought for the welfare and benefit of common people and downtrodden people and the people belonging to backward classes and scheduled castes have many expectations from this budget. I would like to submit something at this juncture. Opposition has drawn the attention of the ruling party and the hon'ble Minister of Finance towards the prevailing problems. In this regard, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister of Finance as to why these problems still persist. We should pay attention towards today's problems of the nation. In one hand, Goutam Buddha gave the message of humanity the followers of Mohammad Sahib gave the message of love and brotherhood. Kabir Sahib opposed the conservative and hypocritic traditions on this earth, the followers of Jesus Christ hugged the handicapped and disabled persons and Guru Govind Singh advocated for the feeling of self-respect and respect. On the other hand there had been such a system in vogue in this country for thousands of year under which the Bahun Samaj of this country had become helpless, constrained and compelled. Their lives had been worse than those of dogs and cats. They had been debarred from enjoying all human rights. For the progress and development of such societies, Dr. Baba Sahab Bhim Rao Ambedkar gave Constitution to this country in place of Manu's system and as a result of which the country is making progress. But even after 57 years of independence, the Constitution of Baba Sahib Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar has not been implemented in true sense. It is on account of this that there are five national problems in the country today, namely untouchability, inhumanity, inequality, insecurity and injustice. Had the Constitution of Baba Sahib Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar been implemented honestly, these problems would not have been there. Even after 57 years of independence, it is on account of the non-application of the Constitution properly that crores of people in the country do not get their both ends meet, they are not being provided pure water and people die for want of medicines. Providing free education to the children of age group of 1-7 years is one of the seven directive principles mentioned in the Constitution. Till now these have not been implemented in true sense. It is on account

[Shri Lalmani Prasad]

of this that even today people belonging to Scheduled Castes, other Backward Classes are deprived of education.

The Government should pay attention towards the problems of the farmers. The farmers do not get remunerative price for their produce, that should be given. At this juncture I would like to submit that 80 percent of the population live in villages and unless 80 percent of the budget provisions are spent on those poor, downtrodden, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes and this amount is spent for the development of those villages, progress and prosperity of those villages would not be possible. Therefore in this situation, I want that dues of the sugarcane growers should be paid to them at the earliest. Besides, the Government should provide special package for the welfare of persons belonging to scheduled castes and other Backward class people. Those factories should be re-opened which were closed under some conspiracy so that every hand may get work. The problems of weavers should be solved. Arrangements should be made for providing foodgrains to the poor people at a lower price. Indira Awas Yojana should be implemented in the entire country in a systematic manner. The interests of all eligible persons of downtrodden society and people of Minority Community should be taken care of. My request to the hon'ble Minister of Finance is that for ensuring revival of the derailed economy, decision may be taken after a national level discussion on this issue.

I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that Basti, my Parliamentary Constituency is a backward area. Diski, Haraiya and Kaptanganj areas do not affected with flood. The whole Basti Sadar is a flood-affected area. It is situated on the banks of river Saryu. Dams be constructed there to protect it from flood. The road which leads to Gonda from Katra via Nawabganj and Bilsar be widened. Ram Janaki road which leads to Seekariganj from cantt. also be widened. Old dams should be repaired as Chhudwa dam is on the verge of erosion. That may break any time and hence I want that the Government should pay attention to it. Road from Basti to Mohali Nath Nagar should be widened. Bridges at Tanda and Baharghat are historical, these should also be repaired. Another should be constructed to connect Navgarh Kapilvastu road from Basti via Bansi. Munderwa, Khalilabad road be windened. The fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur which is lying closed, that should be re-opened. If Jalkundi scheme is completed, the problem of flood arising due to the water coming from Nepal, can be solved and the problem of electricity can also be solved simultaneously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now conclude, otherwise your speech will not go on record.

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: I am concluding. A University and Medical Collage should be established at the headquarters of Basti Munderwa. Apart from this, I would also like to submit that every Member should be given Rs. five crores every year under MPLAD scheme. Separate amount should be provided for the electrification of 100 villages in each Parliamentary Constituency. Likewise, 25,000 houses should be constructed in each Parliamentary Constituency under Indira Awas Yojana.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great pride and happiness for me that I am expressing my views on general budget for the first time as a Member in the apex institution of the country i.e. Lok Sabha. I would like to thank you a lot for giving me an opportunity to speak on this occasion.

Sir, before I make comments on the provision of general budget, I would like to pay my reverence to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi under the leadership of whom the countrymen have given their mandate against the communal forces and have posed their faith in her leadership. Not only me but every citizen of the country is having a feeling of respect for her and is looking towards her with great optimism and expectation. The initiatives taken in the Budget 2004-2005 within a brief period of time by the UPA Government in order to implement the Common Minimum Programme in an efficacious manner is really a commendable step. Budget presented by the Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh is dedicated to the people of most backward sections of the society especially to the small farmers.

Sir, left parties which look at the society divided in two water tight compartments of bourgeoisie and proletariat might not have anything to criticise the budget but BJP that is said to be the party of the traders may certainly be pinched by the budget.

Sir, hon. Finance Minister has in pursuance of the recommendation of the Kelkar Committee, exempted the persons earning upto one lakh income from paying income tax but his provision would benefit only those 1 crore 40 lakhs taxpayers who have been excluded from tax net.

Sir, in this budget more stress has been given on the downtrodden, deprived, weaker, backward sections of society adivasis and the people to Scheduled Castes and

Scheduled Tribes and those at the lowest rung of the society. I would like to highlight the provisions from which poor are going to be benefited directly. The machinery, tractor, dairy and handtools like spade etc. have been exempted from excise duty. Tax exemption has also been given to the capital gain on the compensation amount to be paid in lieu of the acquisition of agricultural land. 2800 crore rupee have been sanctioned for irrigation purpose. 2 crore more families have come under the ambit of Antodaya scheme. The hospitals in rural areas having 100 beds have also been exempted from paying tax. Long-term scheme has been formulated for renovation of ponds and johars. The BPL people have been covered under the special health insurance scheme. An amount double of the presently disbursed loan amount is proposed to be disbursed among the small and marginal farmers.

Sir, hon. Minister of Finance have made very liberal allocations for the farmers. Today the common man is tired of the hollow slogans like 'India Shining have got an opportunity to take the benefits of a budget that seeks to wipe out his tears by having the welfaristic and pro poor provisions and address their problem in all the sectors whether it be the irrigation, drinking water, agriculture, rural healthcare, traditional handicrafts, cottage industries, mid day meal scheme for the school going children from poor families and labour intensive measures like the handtools etc. This is a budget connected with ground reality and it seems to take care of the people stranded in last rung of social ladder in all the spheres be it industry, services, agriculture, income tax payer, share market, housing, higher education, excise, small savings or social security.

Sir, the increase of 33 percent families that have been covered in the ambit of Antodaya food scheme meant for the poorest families is a commendable step. Through the fixing of this rational and assured target in regard to food subsidy would insure that the benefits would accrue to the most needy persons. A silent economic revolution is in the process of evolution in the rural areas throughout the country especially for the women by the work being done by the voluntary organizations. This movement would go a long way in direction of women empowerment and there is a need to put more stress on this programme.

Sir, while fully supporting the step of introducing a few percent cess on all the central taxes for the purpose of primary education and streamlining the mid-day meal scheme, I would also like to suggest that keeping in view the financial condition of the States, the entire

revised expenditure being incurred on the mid-day meal scheme should be borne by the Union Government. An effort has been made to give top priority in the field of agriculture and rural economy. Reinstating IRDF is also a step in the right direction. While supporting all the proposals, I would like to suggest that the sectoral earmarking made in this regard during the year 2003-2004 be withdrawn so that the hilly States like Himachal Pradesh could get maximum loan assistance for the development of roads and social infrastructure.

The budgetary proposals seeking to promote the diversification in agriculture would certainly keep us to compete internationally in the field of fruits and vegetables. I would also like to say one thing in regard to women who comprise 50 percent population of the country. The mention of gender budgeting is a welcome step and I would like to submit that a special scheme for the women empowerment be started on the lines of the scheme for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes initiated in 1979-80 and 1974-1975.

Sir, in the field of excise duty, the special exemption status given to the north-eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir has been kept intact. However this exemption has been given for only those units situated in areas of Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have been exempted from excise duty that have been set up prior to 31.03.2007 or are likely to expand their capacities. I am of the opinion that this kind of discrimination among the States having special status is not justified. Alongwith it, the decision to keep the benefits of the proposals announced in year 2003-2004 confined upto 2006-2007 also does not seem pragmatic and feasible. Hence I would again like to urge upon that this facility be granted to all the States having special status without discrimination.

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister towards the distant areas in Himachal Pradesh which is a hilly, backward and bordering State full of natural beauty situated in the lap of great Himalayas. The borders of district Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh and Tehsil Pange-Bharmor of district Chamba are contiguous with Tibet. The headquarters Kelong and Kaja of district Lohol. Spiti in Himachal Pradesh are inaccessible and distant places which remain segregated from the rest of the country for six months a year due to heavy snowfalls and snow storms. Former Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had dreamt of constructing a tunnel under Rohtang pass in order to ensure that this region remains connected with rest of the country even during heavy snowfalls. I strongly

[Shrimati Pratibha Singh]

demand to make adequate allocation of funds for the construction of tunnels under Rohtang pass. I would conclude, thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Suresh Angadi. You kindly put forth your suggestions only.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that our Finance Minister is working under pressure. In the Supreme Court, he is very free and fair. Many times he has stated that we should follow the system of the economy of China. Our Prime Minister has also stated this. There is no reference in the Budget as to how he is going to do that. He has not mentioned about having the population control in the country and there is no common law for population control. It should be brought to all the Government employees, even for MLAs and MPs, and they should only have two children. Even the political parties should think in this way. Then only, our schemes will be successful. Otherwise, all our schemes will be only on paper.

Sir, I oppose this Budget because this Budget belongs only to Bihar and Chennai because a sum of Rs. 1,000 crore for Chennai and Rs. 3,200 crore for Bihar have been allocated. Whenever the water shortage is there in Tamil Nadu, they have helped Tamil Nadu and the relation is brotherly. I do not know why the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has left out Karnataka. He has not given anything to Karnataka. So, this is the Budget only for Bihar and Chennai and it is not for the entire country.

The hon. Finance Minister has not taken the Vision of India into account. We do not have good roads in the rural areas. We have Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Everybody spoke about the farmer; everybody spoke about the *kisan*. When the *kisan* grows some vegetables in the field, it takes days together to send them to the market because we do not have proper roads in the villages. If it takes 24 hours to send the vegetables to the market, then they would not get proper price for their vegetables. The then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had the vision and he said they should be able to send the vegetables within two hours. Even the consumers will get a better price in the market and also good quality vegetables. The present Finance Minister has not said about the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. This programme should be implemented immediately in the interest of the farmers. Every Member

spoke about the farmers but nobody said about constructing roads in the rural areas for the farmers. I feel very sorry about this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the customs duty, which had been imposed earlier, has been removed now and because of this, imported clothes will enter into the Indian market and our weavers are going to suffer now.

The then Finance Minister, during the Budget for 1996, had mentioned about 178 irrigation projects. The Government has said that only 28 projects are under progress. The Mahadahi project in North Karnataka is in the border of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. This project will be very useful. The State of Karnataka would get 56 tmc water if this project is executed. We are not getting this water because of the delay in the clearance of this project. The Central Government should make it very clear and water should be given to Karnataka immediately. The Government should give the answer immediately. I would request the Finance Minister to complete this project early so that our farmers will be benefited.

The dream project of Ganga-Cauvery also should be completed early. Only then, the *kisan* of India will shine. Otherwise, this will be only on paper.

Sir, I once again oppose the Budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, you have to complete in two to three minutes.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, I speak on behalf of 15 crore minorities. At least, you give me seven to eight minutes' time. I have been sitting from 4 o' clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should start now.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of India in the last Lok Sabha elections held in the months of April and May had voted decisively against the communal politics of the BJP-led NDA Government and also against the foreign-dictated new liberal economic policies. In keeping with this mandate, I think, Shri Chidambaram's Budget has been a step towards it. But there are some loopholes in this Budget, which go contrary to the NCMP.

Sir, the first thing that I would like to point out here is that the allocation in the Budget for the minorities has been increased, especially for the National Minorities

Finance Development Corporation. This Corporation was given last year only Rs. 13 crore, and now the UPA Government has increased it to Rs. 71 crore. Though it is an increase, it is not a big increase. The reason being that the Muslim minorities comprise 12 per cent of our population and based on that, the Finance Minister has allocated only Rs. 50 crore for the NMFDC. I would like to know why we are being punished. Are we being punished because we have wholeheartedly voted en bloc for all the secular Parties?

Moreover, this mandate has been given to them because the people have seen what happened in Gujarat. The people have seen the sufferings of the Muslim minorities. Based on that, a mandate has been given to this Government. It is highly unfortunate that such a meagre sum has been allocated for the minority development. I do not expect the Finance Minister to say that *Main Hoon Naa*. I would like to know what is his *Lakshya*. What is going to do about the minorities? Moreover, this is a very important issue.

Regarding Maulana Azad Educational Foundation, it was supposed to have started with a corpus of Rs. 1000 crore, but nothing has been allotted in this Budget. Another point regarding minorities is that we were expecting that the Haj subsidy that would be given would be more than what it was before. The previous Government had decreased the Haj subsidy, but it is very unfortunate to know that the Haj subsidy remains the same. It should have been increased to what it was two years ago. But this step has not been taken.

The main focus of the Budget is on this. It talks about maintaining growth, stability and equity. The Finance Minister has called for a growth rate of 7-8 per cent of the economy in accordance with the National CMP. But the economies of the last decade have seen a huge concentration of the Government on maintaining a high growth. But I would like to remind the House that this high arithmetic figure of high growth rate is neither necessary nor a sufficient condition for the elimination of unemployment. What we have seen in this, and the statistics also tells us this. If we look at all the Economic Survey books that have been given to us, despite a high growth, the unemployment remains the same. In fact, it grows higher and higher. It has not been able to solve the unemployment that has been increasing.

I request the hon. Finance Minister that, fine, you want to have a higher growth rate, but at the same time, the Government must focus on solving the unemployment

problem also. Another point is regarding the allocation for the total rural employment. The allocation in this Budget has declined from Rs. 9639.99 crore in the year 2003-04 to Rs. 4590 crore in this year, which is an amount less by Rs. 5049.99 crore. I would like to know from the Finance Minister how he is going to finance all these projects regarding rural employment, though they are very good on paper. Even the food subsidies are proposed at Rs. 25,800 crore which is an amount less by Rs. 2000 crore from the Interim Budget.

I have a special request to the Finance Minister to make through you, Sir, that because of the misrule of the TDP Government in my State of Andhra Pradesh, we have an agrarian crisis. More than 4,000 farmers have committed suicide in the last one-and-a-half-years. I request the Finance Minister to give a special package for the farmers of Andhra Pradesh because suicide is still continuing. We require the Central Government to come to the support of the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Another point is regarding the Finance Minister's speech. He has enlightened the House when he gave special emphasis on primary education. In his statement he says, "No issue enjy's higher priority than providing basic education to all children."

This is a reflection of the commitment of this Government to provide basic and primary education to all the children of our country. The two per cent cess is a very good measure as it is expected to mobilise Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore but it is also of very great concern to me that the hon. Minister of Finance has not increased the total allocation for education beyond Rs. 11,062.07 crore. This amount had been allocated in the Interim Budget and there has not been any increase over that.

A very important aspect is that the Tapas Mazumdar Committee Report estimated a sum of Rs. 1,37,000 crore over a period of ten years for attaining universal education. I request the hon. Minister of Finance to please go through the recommendations of the Tapas Mazumdar Committee. In our country more than 35 crore people are illiterates. The Government should bring in more focus and stress on primary education.

Regarding higher education in general and university education in particular, only a policy statement has been made that the loan amount has been increased from Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 7.5 lakh without any collateral. Even this

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

applies only to students studying in professional courses. The allocation of Rs. 640 crore as Plan expenditure for higher education in the present Budget does not reflect any fresh view on the part of this Government. The idea that the emphasis on elementary education would give scope to the Government to wash off its hands from the responsibility of higher education is not fully encouraging.

One good aspect of the present Budget is the focus on the agrarian sector which has been neglected in the last five years. It is a fact that 65 per cent of our population gets employment from this sector. The recognition of the Government that the agriculture sector requires massive investment and the promise of doubling rural credit in three years is in tune with the NCMP. The allocation for rural housing has been increased by 30 per cent. Though these steps are encouraging the Budget has still not fully appreciated the depth of indebtedness and the generalised nature of the agrarian crisis which the peasants are facing right now. I have two suggestions to make to the hon. Minister of Finance through you. He should set up immediately a Farmers' Debt Relief Commission headed by a senior administrator officer designated as Debt Relief Commissioner with provision for enough staff to run offices in every taluka. This relief should be given by this officer, a sanction letter should be given to the banks instructing them to honour and allow those farmers to draw loans, and the Government should stand as a guarantor for such loans.

My second suggestion to him is to waive off all the conditions at present in force for issue of BPL ration cards. The hon. Minister's proposal to increase the issue of cards from 1.6 crores to two crores is highly insufficient. I think, a more universalisation of the PDS is the need of the hour. This would immediately give relief to the poor people. It would generate demand in the rural economy and the economy would improve as a whole through backward and forward linkages. Moreover, the rural budget allocation has been decreased to Rs. 4,540.9 crore. I want the hon. Minister to show in his reply how he is going to fulfil the promise of generating employment.

I totally oppose the FDI increase in telecom, civil aviation and insurance sectors. It is bad economics if this Government goes in for FDI in telecom sector. In the insurance sector, the foreign companies would wipe out LIC and GIC and the poor people would live without any insurance. It is unnecessary that the Government is going in for FDI in civil aviation. There is no need to increase the cap on FDI in all these sectors. There is a rumour that the hon. Minister of Finance would take away

the 0.15 per cent turnover tax and also decrease the FDI. I want the hon. Minister to decrease the FDI but keep the 0.15 per cent turnover tax in tact.

I thank the hon. Minister of Finance for the increase in the allocation for the States where Andhra Pradesh is going to get more than Rs. 1,800 crore. Also, because of the lowering of interest rates, Andhra Pradesh stands to gain more than Rs. 90 crore.

I once again request the hon. Minister of Finance, while concluding my speech, that he should increase the allocation for the minorities in the Budget. A reduction is just not on. You have won the verdict because all the Muslims and minorities have voted *en bloc* for you. You must increase our Budget allocation. You can never take our votes for granted because times have changed. If you think that tomorrow you are going to go to elections and tell the Minorities that BJP will come into power, we have learnt to live with BJP and we have learnt to fight with them. We have lost everything. We are not afraid of BJP. What we want this Government to do is to give sufficient allocations to the Muslim Minorities so that they can prosper well.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is quite late in the night and the discussion is still going on. Only a few journalists are present. I would like to tell you and the press people also that whenever late night discussion is held, press reporters should be asked to do night duty as we are also present. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are covering it.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): They should be given overtime.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: It is my suggestion also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister Chidambaramji is going to do justice to all and sundry, it is going to hit the rich*... Everyone, be it proletariat, bourgeois, businessman, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, people from all castes and religions has been taken care of in this Budget. We were waiting for such a Budget. We had observed that for the last six years, the Budgets used to be just 'routine-

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

one', whereas this budget presented by Chidambaram ji provides opportunity to everyone for one's economic development. Therefore, I am supporting the Budget whereas Members sitting on the other side are not supporting. How can they do so? If they support it, they will have to come to our fold. But, good Budget should be considered good and it is not that in democracy opposition is meant for opposition only. We have supported NDA Government on good decisions taken by it and we used to appreciate them. Thus, in democracy, we should walk together. Sometimes, we are in opposition, sometimes they are. For the last six years, we had been saying that now we would be in power and you would be in opposition. And same thing has happened. Now we are in power and they are in opposition. So they should reconcile themselves to the new position and we are also new and we should learn how to rule. We should take up the development work further.

We have made a commitment in the Budget regarding poverty alleviation and merely saying so is not going to help. 57 years have elapsed since independence and 26 per cent population in the country live below poverty line and each year the Government make similar promises in the Budget, but funds needed for development of poors are not allocated. The Government have made efforts to allocate adequate funds for SCs and STs, but I had demanded that as these classes form 28 percent of our population so 28 percent Budget allocation should be provided for them. 28 percent amount should be spent on them by each department. Though the number of poors is more amongst SCs and STs, yet there are poors amongst upper castes, so the Government should allocate funds for their development also and the Government should take appropriate measures in this regard.

My submission is that if we want to alleviate poverty, the Government should enact laws to impose ban on property. If, assets of Reliance Group are worth Rs. 70,000 crore and Sahara's assets also are of equal worth, then what shall we do? If all the industries are captured by Sahara and Reliance then what will we do? My submission is that let them establish industries but put some ceiling on their property. In fact, there is a need to enforce it strictly. Holding of 10-15 or 20 acres of land by an individual is all right.

Sir, one should not owe 200, 500 or 1000 acres of land. It is good that we could form UPA Government, but there is a need for this Government to take revolutionary decisions.

Sir, if you keep ringing bell like this, how I will be able to speak. Ring the bell for alleviating poverty. Please give me five minutes more. If the Government want to alleviate poverty, the Government should make 28 percent allocation in the Budget, in Special Component Plan and also in Tribal Sub-plan for SCs and STs. My second submission is that each family should be allotted five acres of land. There is a need to give a thought to it. There is a need for providing reservation in allotment of land on the lines of reservation in jobs. There should be reservation in private sector also. Meanwhile, peasantry is in worse condition than the tribals. Therefore, peasants also should be provided 10 percent reservation.

Sir, the population of SCs has increased to 28 percent now from 22.5 percent during 1947-1950. Therefore, there is a need to hike reservation for SCs by 5.5 percent and Muslims should be provided 12 percent reservation. Further, my submission is that if we really want to do something good for Scheduled Tribes, we need to give them reservation in the Cabinet also. If their 25 percent population has 25 percent votes, then they should be provided 25 percent reservation in Cabinet also. And they should be given reservation in Rajya Sabha also and even in Legislative Councils. My submission is that the Government should seriously consider providing them reservation in private sector.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar was the architect of our constitution. He passed away at 26, Alipur Road bungl'w. Though, the Government have purchased the bungalow from Shri Jindal, but work on declaring that building as his memorial has not yet started. I urge hon. Finance Minister to allocate funds for converting bungalow number 26 at Alipur Road in Delhi, where Baba Saheb Ambedkar was staying before his death, into a memorial. Not only this, all the places where he resided, such as in Mumbai, should be declared as Memorial and the Government should allocate at least Rs. 50 crores for this purpose.

Sir, the amount of scholarship being given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students is very less. The rate of scholarship should be linked with price index. Education upto 12th class should be made compulsory and it should be free for everybody. In addition to SCs/STs, other poor students also should be provided free education. Thousands of SC/ST students apply for hostel accommodation whereas only 50 to 100 seats are available in these hostels. Therefore, my submission is that the students who do not get admission in hostels

[Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale]

should be provided more amount as scholarship and other facilities so that they can complete their education.

Sir, the privatisation of education, which has become order of the day, should be stopped. The situation has become so horrible that, now, students have to dole out as hefty sum as Rs. 15-20 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for getting admission in medical or engineering colleges. As these people can't afford so much money they are deprived of admission. It is the responsibility of Central as well as State Government. They should come forward and stop privatisation of medical and engineering education. Education should be State controlled, be it medical, engineering or MBA and the Government should make provision for it in the Budget.

23.00 hrs.

Private institutes doing business in the garb of education should be banned. The amount of Rs. two crores being allocated under MPLAD scheme is very less, it should be hiked to at least Rs. 5 crore. If it is hiked to Rs. 5 crore then the Government will complete its five year term without any problem as all the MPs will support it and some MPs even from opposition may join us. *...(Interruptions)* But, not now. Many people are eager to come to this side. *...(Interruptions)* If he is Gandhiji, let him have some patience. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: He may praise as much as he likes, but, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is not going to induct him into the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: I am not praising. *...(Interruptions)* It is not a question whether I become Minister or not, but you people will come to this side. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, funds under MPLAD should be enhanced to Rs. 5 crores. My Parliamentary Constituency Pandharpur is a place of pilgrimage and the temple of Vithal Rukmani is located here. Large number of people belonging to Bahujan Samaj visit this place. Therefore, this area should be included in Central list and the Government of India should allocate Rs. 125 crores for its development. A small airfield should also be constructed. Maharashtra often faces famine. The Government should take preventive measures in this regard. Shiv Sena had demanded a package of Rs. 1700 crores. We had also made a demand during Shiv Sena's regime but we got only Rs. 50 crores. But, our Government have allocated Rs. 500 crores. *...(Interruptions)* More funds should be

provided to Maharashtra. The State is in the grip of severe famine. This Government should act upon the inter-linking of rivers scheme envisaged by the NDA Government. But, merely linking of rivers will not help. *...(Interruptions)* We should link the religions, the people. *...(Interruptions)*

Sir, maximum possible funds should be provided to Maharashtra. *...(Interruptions)* There is scarcity of water in Maharashtra but Mumbai and Konkan receive heavy rainfall and entire rain water flows to the sea. My submission is that rain water of Konkan canal area should be channelised towards western Maharashtra i.e. Marathwada where water is scanty. If the Government provide adequate funds famine problem in Maharashtra can be tackled. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. *...(Interruptions)* I would like to recite a poem. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Time is already over, you recite the poem on some other occasion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: I wanted to recite a poem but there is none there to listen. As I have written it now only, there will be no use of reciting it later on.

"Bharat ke Arthmantri Chidambaram, Garibon ki jindagi karo garam...+

Unhone poorā nahi kiya unka dharam,

Agar aap safal karoge apna dharam,

dobara ban jaoge Arthmantri Chidambaram,

Agar thora sa kaam nahi karenge to vaisa hi

hal apna bhi ho sakata hai,

jaisa haal enka ho gaya,

Lekin apna hal aisa nahi hoga"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unparliamentary words should be expunged. Now your speech will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget presented by UPA Government is anti-village, anti-poor and anti-farmer as villages have been totally neglected in it. The allocation for rural development has been reduced by Rs. 400 crores in this Budget. Therefore, I can say that this Government have totally neglected

+Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Not recorded.

rural areas and because of the negligence of rural area, situation is such everywhere. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, kindly ask him to stop interrupting our Member. Why does he not stop speaking and sit down? Sir, you have asked him so many times to sit down, but he is not doing so. What is going on, how they are talking? ...(*Interruptions*) He thinks as if he is still in the Opposition. He is taking the time of Shri Pradeep Gandhi, who is on his legs to speak on a subject, with your permission. He is from ruling party please ask him to sit down. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, you should ask him to kindly sit down. I would appeal to the Treasury Benches to kindly ask him to sit down. ...(*Interruptions*) The Treasury Benches do not have any control over their Members. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: His speech is concluded with the poem. We have listened his poem. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech will not go on record, so please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Let the Member of my party speak, why is he wasting his time? Do the treasury benches have no control over their Members.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Though the present Government gave a slogan, "Chalo gaon ki ore", yet they have neglected the villages totally. Earlier, Indira Gandhi gave a slogan, "Garibi Hatao", but poverty could not be alleviated from India so far. Now the Government have given a slogan, "Chalo gaon ki ore". They are asking all to march towards villages but they have not visualised anything for rural development.

Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji launched Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana and envisaged to provide connectivity to village by linking them through roads by 2007 and in fact, he translated his words into action. But the Government has also tried to stop the scheme. Through you I oppose this step of the Government. This scheme envisages linking all the villages of the country through roads. Villages are the soul of India, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that 80 percent of the population lives in

villages. I criticise this Government which has not taken any step to provide basic facilities in villages and has reduced Rs. 400 crores in the budget.

He has said that he would give employment for 100 days to the poor persons. But the Government has not made any provision for employment in the budget, where will the funds come from? How the employment for 100 days would be created for these poor persons of the country. The Hon. Finance Minister does not seem to have any clear idea about this. This Government is anti farmer. This Government has cheated the farmers. You can look at the record even in State Governed by left parties, farmers are committing suicide due to starvation and poverty in West Bengal. Farmers are committing suicide due to starvation and poverty in Andhra Pradesh. The Government has said that we would triple the flow of credit. Through you I want to tell the Government that there is no need to do so because how would you give loan to farmers who would not be in a position to avail it. A survey of all the villages of the country should be conducted to find out the condition of people residing in each village, almost all would be found reeling under the burden of credit. He will not find any farmer to avail loans even if he enhances the flow of credit. There is a need to help such farmers. The Chhattisgarh Government has tried to bring them into mainstream by waiving loan of Rs. 125 crores taken by 5.5 lakh families of farmers and giving them one time relaxation. The Congress Government has come to power through the support of farmers and the poor persons. They should accept this but they are not doing anything for the poor persons and the farmers. Through you I would like to request them that they should work for the farmers, take policy decisions to benefit the farmers and make efforts to waive the loans of all the farmers once. Our Prime Minister tried to make basic amenities like healthcare available to every person of the society.

Schemes, were formulated budgetary provisions were made for them, foundation stone was laid, money was allocated but the present Government has not made any provision in the budget to make health care available to the poor persons of the country. Rupees 10 crores have been kept for this project and this project is to be completed within three years but the Government is knowingly trying to delay the project. I feel that the Government should make reductions in the budget for other areas and give priority to providing these basic facilities.

[Shri Pradeep Gandhi]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I represent Rajnandgaon constituency of Chhattisgarh. Chhattisgarh is new State. The Government is suffering loss of Rs. One thousand crore every year after fixing support price for buying 27 lakh tonnes of paddy from the farmers there. Many State Governments have sent proposal to the Union Government in such a situation but there is no provision for this in the budget. Paddy should be bought by the Union Government and the Government should fix the support price and buy the paddy, make proper arrangements to ensure that the farmers get the support price. The Government should make some provision in the budget to support the State Governments so that they can purchase the produce of the farmers at support price. The Union Government which has not made provisions for this, should do so.

I feel that this coalition is rather incongruous. This alliance was not forged before the elections. This has come into being only due to fear of Bharatiya Janta Party. This alliance might disintegrate any time. Colleagues from communist party are not here. They have said that they do not bark, only bite. They never know as to when left partners would bite. They can withdraw support anytime and this Government would be left in the lurch.

They have warned the Government that it is not paying attention to their opinion on the issue of FDI. Under these circumstances budget presented by this Government has disappointed all people in the country. The public is remembering that earlier, the NDA Government took stock of the entire situation and planned effectively strengthening every sector. The present Government's budget has compelled the public to say the NDA Government was better. During their regime, the Government was strong, economic situation was strong and infrastructure was growing. Villages, farmers and the poor persons were prosperous. With this kind of budget, the public is remembering the erstwhile Government. Initially this budget was appreciated. Now, have a survey conducted and they would find that there is a big question mark on the credibility of this Government. The leaders of Congress Party are saying that the days of this Government are numbered.

Through you I want to say that the Government should work in the direction of making villages, poor persons and farmers prosperous. Do not give slogans only. Please make sincere efforts to translate those slogans into reality.

[English]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): I congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a popular and welfare Budget covering all aspects of the Common Minimum Programme. I support the Budget. Since the time is very short, I will only make some suggestions.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the hon. President of India said while addressing Members of both the Houses of Parliament, "It is a matter of concern that regional imbalances have been accentuated not only due to historical angle but also by distortions in Plan allocations." This is the point that Assam and other North-Eastern States are always neglected. They are deprived. They are exploited. I will cite some examples and request the Finance Minister to make up this loss.

The Tenth Finance Commission awarded Rs. 710 crores to Assam. Subsequently, the Eleventh Finance Commission awarded only Rs. 110 crore. That is a net loss of Rs. 600 crore, and it was done by the NDA Government. I would request the Finance Minister to give some package to make it up.

The NDA Government caused another damage to Assam by imposing an MoU on it to the effect that all appointments are banned. There is no casual appointment, no temporary appointment or no any other appointment. This has been continuing for six years. Till date not a single chowkidar, or sweeper, or teacher is appointed. As a result of that, hospitals are running without nurses and sweepers, schools are running without teachers. New appointments are not made even to the posts of teachers which have fallen vacant due to retirement. The subject teachers are not there. This is the way schools are running there. So, I request the UPA Government to lift this ban and try to solve the unemployment problem in Assam.

The NDA Government caused another damage to Assam in the industrial sector. I stopped the incentives given to industries as admissible under the industrial policy. So, I request that these incentives be revived.

On the 18th of August, 1998, Shri H.D. Deve Gowda announced that a special compensation package of Rs. 500 crore to partially compensate the losses incurred by the frequent floods. he also promised that the expenditure incurred in course of anti-erosion schemes shall be reimbursed. Sir, I request the Finance Minister to fulfil the commitment of the former Prime Minister.

Sir, the NDA Government caused another damage to Assam by refusing the peace bonus to Assam. You know, Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram and Nagaland were given peace bonus as they tried to restore peace. As you know, Mr. Tarun Gogoi, the Chief Minister of Assam has restored peace in the State and solved the Bodo problem. But Assam was not given the peace bonus. So, I request you to award peace bonus to Assam also.

I would also like to say that the ULFA problem in Assam is a great problem.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Several Members of your party are going to speak, please conclude soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Immediate dialogue should be started to solve this problem.

Another issue is that of sales tax in Assam. Assam gets Rs. 400 crore as share of sales tax from the sale of oil from IOC and other companies. Even after repeated requests, the NDA Government during the last six years did not pay these Rs. 400 crore. I request the Finance Minister to release the amount immediately.

Sir, there is a road named East & West Corridor Road Project. It has a distance of 800 km. The BJP proved its worthlessness by completing only 27 kms. I would request the Finance Minister to make allocation so that the road could be completed within a very short time. ...(*Interruptions*) I must say something about the flood problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken 6-7 minutes. You will take about half an hour in this way and no one else from your party would be able to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: The people of Assam and even the Assam Legislative Assembly by a unanimous resolution demanded that the flood problem should be declared as a national problem. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas—not present.

Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak. Only three minutes, please.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to participate in the debate of hon. Finance Minister's speech on the General Budget for 2004-05. Before I start my speech, I would like to state that I am a lone Member from Nagaland. Many MPs from one State has spoken. There are nine MPs who are the sole representatives of nine States. I am a single MP from a single State. Can I complete my speech within three minutes?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is also not possible to give you more time.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Secondly, we cannot get even time. There are 38 party leaders in Parliament. We have been waiting for a chance to speak since yesterday. No one has got the chance. Those who can speak, they get the chance. Can I express all the Nagaland problem in three minutes? I think that this injustice in regard to allotment of time should be corrected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not my problem.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: The Union Finance Minister in his speech has committed to maintain a growth rate of seven to eight per cent per year under the National Common Minimum Programme. It may please be noted that in the North Eastern Region the growth rate is marginal (perhaps two to three per cent). Thus, there is a substantial gap between the national and the North Eastern Region. Nothing has been outlined to reduce this gap. This has to be taken into consideration and focussed attention on a balanced development of the North Eastern Region is necessary.

Regarding the fiscal responsibility, a five year road map is required to meet the fiscal deficit of the North Eastern Region as the tax base in the region is very small and is very negligible and whatever funds are infused monthly go into the payment of salary, pension and meeting the expenditure on debt liability which are all of unproductive nature. As a result, hardly any development is possible and to sustain growth will be a distant dream. Restructuring of debt is absolutely

[Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak]

necessary for the North-Eastern Region in order to have a balanced economic growth of the country. In order to avoid diversion of Plan fund for meeting the non-plan expenditure, it is pertinent to point out that the earlier formula of funding pattern prior to 1989-90 for meeting the entire BCR gap by way of Central assistance should be restored in respect of the North Eastern States.

Regarding poverty and unemployment, I would like to state that empowering people is the right strategy for their self-reliability and collective responsibility can rise. Providing free education for at least eight years is not good enough they need to be given professional training. The idea of mid day food is not practicable in the rural areas as transportation of food is not possible.

*Flexibility for implementation of the policy and programme is necessary. Programme under poverty and unemployment needs to be reviewed and made area-specific. State should be allowed to evolve its own scheme for implementing the project.

Sir, in regard to agriculture and rural economy policy, as per the Budget for 2004-05, the north-eastern States will not be much benefited. Coverage is very poor and the credit deposit ratio as mentioned in the Finance Minister's Budget Speech is also very low. The rural banking and cooperative banking is also very weak. It is suggested that the Task Force may take into account the poor credit facility and coverage, and suggest remedial measures. So far as Nagaland is concerned, the Village Development Boards can be declared as micro credit agencies. The nationalised banks should be the lending agencies. The State Government can be the guarantor to the extent of loan sanctioned by the nationalised banks. Necessary modalities may be worked out for maintaining 50 per cent credit deposit ratio.

Now, I would touch upon the area of water harvesting. I fully appreciate the nation wide water harvesting scheme to be launched by the Government. In addition to the introduction of rain water harvesting in the north-east region which is monsoon-oriented, the new scheme will be effective. In order to secure double cropping, summer surplus water storage scheme will be of great help and it can change the face of the economy. We have tender streams and valley. They can be converted into water bodies with small dam construction.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the mighty river Brahmaputra is in spate, we the people of our State are

washed away. Remember that the brown frown water that roars down through Brahmaputra is the remains of its tributaries. The planners usually plan to take control at the end and forget the flood damages caused in the hills. The damages caused through torrential rain on roads and assets need to be compensated and the anti-erosion measures should be taken in the tributaries of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. Also, anti-landslide measures should be taken effectively in the north-eastern States, as most areas of the States are landslide-prone areas.

Sir, as regards diversification, I would submit that the north-eastern States have ample scope for bamboo plantation and bamboo products. In addition to launching national horticulture vision, a national bamboo mission should also be taken up on a mission made, and the north-eastern States should be encouraged to increase the bamboo products substantially. Nagaland has already taken the initiative to form State bamboo mission and come out with a bamboo policy.

Sir, the communication bottleneck of the north-eastern States from the nation must be removed. National highways and the X road are yet to touch the east whereas we thought that the X road should start from the North-East. Trade corridor to East Asia is a dream of the North-East. Rail transport, national highway road, air and waterways should be explored. I suggest that an expert committee be set up to examine the prospects for early implementation.

Sir, in the present state of affairs, foreign direct investment in all the north-eastern States has not been possible. There is hardly any industrial activity in the State. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Union Finance Minister to direct the concerned Ministry to take all appropriate measures for revival of the Tuli Paper Mill which is the only major industry in Nagaland, and the same has been closed for the last one and half decade. Earlier, there was complaint on the power supply but today this difficulty has been removed. Now, there should be no other problem.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, if you permit me, may I lay my papers on the Table? I have some points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can do that.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: So, Sir, I am laying the remaining part of speech of the Table of the House.

*Sir, under the non-lapsable Central pool of resources, the 10 per cent allocation in various Ministries for schemes and programmes in the north-eastern region is mandated to be Rs. 5823 crore, and the allocation of Rs. 650 crore provided from the Central pool of resources for development in the north-eastern region is appreciated. I suggest that a mechanism be evolved to ensure that the Ministries actually spend the 10 per cent if not more, as mandated. This fund must be spent in the State sector and not in the Central PSUs. This is so because the north-eastern States, due to lack of resources and corpus fund are reduced to mere salary paying States without work.

As regards subsidy, though a colossal amount, approximately Rs. 50,000 crore is allocated for subsidies on food, fertilisers, diesel and gas etc., the State of Nagaland gets almost no benefit from this huge amount. Subsidies need to be targeted effectively and it should be specified State-wise. Nagaland is declared as an organic State. Subsidy grants on the export organic products, organic fertilisers and on transportation need to be given. Subsidy should also cover bamboo mission technology and its exported bi-products.

Sir, as regards State financing, we are happy that State share of union taxes and duties will increase to Rs. 82,227 crore from Rs. 63,758 crore which is substantial 29 per cent. Further, debt swap scheme proposal to reduce the Government of India loans from 10.5 per cent to 9 per cent, and allowing States to raise fresh loans to pay up high interest loans to NABARD and other financial institutions are welcome. In the context of Nagaland, it may be pointed out that the negative BCR can be reduced effectively if the rate of interest on all loans are brought down to five per cent.

Sir, I welcome the move in the direction of empowering States through devolution of larger resources. The States have been demanding that devolution of resources should come to 50 per cent from the present status of 29 per cent. I suppose that in the progressive years of 12th Finance Commission, this demand should be achieved. For the growth of manpower and attainment of maturity, it is time that the responsibility of determining the welfare of the citizens perhaps be transferred to the States and the Centre concentrate more on inter-State developments, communications on rail, roads, sea and air, science and technology on technology and grow in

*...This portion of the Speech was laid on the Table.

strength in defence and foreign policy to be an effective world player in ensuring stability, peace and prosperity in the world. I am confident that I have the support of the Members of this august House in this endeavour and if this is the dream vision of the UPA Government, the policy will have the support of the entire nation.

Sir, as regards Backward State Grant Commission, creation of Backward State Grant Commission is the most welcome development. Presently, we have only one district—Mon under the scheme of Rashtriya Sama Vikas Yojana. It will be absolutely necessary to include five more backward districts of Nagaland, that is, Tuensang, Kiphire, Longleng, Phek and Peren.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this time to highlight some of my concerns and I hope that the Government will take serious note of action."

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the General Budget 2004 tabled by our hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram on the 8th July 2004.

This is the first Budget of the UPA Government headed by Dr. Manmohan Singh under the kind blessings of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. The Budget is a growth-oriented one. It has catered to the needs of all sections of the society adequately. This is a Budget for the common man, for the rural poor, for the disadvantaged, for the youth, for the upliftment and emancipation of womenfolk.

We can say that it is a Budget for the nation. As a result of this bold step, fiscal prudence and financial discipline, there would be more of employment generation. This Budget has shown to the world that investment in education, health and infrastructure are the key areas, which will have a far-reaching effect on sustained growth rate. In fact, China has shown it to the world, and we can see it on the ground. The importance given to primary education is also praiseworthy, along with public health system. The levy of two per cent tax on all taxes is also praiseworthy. I think, the mid-day cooked meal scheme is a right step in the nation-building process. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most of the population of India lives in villages. Proper attention has been paid to the villages. It is a good and revolutionary step and a courageous effort towards building the nation. The basic objective, the rationale and the thrust of Budget presented by Shri Chidambaram is to be appreciated. In fact, it is already having a lot of praise from all sections of the society and from everyone because it is a well-designed Budget which

[Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil]

is meeting the requirements of the economy. The reform-oriented Budget has blended tax proposals and the development schemes well.

With your kind permission, Sir, I would like to focus on the State of Himachal, to some of the important areas like our economy, infrastructure, etc. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to provide incentive to set up hydel power projects in Himachal Pradesh. This will help in power generation. It will also help the deficit States and boost the Himachal Pradesh economy as well. In the same way, I would request the hon. Finance Minister to please pay particular attention to the clearance of Renuka Dam which is actually held up for want of certain formalities in the Environment and Forest Ministry and the Supreme Court. Once completed, this Dam will not only give boost to power generation in Himachal, but it will also quench the thirst of our capital town, Delhi, which is the need of the hour.

The Budget makes a special mention of the water bodies, the charging of reservoir, etc. About half a million of water bodies would be charged, he says. This is a historic step and in the same way, we want Central assistance for Himachal. This is the prime need of our people.

The second important area which our colleague has already mentioned is with regard to horticulture, vegetable, food processing sector and floriculture. We need facilities of storage, packaging and transport of vegetables. In fact if we have the food processing industry and marketing system, we will have opportunities for employment in this region and our unemployed youth will get adequate employment.

The next important area is Himachal Tourism. *Dev Bhoomi Himachal*, as they call it, we have a lot to work, with regard to tourism. Availability of proper infrastructure is needed. We have to remove these inadequacies in air, rail and road services. It will give boost to the tourism and, in fact, sky is the limit. As far as tourism is concerned, there is a scope for eco-tourism, culture tourism and adventure tourism. We can have it in a big way if we have central assistance.

As regards industrial growth, really speaking in our area there is a need to develop the small industries like small parts of watches, software, etc. which are eco-friendly also. They can develop in a very nice manner in that area if we get central assistance.

I would also request that for a better appreciation of the problem and Centre-State coordination, on the lines of North-East Development Council, we should also have Hill Development Board so that the problems are appreciated and coordinated at central level and there is a balanced development in the region.

Finally, to conclude I would say the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram has taken care of all. In fact, this is a first unique and a good Budget which has been able to see the rural India, the farming sector, and those sections which have remained out of reach so far. They can also feel that they are in a participative democracy. At the same time, it has given a humane face to the reform process along with the higher economic growth. I fully support the Budget and think that this is one of the most successful Budget and it is going to get us a stable Government.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Emakulam): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Budget and for want of time I am not going into the details. However, I am happy to state that I am delighted by the announcement of the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech regarding International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam in Cochin Port.

Sir, towards the fag end of the debate in this late hour I take this opportunity only to congratulate and tell the hon. Finance Minister for his declaration regarding this International Container Terminal. The entire people in Kerala welcome his announcement that the much awaited project would become a reality soon. Cochin Port is poised for an unprecedented and unbelievable development. It along with the Sethusamudram Project announced by the Finance Minister will make the southern tip of the Peninsula the hub of international shipping activity. We, the people of Kerala, will remember with gratitude that it was during the tenure of two hon. Ministers from Tamil Nadu, namely, Thiru Chidambaram as Finance Minister and Thiru Baalu as Shipping Minister that Cochin Port was ushered into an era of prosperity and development. I would request the hon. Minister to make the Container Terminal Project in Cochin the first Budget proposal to become a reality.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have names of 11 persons. It would be alright if each of you takes only 2 minutes to express yourself.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Finance Minister towards just one problem. Budget seems to be a bagfull of tricks. It has been said that every family would be given employment for 100 days but it is unfortunate that in my constituency a unit is being closed. Wimco manufactures match boxes and it is the sole unit of mechanised sector. There was 3 percent excise duty on it, which has been increased to 16 percent while there is no excise duty on cottage industries. This step is going to render 5 thousand labourers and 25 thousand families jobless.

[English]

I would like to request the hon. Minister of State for Finance to kindly convey this concern to the hon. Finance Minister. This is a very sad thing. On the one hand this Government is talking about making sick units viable, on the other, the Government is proposing to close down the units of WIMCO in the country which would directly affect 5000 workers across the country and about 25,000 families associated with them. I would like to request him to kindly look into this matter. I would also like to request him to reduce the excise duty from 16 per cent to 8 per cent or to any other figure which the hon. Minister thinks fit.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am laying the rest of my speech.

*Mr. Speaker, Sir, budget is related to the aspirations of common people. Everybody from poor to rich awaits the budget with hated breath. The way the hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram has done the job of snatching some one's right and bestowing it on another, it seems budget has become synonymous with keeping the public in dark in the name of its welfare. On the one hand harsh measures have been avoided in this budget and on the other, half truth has been publicised to gain cheap publicity. The present budget has been marred by narrow mindedness as party's interest has been kept in view above national interest. Most of the provisions of budget would increase the prices. The prices of petrol and diesel are already high and budget has only added to them. We got the proof of it when the rate of price hike i.e. inflation rate crossed 6 percent.

The budget presented by hon. P. Chidambaram is a bag of tricks. The economic priorities and requirements of the country have been ignored while trying to make attractive announcements in the budget.

It is being said that the focus of this budget is villages and poor people but the fact is that only official announcement can not contribute to the welfare of the poor persons. There is a need to launch a comprehensive national programme to remove poverty and this work would take years. Repeatedly talking about the poor people in the budget speech would not benefit them. The hon. Finance Minister should tell us to what announcement he has made which would help the poor persons in improving their living standard.

The Finance Minister mentioned Antyodaya Anna Yojana and said that now 2 crore people would be included instead of one and a half crore in the scheme. The former Finance Minister had made this announcement in the interim budget to include 2 crore people in the scheme instead of one and a half crore people. That is why Shri Chidambaram's initiative to make the announcement again and take all the credit does not seem to be proper.

In the budget which has been publicised as the budget of villages and farmers, heavy reductions have been made in the allocations for rural development. NDA Government had released Rs. 13,288 crores for this head in the budget which the present Finance Minister has reduced to Rs. 9,239 crores.

In the present budget, the hon. Finance Minister has not only increased the number of services falling under service tax but also increased the rate of service tax. The hon. Finance Minister has caused price hike by increasing the rate of service tax from 8 to 10 percent because ultimately the consumer would suffer.

We should not forget the service sector contributes 52 percent to our GDP and increasing taxes on the services means increasing prices. As such Congress has always been associated with price hike. During NDA Government's regime the rate of inflation always revolved round 3 percent which proved beneficial for the country's economy.

Hon. Chidambaram's budget is very misleading in many areas. People got the message that ceiling of rebate from income tax which is Rs. 50 thousand has been increased to Rs. 1 lakh while the truth is something else.

*...This portion of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Santosh Gangwar]

This rebate is only for those whose taxable income is less than 1 lakh rupees. The earlier rates of tax would be levied on income higher than this. The middle class is feeling that it has been deceived.

Announcement of a scheme with 9 percent interest rate for senior citizens has been made while to changes have been made in the interest rates of small savings whereas when Congress was in opposition, it used to raise furore over this issue.

Before this budget, the common minimum programme envisaged employment providing guarantee for 100 days to each unemployed person. Almost Rs. 3 lakh crores would be needed to work in this direction that is why only lip service has been done and no concrete step has been taken in this direction in the budget. An effort has been made to give a new format to food for work scheme in the budget. Not a single extra rupee has been allocated under this head.

All the budgets presented by NDA Government laid great emphasis on strengthening the infrastructure. Many successful schemes like Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Golden Quadrilateral Scheme, Express Highways etc. were launched. UPA Government has kept mum about these ambitious projects in the budget. Former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also expressed his concern in this regard.

Similarly the NDA Government had talked about the project of interlinking of rivers with a lot of zeal but it has not been mentioned in the budget whereas a lot has been said about water harvesting and irrigation in the budget. Similarly Rs. 217 crore and 98 lakh have been allocated for flood control which was also projected by Shri Jaswant Singhji in the interim budget. Just to mislead the public it is proposed the flood control programme would be launched with Rs. 30 crores. If Chidambaramji was concerned about farmers, he should have reduced the rate but he has misled the farmers also.

By scraping Jai Prakash Narayan Rural Credit Schemes for which NDA Government had released Rs. 50,000 crores, Shri Chidambaram has shown that he is only seeking publicity and not thinking about the welfare of the farmers. He has removed excise duty on tractors but along with this move he has increased the price of steel and diesel. From one hand he has provided respite and from other he has tightened his grip. Share market is also depressed after the hon. Finance Minister's announcement of turnover tax. On one hand tax on long

term capital gain has been removed and on the other transaction tax has been levied.

The need of the hour is to strengthen the infrastructure and grassroots level of the country by following fiscal discipline but unfortunately things have been done at a surface level only. The actual effect of the budget will come before us in a few days and then we will know that what was shown to us was half truth."

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the UPA Government. Many points have already been mentioned by my colleagues here. We have sat through patiently for several hours. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this discussion on the Budget.

Sir, the main thrust of the Budget has been to boost the agricultural sector of our country and it is rightly so. But I am sorry to say that the Finance Minister, probably most intentionally, has failed to address the most burning and vexed problem that is being faced by the agriculture sector in our country today. My colleagues who spoke earlier mentioned about the suicide committed by farmers in various States, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. Everyday we are getting reports of suicide deaths of farmers especially from these two States due to the debt burden which they are unable to bear any more. Nobody will commit suicide in a happy frame of mind. It is an extreme step that one is pushed to under very compelling circumstances. It is only in very trying conditions that people go for this option. What we had asked for was a write off of the interest and the penal interest of the loan and not the capital. If the interest part and the penal interest part of the loan amount ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 is written off, then I think, most of the cases would be covered. The hon. Finance Minister has mentioned that we have to bring thought and passion into governance and the hon. Prime Minister has promised a new deal for the country.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has now mentioned that he would have a re-visit as far as the various proposals that have been announced in the Budget. There is a proposal to give exemption up to Rs. 1,00,000 in case of income tax. That is going to cost the Exchequer a sum of Rs. 1700 crore. He also has promised a re-visit in case of the transaction tax which was expected to earn the Exchequer an amount of Rs. 7500 crore. A

paltry 0.15 per cent of transaction tax is being objected to by the trading community. On the traders and brokers, the Finance Minister is on record saying that this particular section is a 'narrow constituency' as compared to farmers, labourers, weavers etc. For this 'narrow constituency' the hon. Finance Minister has promised a revisit. What I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister is that he should revisit the agriculture sector and offer some concessions to those people who are really in trouble.

Certain measures have been announced connected with the agriculture sector, like restoring the water bodies and water harvesting. They are all welcome measures. Along with that, I would request the Finance Minister to give a thought to organic farming and to the construction of bio-gas plants which will go a long way in boosting the agriculture sector. The Finance Minister has talked about regeneration of traditional industries. In our country, plantation industry is the oldest one. It is almost 150 years old.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just started speaking. Now, you have started ringing the bell.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is not possible for me to give you more time.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: I will just take two or three minutes more.

Now, the plantation industry is in deep crisis. In my constituency, more than 17 tea estates have been closed and twenty thousand workers have lost their jobs in the last two or three years. There is no mention of re-opening of these estates in the Budget.

The Finance Minister gives thrust to the education sector in our country in his Budget speech. He has announced that collateral security will not be needed for loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh if satisfactory guarantee is provided. What exactly is this 'satisfactory guarantee'? That is the problem. Many students who would like to go for higher studies are facing acute crisis. No bank is prepared to give loans for educational purposes without collateral security or the so-called 'satisfactory guarantee'. A clear-cut instruction has to go from the Ministry as far as this particular aspect is concerned to help our students that guarantees or collateral should not be taken or should not be asked from students who want to go for higher studies.

In paras 17 and 18, there is a mention about minority welfare in our country. When we speak on minorities, there is one section called 'converted Christians'. There are people who converted from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to the Christian community in our country. They have been denied reservation benefits. So, people who have opted for Sikh and Buddhist faiths are getting full reservation benefits. But those who have opted for Christianity are not getting the reservation benefits. It is very unfortunate that they are not getting the benefits. It is guaranteed under the Constitution that any person can opt for any religion. Just because they have opted for a particular religion, denying the benefits of reservation is gross injustice. In this regard, I had requested and I had written letters to him. At least an announcement could have been made saying that this particular point will be considered. But this has not been done.

He has mentioned about Defence modernisation in the Budget. It is very good. The allocation for that has been increased. But the proposal of 'One rank one pension' has been hanging fire for a long time. At least, an announcement could have been made in this regard.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may speak on Finance Bill, at that time I will give you extra time.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: There is a proposal to tax the NRI account on the plea that it has outlived its utility. The NRIs or the Non Resident Indians have been contributing to a large extent in increasing our foreign exchange reserve. We want these people to come to India and to invest in our country. If you tax their savings, I think, it amounts to discouraging investment. We are talking of FDI or Foreign Direct Investment. Our own people are prepared to invest in our country. We must encourage them. So, I request the Finance Minister to revisit and to have a re-think on this particular aspect.

There has been an increase in the excise duty on various items. One particular item is that of candles. Candle is one thing which is being used in religious ceremonies of Christian community. Excise duty on candles has been raised from eight per cent to sixteen per cent. It is most unfortunate that the religious ceremonies of minority community are going to cost more. I request the Finance Minister to withdraw the excise duty hike on candles. There are many things on which

[Shri K. Francis George]

I would like to speak. But due to paucity of time and because of your insistence, I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a list of 11 Members who are yet to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are 11 names in the list. If you have to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give two minutes to everyone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not have any objection if each of you takes only two minutes.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN (Vellore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Budget.

The Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram has been welcomed by everyone in the country and hailed as the first Budget which has been prepared in so short a time to the satisfaction of so large a people in our country. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of our beloved Nation and the best Parliamentarian in the world of his times once remarked: "Delhi remains the political Capital of India. Bombay is a Capital of capital, Madras happens to be the intellectual capital of our country."

As one of the chosen intellectuals of Tamil Nadu, Shri Chidambaram, a great economist of our times, has presented the Budget which has been welcomed not only by the ordinary people but also by the eminent financial experts.

The United Progressive Alliance has given a clean and clear guideline in the form of the Common Minimum Programme for the nation. The hon. Finance Minister has brought the CMP in the Budget in its letter and spirit. He has taken the wise counsel of our beloved Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The zeal and enthusiasm of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to work for the good and the welfare of the common masses has inspired our Finance Minister.

In order to achieve the objective of bringing about rapid growth with stability and equity, the hon. Finance

Minister has presented this Budget which is democratic in spirit, progressive in thought, innovative and reformative in approach and utilitarian in purpose.

Our great leader of the Tamils Dr. Kalaingar Karunanidhi has happily welcomed the Budget and he has said that well-meaning people would find much of good in the Budget for all categories of people of our times.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kader Mohideen, you are reading the speech. If it is possible for you, lay it on the Table. You can lay it on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You better lay it if you are reading it out.

[English]

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Sir, there is a proverb. There is a poem in Urdu:

[Translation]

Admi Admi se milta hai, magar dil kisi se milta hai.

[English]

Man meets man. But do the minds meet? This is the poet's version. But here the minds of our hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram, the minds of the Common Minimum Programme, the UPA and the minds of the people of this country have met together. Though the minds of BJP and the UPA do not meet, yet the minds of the people, the minds of the masses and the minds of our hon. Finance Minister met together and they resulted in this very great Budget which has been hailed by everyone and all. If it is called pro-poor, it does not mean it is anti-rich. It may be called pro-minority but it does not mean it is anti-majority. If it may be called pro-labour but it does not mean it is anti-employer. But this Budget should be described as the Budget of the people and for the people of this country.

Naming of certain schemes in the Budget was criticised by our friends here. Naming of certain schemes after the national leaders is an acknowledged convention in this country.

Sir, the great nation of ours is known as 'Bharat'. Bharat is a name of the character that appears in the epic Ramayana. Therefore, naming schemes after great national leaders and makers of history is not a sin.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mohideen, you can lay rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Yes, Sir. I lay rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

"Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Abdul Kalam Azad, Vallabhbhai Patel and so on are the names of our great leaders and the makers of our history. So are the names of Sharimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. They had sacrificed their precious lives for our nation. So, Sir, it is unfair to criticise the scheme and projects named after great personalities as they were great leader of our country.

In my State of Tamil Nadu, Sir, to name the scheme of the Government after great leaders like Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Anna, Kamarajar, Quaide Millate, V.O. Chitambaram Pillai, Jeevananatham, Thiru. Vi. Kalayanasundaram, Barathiyar, Barathidhasan and so on has become an accepted tradition. We are indeed happy to know such a tradition is followed by the Government of India.

The Budget happens to be a great boon for the agriculture sector. The Government should come forward to strive for linking the rivers of India. Delhi prays for rains, but in Assam and West Bengal people are praying for stopping rains. Drought in one corner, deluge in another corner of our country. The river linking project will certainly mitigate the problems of both drought and deluge. So, Sir, the projects shall be taken up at the earliest with missionary zeal.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, in U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia Khubs has become the food of the people. That is available everywhere any time. It is sold at the cost of one Dirham. It solves the food problem whether they are rich or poor. Similarly Rotis made of wheat may be made available everywhere anytime in the country. "Jantha Roti" scheme may be popularized throughout the country through the private sector agencies.

It will facilitate feeding everyone with the minimum earnings; it will generate huge employment facilities; it will accelerate the production of wheat and rice and it will prevent dumping into the sea millions of tonnes of wheat grain.

Moreover, the Government should come forward to establish Export Promotion Centres for agriculture products also. At present manufactured goods and products only come under the purview of Export Promotion Centres. Raw paddy, wheat, vegetables, flowers, groceries and the like should be encouraged to be exported through the Export Promotion Centres set up by the Government. In my Vellore constituency such an Export Promotion centre for agricultural goods shall be set up by the Government.

The Budget gives very much importance for harvesting water restores. Rain waters should be preserved in tanks, ponds, etc. that was the practice from time immemorial. When we forget this precious past practice, we suffer from lack of water. This is a very good thing that the Budget aims at preserving water in tanks and ponds. All the available ponds and tanks should be preserved and work of deepening and desilting should be done speedily.

The people of Vellore who have elected me to this august House have a long standing demand in this regard. The Vellore Fort of the 19th Century remains as the remarkable fort for secularism. It is in fact called a secular fort wherein there is a temple, Jala Kandeswarar. Temple for our Hindu brethren, a church for our Christian brethren, and a mosque for Muslim brethren. This is the fort from where the first fight for independent India started in 1806. One Abul Qasim who was assisted by the scions of Tipu Sultan inside the fort fought against the British. Abul Qasim's efforts did not succeed. He was killed and his body was exposed for birds to eat. This historic fort of beauty and magnificence needs protection, preservation and beautification. The moats that surround the fort get water from one Suriyakulam in the adjacent area. Suriyakulam, the tank that is the source of water for the moats of the fort are full of silt and filth. Rubbish and rotten things are dumped therein. This Suriyakulam Tank should be deepened, desilted and purified and maintained clean and thereby maintaining the moats of the fort full of water. The Government should come forward for beautification of this historic Vellore Fort.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that farm-labourers, particularly women folk in my Vellore constituency who have got loans for purchase of gas cylinders are put into hardships. They are demanded by the banks to pay back the loans with combined interests running into thousands. Poor village women folk who wanted to get gas facilities are now shocked to hear about the amounts demanded by the

*...*This portion of the Speech was laid on the Table.

[Prof. K.M. Kader Mohideen]

banks. If there is any possibility of waiving such loans it will be of great benefit to the poor village farming women folk.

Sir, Government announces loan schemes. Rules are laid for borrowing. But the ground reality is that most of the loan seekers are not helped in time by the banks. The procedures seem to be very much cumbersome. The psychology of the banks should be to help the people, rather than to hinder them from getting loans. They should be guided by the ethical code that proclaims that those who help the helpless will be helped by God almighty.

In my Vellore constituency the township of Jafarabad, with more than five thousand people urgently need a Health Centre.

Group Housing under Indira Awas Yojana should be extended to the beedi workers who are below poverty line.

People of Tamil Nadu desire to have passenger ship service from Nagapattinam to Penang. This will accelerate trade and exports from our country.

The plan scheme such as SGSY, SGRY and IAY contain specific reservation for beneficiaries belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I request the Finance Minister to include in the list of beneficiaries of SCs the Dalit Christians and in that of STs the Karumans including Kurumbar, Kurumba, Kurumban, Kurumba Gownder, Kuruba, Kuruma, all being the synonyms of Karumans.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for having made additional allocation of Rs. 50 crore for the educational welfare of the minorities. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation should come forward to extend loan facilities to the youths without delay. Subsidy for the Hajj pilgrims shall be restored.

The Budget that aims at maximum happiness of the maximum people of the country stands out as a super Budget.

May God the Almighty shower his choicest graces for our beloved country to grow, and proper, develop and guide the countries of the world in peace and progress.*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the financial

year 2004-05. I support this Budget because it has laid emphasis on the needs of the poorer sections of the society. Fifty per cent of budgetary allocation to agriculture sector is justified because nearly 80 per cent of our people earn their livelihood from agriculture. Whenever we go to villages, we find that there is a demand for drinking water, medical care, electricity and education. The hon. Finance Minister has made provision for all these sectors in this Budget. He had announced 100 days of guaranteed employment to poor people in our country. This is a welcome step. He has also announced a health insurance scheme at reduced premium. Then, the marginal income tax payers are exempted from paying income tax. He has announced the setting up of an Investment Commission which will solicit and encourage domestic and foreign investment. He has also committed to quality education because he knows that education has taken a prime place in our life. For all these measures taken by our hon. Finance Minister, I appreciate him and I support this Budget.

Now, I would like to say a few words about my home State, Assam. Our State is a very poor State. Till recently, as you know, our Government could not pay salaries to our employees even on the 15th day of every month. But our Government, under the able leadership of our hon. Chief Minister Shri Tarun Gogoi, has improved the economic situation of our State and now we are able to pay salaries to our employees.

Sir, there is a section of teachers in our State whose condition is very painful. They are teachers of recognised schools. These teachers in recognised schools perform the same duties as their counterparts in Government schools. We have thousands of teachers who are serving in secondary recognised schools. Then, we have some primary schools and middle schools where teachers are rendering honorary service since long. Many of them have already superannuated after rendering life-long honorary service, but their service could not be taken over by the Government due to want to fund. Our hon. Finance Minister announced imposition of two per cent education cess and he proposes to collect about Rs. 5,000 crore from that. I would like to suggest that a special package should be granted from this fund so that we can pay salaries to these teachers whose services could not be taken over by the Government. This is my earnest request to the Finance Minister.

We suffer from devastating floods every year. We suffer loss of human lives, cattle and crop. We incur millions of rupees as loss due to flood every year. I

request that adequate fund should be allotted for the protection of our people from the curse of flood. The share of R. 30 crore is not sufficient for the protection of our people.

My last point is, we are proud of our tea industry. But our tea industry is sick now. In our State, one million labourers are working in the tea industry.

24.00 hrs.

If industry is not financially supported, there will be huge unemployment. That will also very badly affect our economy.

With these few words, I conclude my speech. I once again support the Budget placed by the hon. Finance Minister.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bansalji, what do you think. I feel that it would be alright if read out the names of the 11 members such have yet to speak. It will mark their attendance.

Please tell me if some hon. Members finds it necessary to speak otherwise I would read out the names. The way you have raised hands it seems you all want to speak. Okay. You all may speak. But I request you to take only two minutes.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, on behalf of the CPI, I would like to say that there is an overall new approach in the Budget and we welcome it to that extent. There is certainly a concern in the Budget shown to the peasants, rural people, women, SCs and STs. But we feel that the provisions are not enough for different sections of the society.

We do not think it is a dream Budget, but definitely it is a departure from the usual type of budgets, particularly from the NDA Budgets, for the last several years which they had presented. The previous NDA Government has brought disaster to the economy of this country and very serious efforts are to be made by the present Government to bring back to life several public sector industries in this country and also agriculture.

There were mass suicides in different parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. This year itself, from 1st January to 13th March, 550 peasants committed suicides in Andhra Pradesh. We expected that there would be a special package to give relief to the rural indebtedness. But unfortunately, our Finance Minister has not given any such proposal. I would request him that at least in his reply he should think of it and I propose that a Joint Parliamentary Committee, comprising of the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, be appointed and the problem of the debt trap of the peasantry should be studied. This Committee may present its report before the Winter Session to the Parliament so that the entire Parliament can discuss this and this important issue can be solved by us.

I also propose that a comprehensive Bill for the agricultural labour should be introduced and there should be a provision in the Budget for relief to the agricultural labour, who is suffering quite a lot.

As far as FDI is concerned, a lot of discussions are going on. The former hon. Speaker of Lok Sabha was suggesting that the Left should learn from China. In China, most of the foreign direct investments have come from the non-resident Chinese and not from the monopoly houses. We would certainly learn from them. We would like the Finance Minister to withdraw the proposals regarding the foreign direct investment in these key sectors.

There is no mention about the parallel economy or the black money or about the tax evasion in the Budget. These things should be taken into consideration.

Regarding package to Bihar, we understand the necessity of helping the most backward States. The Telangana region asked for a special package of Rs. 5,000 crore because of the imbalance in the State of Andhra Pradesh and other areas. In other backward parts of the country, this type of special package is necessary. In my constituency Nalgonda, fluoride water is the biggest problem. That is the worst-affected district in our country. I want the Finance Minister to make special allotments for fluoride water victims to supply clean and healthy drinking water.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

PROF. CHANDER KUMAR (Kangra): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to congratulate the chairperson of United Progressive Alliance Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister of our country Dr. Manmohan Singh for the budget presented in the House by hon'ble Finance Minister. The budget presented in the House has been formulated as per the expectations of the poor people and our common minimum programme. This budget envisages of main economic objectives to achieve the growth rate of 7.8%. Similarly basic education and health education has to be increased. Much attention has been paid towards social services. Poor people need three basic amenities—Food, Shelter and clothing. This budget stresses that people living in the rural areas should be provided with a house and food to eat.

Sir, it is ironical that during the NDA Government, farmers were not getting remunerative prices for their crops and were compelled to commit suicide. Godowns of the country were full of foodgrains but poor people were compelled to commit suicide. We will have to review all these things so that the public distribution system could be improved. The main occupation of people living in rural areas is agriculture. Today occupation structures of poor rural people are getting eroded and people are migrating to urban areas. Sir, in the State of Punjab to which you belong, many agricultural colleges were opened during the Chief Ministership of Shri Kairon. At that time he was asked as to how the employment would be provided to the students getting qualified from these colleges. He said that these educated young people will go for farming and contribute to increase the produce to such an extent in the country that Punjab would become renowned in the world. Therefore, the need of the hour is that we should give emphasis on agriculture. It is ironical that India budget is the gamble of monsoon. In case of good monsoon our growth rate increases and in the event of its failure, the growth rate comes down. During the 50 years we have not been able to identify the climatic zones, the areas which are rain deficit and water could not be made available there, the areas having scarcity of water and the areas where irrigation potential is less. We need to formulate a comprehensive plan for this purpose. You may be aware, several rivers like Ravi, Sutlej and Vyas flow from the State of Himachal to which I belong. Pong and Bhakra dams are on the soil of Himachal Pradesh. Earlier the entire Punjab remained submerged during rainy season. The farmers of Punjab remained busy in making 'dhosi'. Today they all are prosperous and floods have been controlled, there.

Sir, we have completely banned deforestation, that is why there is no erosion in the catchment areas of all the rivers which flow from Himachal Pradesh. Supreme Court has banned deforestation. Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that the State of Himachal Pradesh should be duly compensated in this regard as our catchment areas are intact. Shri Chidambaram has proposed several schemes in the budget regarding harvesting of rain water, ground water and surface water. Here, I would like to submit that the Himalayan ecology is very fragile. In 1984-85 when hon'ble Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India, I was the State Minister of Forests in Himachal Pradesh. At that time, Himalayan Development Authority initiated the concept to protect the Himalaya and to keep its catchment areas intact. I assure you that we can augment the availability of water by 20% in whole of India if the forests of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the North-East areas are fully protected and kept intact. Long term efforts are required for this purpose. And the beneficiary States in this regard, be it Punjab or Haryana will have to give consideration to it.

Through you, I would like to state one more point. Himachal Pradesh has the capacity to generate 22000 Mw of Power. Various projects of Government of India and of neighbouring States are going on in Himachal Pradesh. My submission is that these projects are posing danger to the ecology and environment of the State. Therefore, the State Government should get water cess and tax for such projects so that the socially and economically backward areas of the State could be developed. Through you, I would like to submit that Himachal Pradesh is a small and peaceful State. Many north-eastern areas, the present Himachal Pradesh and some areas of U.P. were included under Hill Areas Council and the industries set up there were provided benefits extending to 10 years. In this budget this facility has been extended upto 2007. Therefore, I would like to request the Government and the hon'ble Finance Minister to extend the benefits of Hill Areas Council. More and more industries should be set up in Himachal Pradesh and we should be provided with the concessions we enjoyed earlier.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I also thank people of my constituency, Bellary.

Sir, I am opposing this Budget because it has brought very much unhappiness and no word has been put in this Budget about the inter-linking of rivers project. The crores of farmers are looking towards this Budget because it not only solves the irrigation problems but also the water problems of the crores of people of this country.

Sir, everybody says that the farmers are the backbone of the country but we are not giving importance to this project of inter-linking of rivers. Many say that Green Revolution has been brought. I think, only with the inter-linking of the rivers project, Green Revolution will be brought.

Secondly, under IAY scheme, there is a 25 per cent discount to SCs and STs for housing. In the urban areas, under the Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, 50 per cent discount is given to SCs and STs. Why has this difference been brought by the Government for the rural SCs and STs and urban SCs and STs, I do not know. That has to be clarified by the Finance Minister.

Thirdly, I come to the most important point, that is the crop loan of the farmers. The crop loan, which is required by the farmers, exactly is not given by the banks. Only partial amount is given to the farmers. With that, they cannot met their crop requirements. So, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, to give direction to the banks asking them to give full amount which is required by the farmers.

Sir, there are so many points. You just permit me to lay the paper.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, you can lay the paper.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: I am laying the rest of my speech.

*Farmers are getting a part of it and for the balance amount, they have to go to private moneylenders where they are charged like anything upto 36% as interest. This harms their whole life. Many States are affected due to drought during the last four years and the farmers are facing great difficulty in getting the return for their produce. I would suggest that if the farmers are giving full amount of crop loan by the banks which they require, it will be good support to them and repayment will not be a difficult for the farmers.

*...*This portion of the Speech was laid on the Table.

Sir, this Yojana was started by the last Government and with this Yojana, the rural roads are being connected with the urban cities. This project is getting improved and still lots of rural roads are to be connected with the urban areas. It is very sad that the Finance Minister has neglected this important Yojana as there is no mention in the Budget about the funds allotted for this Yojana. I appeal the Minister to allocate funds for the Yojana which will be helpful for the rural people to improve their living. I think that with this Yojana, the Gramin Vikas will be achieved fastly.

The Minister has proposed to increased to cover 2 crore families under this scheme. He has also mentioned that this scheme would received a subsidy of Rs. 3500 crore. I would like to suggest that the Union Government have to purchase rice and wheat directly from the farmers which will ultimately help the farmers to get more return for their produce.

In the Budget Speech, under the heading "Irrigation, Rural Infrastructure—Restoring water bodies", the Minister has pointed out that the crisis of water is the biggest crisis that the world would face in the 21st century. To resolve this, the Minister has proposed to launch a massive scheme to repair, renovate and restore all the water bodies that are directly linked to agriculture. In the current year, he pointed out that we would begin with pilot projects in at least five districts, and we would select at least one district in each of the five regions of the country and the estimated cost is Rs. 100 crore and the funds for the five pilot projects would be drawn from existing programmes such as SGRY, PMGJSY, DPAP, DDP and IWDP.

Sir, I would suggest that the district from the Southern Region be selected from the Karnataka State and I would be very much happy that if the Bellary district is selected for this purpose.*

00.15 hrs.

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2004-05.

The hon. Finance Minister has said a lot about agriculture and rural economy. Even the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 24th June, 2004 promised a 'new deal' for rural India. After listening to these statements and while participating in this debate, I am reminded of a saying by an English poet. He says, "Words

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

are easy like the wind but faithful friends are hard to find." This is what the farmer is telling everybody today.

The Centre tells us about massive investments in agriculture sector. But how much will reach the farmers is a big question. I would like to remember what the then Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi had said. he said that out of whatever amount being given from the Centre to the States, only 10 per cent would be reaching the farmers or the public. A major chunk of the Central and State grants are siphoned off by the middlemen.

Now what happened? Recently in Karnataka, in one of the schemes, which is called *Kooligagi Kalu* in Kanada and Food-for-Work programme in English, thousands of quintals of rice, which was given under that scheme, is being smuggled and it has been sold in Mumbai and Mangalore cities. So, the local police have registered a case also, but no action has been taken. No people have been arrested in this case. So, I want to know the details of this scandal. Since how many years this is going on? Who are all involved? How many of them have been arrested so far? In the same way, the money sent by the Centre is not reaching the needy persons to whom it is meant. This is a serious issue.

There are many schemes proposed by the Centre, but the States are not implementing the same. So, I would like to request the Central Government to see to it that the schemes are implemented properly so that the farmers can utilise them. Programmes like agricultural credit, irrigation and rural infrastructure, restoring water bodies, water harvesting, flood control and diversification of agricultural produce and others require an excellent monitoring scheme. If this is not done, I have no doubt in my mind that our country will be like an *Andheri Nagari Chowpat Raja*. Hence, I hope the hon. Minister, Shri Chidambaram, will take appropriate steps in this regard.

Also, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister that long ago K.L. Rao had suggested that linking of rivers is important. He had also said that Ganga and Cauveri rivers have to be linked. Since we have the ritual discussion in this House almost every year on flood and drought, why do we not find out a permanent remedy for this perennial tragedy? I say this is a tragedy because if we do not give top priority to water supply related programmes, water shortage is going to be the most serious crisis in the 21st century. So, I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to throw light on this also.

In my constituency, Kaveri district is the most backward area in Karnataka State. There is one Tunga river. Now, the Upper Tunga river project is going to be implemented. They are implementing this river without Malti reservoir. So, they have to construct a Malti dam in Malti river at Tirtahilli village in Shimoga district. So, this has to be considered.

In the Budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, there is a mention about irrigation and rural infrastructure. I would like to bring to his kind notice that the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was introduced in 1997, and 178 large and medium irrigation projects were identified. Out of which, only 28 projects have been completed. So, there are so many major irrigation projects which are to be completed immediately.

Whenever the Government of India is proposing a scheme, it is keeping the amount for such purpose. Now they have kept about Rs. 2,800 crore for irrigation projects, but they have not given the particular plans and policies of the projects and how much amount is going to be given for each and every project. So, this has to be enlightened by the Government also. So, accordingly, the amount should be allocated to the respective projects also.

Kaveri district in my constituency is the most backward area. Therefore, one of the major industries has to be set up in my district to eradicate unemployment and also to develop my entire constituency.

There are food processing industries in Haryana and Punjab but there are no food processing industries in Karnataka. Therefore, a minimum of three food processing industries have to be set up in Karnataka and one of them should be located in my constituency.

In my constituency, we are growing a very good variety of chili at Byadagi. It is one of the best varieties in the international market but we are not providing a proper market for this chili here. Therefore, we have to have a proper market and also get a good price for this chili variety. For this, some arrangement should be made by the Central Government. Even last year, huge quantities of tomato were grown in Kolar and Bangalore but there were no buyers and so they had to be thrown out. So, marketing facilities should be provided so that the agricultural produce does not go waste again.

The Central Government proposes to introduce VAT this year. There is a proposal to set up a technical expert

committee to go into the introduction of VAT for agricultural produce. I would request that on commodities like jowar and wheat zero per cent tax should be levied because we must look after the interests of the farmers. We must consider this aspect sympathetically.

I have a copy of my prepared speech which I could not complete due to paucity of time. I may please be allowed to lay the remaining part of my speech on the Table of the House.

*Sir, Karnataka State is reeling under severe drought for the last three consecutive years. There is acute shortage of water in Rajasthan. Tamil Nadu is always urging Karnataka to release more and more water. But in Assam and Bihar States, hundreds of people have lost their lives due to sudden floods. Why is this incident happening every now and then even after 57 years of our Independence?

Therefore, I demand that the Government of India should grant the following:

1. At least two cold storages should be sanctioned to my Constituency.
2. There is not even one major industry in Haveri. Hence it is very essential to set up an industry here to provide jobs to the unemployed youth and to develop the district.
3. In States like Haryana, Punjab and others, we have a number of food processing industries. Why don't the Centre have the same consideration towards Karnataka also. I request the Centre to set up minimum three food processing industries in Karnataka and at least one food processing industry should be sanctioned to Haveri.

If we take up Upper Tungbhadra Project, 3 to 5 lakhs acres of land will be irrigated. It covers entire Haveri District but Byadagi taluk is not covered. Top priority should be given to implementation of the Upper Tungbhadra Project including Matti Reservoir.

Value-Added Tax is a proposal laid down by the Hon'ble Finance Minister for current year. They have advised Technical Expert Committee to work with States closely before the end of 2004. Hence, I request this Committee not be levy any Tax on agricultural produce

*This portion of the speech was laid on the Table.

like Jawar, chillies, cotton, groundnut, paddy, wheat, etc. 0% tax may be levied for seeds items.

Sir, in fact, I have many more genuine demands of the people of Karnataka and particularly the people of Haveri district. I shall bring them to your kind notice and to the knowledge of the Centre when participate in the Supplementary Budget. Sir, I thank you for permitting me to put forward my views on the General Budget 2004-2005 and with these words I conclude my speech.*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Budget presented by the hon. Minister of Finance Chidambaramji.

I support this Budget because it is a rural-oriented and employment-oriented Budget. This would help to ameliorate the poverty in our rural areas.

I am sorry to say something here. The Union Territories are a part of India; they are not outside India. However, we find that the Union Territories are suffering everywhere. I have got this opportunity to speak at the fag end of the night. We do not have an Assembly in our Union Territory. So, only the Lok Sabha is the place where the grievances of the people of Andaman & Nicobar could be raised. I want to state that the Government should take enough care to see that these Assembly-less Union Territories are properly looked after.

During the last five years, the NDA Government was in power. As a result of their wrong policies and wrong actions, our Union Territory has become something like a prison. This is because there is a total ban on collection of cess on quarries and a total ban on wood-cutting. So, all the industries have been closed down. There is only one public sector undertaking, the Andaman & Nicobar Forest Plantation Corporation. That is also on the verge of closure. In such a situation, about one lakh people of our Union Territory out of a population of four lakh people have been rendered jobless. So, you can very well imagine the position. The hon. Minister of Finance is a good friend of ours. I expected that he would declare something for the benefit of the Union Territories but unfortunately he has not done that. I will make some suggestions to you and through you to the hon. Minister of Finance that during the late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi's time, he constituted an Island Development Authority which was one body. Two meetings meticulously used to be held one in Delhi and one either in the Andaman or in the Lakshadweep, the two island territories. At that time, the development and all these issues used

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

to be discussed and then the policy was determined. But since seven or eight years, this Island Development Authority's activity also is almost nil. Now, it is only for namesake and no activity is done. So, I would like to say that under such a condition, the hon. Minister of Finance should consider to again constituting the Island Development Authority. It is not only that, we are also citizens like others and we are not outside India. So, whenever you do anything, rights of the citizens of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Punjab or any other place are same. But public has no say in the administration. There is one-man administration. Under such a condition, how things can be kept in control because it will be very difficult. Young people are gradually becoming restless.

As far as unemployment problem is concerned, I have already mentioned about it. If the Corporation is closed down, then about 25,000 people will be jobless because of direct or indirect employment.

Then, there are some encroachments. However, that is being removed. So, everywhere we are in a very bad shape. So, the Parliament of India and the hon. Members of Parliament will have to see that the small territories are not neglected because after all we are law-abiding people. We cannot go like many other places, the way they go. But if the Government of India and the Parliament do not consider our livelihood, the entire development activity will stop. There will be no road-construction activity, no building-construction activity and there will be nothing because you cannot collect sea-sand and you cannot collect stone. There will be no construction, I appeal to all of you, the Government, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance to consider these points and to create a package for these Union Territories. You are making a package for everywhere, but why not for the small territories. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Please support the Budget and we will support you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: We are supporting the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no question of not supporting the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I am concluding. I will not take much time because I am a very peaceful

man. I would like to say only one thing that there is water problem and other problems are there. There are certain problems which need urgent attention of the Government.

Then one more suggestion I want to make. The suggestion is that we find that every now and then there are changes in the economic policies. These economic policies changes take place and when the earlier Government was, they had done in their own way. Then, UPA Government—our Government—has come and they have made some changes. But even frequently the disturbance is going on. So, there should be some consultation with all the State Finance Ministers, the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Prime Minister. Thereafter, there should be a common programme to finance economic policies which will continue for five or ten years. Once that is done, it will be applicable equally to any Government which comes to power. Then, the continuity of development will be better. That is my suggestion.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you so much for allowing me to take part in the discussion on General Budget 2004-2005. Since many of the former speakers have praised the positive points in the Budget, I do not go into the positive aspects of the Budget. Even though many aspects of the Budget go on par with the National Common Minimum Programme's objectives, it receded from the NCMP in certain aspects like the move to raise the sectoral cap for FDI in telecommunication, civil aviation and insurance sector and also disinvestment of five per cent of holding of NTPC. As our Left leaders have pointed out, the Left parties will remain as watchdogs in implementation of NCMP of the UPA Government.

Sir, I would straightaway go into certain sectors which have not found place in the annual Budget of the Government of India. As such, there are no welfare measures in the Budget regarding the fishermen folk. The coastal border of the country accounts for more than one-third of the boundary of our country. Kerala has got 590 kilometres of coastal border. More than one crore of people are residing along the sea coast of Kerala. The density of population is around 5,000 per square kilometre. Fishing is the major occupation of the people. More than 50,026 fishing crafts are there in Kerala according to 1999 census, that is 100 crafts per square kilometre.

Fisheries sector is providing Rs. 6,928 crore to the nation's exchequer from exports of fisheries products. But in the annual Budget, this section of people are neglected. Only a meagre amount of Rs. 144 crore is allocated in the Budget for a section of people who are procuring Rs. 6,928 crore to the nation's exchequer. Some welfare measures should be directed to poor fishermen whose occupation is of very adventurous nature.

The traditional fishermen are facing acute shortage of kerosene oil used for their outboard engines used in fishing boats. Only one-third of their requirement is supplied from the Central Government. So, they have to resort to private agencies who charge a very huge price. So, adequate quantity of kerosene oil should be supplied for the traditional fishermen. The subsidy on imported kerosene oil has to be waived off by the Central Government. So, I humbly request the hon. Minister of Finance to reintroduce the subsidy on kerosene oil used by the traditional fishermen folk.

The outboard engines used by the traditional fishermen carry heavy customs and excise duties. It should be waived off by the hon. Minister as he has waived off the duties on tractors used by the farmers.

The relief-cum-saving scheme existed for the traditional fishermen in which some amount is collected from the fishermen and equal share is contributed from the State and Central Government. But the Central Government has withdrawn this contribution. This has to be reintroduced.

The coastal margin has to be considered as the boundary of the nation and has to be protected. Most of the time, every year sea erosions take place and many of the fishermen lose their houses. Out of Rs. 77,000 crore allotted for the defence, adequate amount has to be earmarked for the protection of seashore from sea erosion. Sea walls have to be constructed and strengthened. The Government has to withdraw the licences given to the deep sea fishing vessels. No more licence should be given as it will destroy the marine fisheries.

The Murari Committee has recommended that strengthening of traditional fishing groups. Allocation should be made for strengthening of the traditional fishing groups. Funds allotted for the construction of harbours should be allotted for construction of mini-harbours and to construct breakwaters.

The coir industry of Kerala is also important. Out of Rs. 100 crore allotted for the traditional industries, only Rs. 16 crore have been allotted for coir industry. The co-operative sector forms the backbone of the coir industry. So, rebate has to be given to the co-operative sector in order to strengthen the co-operative societies.

Because of the emergence of middlemen, that is, depot system, small-scale coir manufacturers are not getting the profit of the industry. Only the depot holders and the exporters are getting the maximum benefit. So, minimum export price and floor price for the coir products have to be re-introduced.

Houseboat tourism is gaining importance in Kerala. So, some budgetary allocation has to be given for the houseboat tourism.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Finance Minister has presented a very good budget. Every section of the society is happy with the budget. Therefore hon'ble Finance Minister deserves thanks for this and I support this budget.

Sir, as a mother....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It would be better if you speak about the budget.

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Hon'ble Finance Minister should care the people of the country just like a mother looks after her child. Maximum provision in the budget should be made for the poorest and backward people of the society. My parliamentary constituency Banaskantha is the most backward area. Every year it faces famine and no industry has been set up there. It has been deprived of other facilities also. I have requested the hon'ble Finance Minister and Prime Minister to provide a special package to this area. I once again request them in this regard. Drinking water should be provided for the development of this area. Arrangements have been made to provide tractors to the farmers but they should also be provided with adequate quantity of seeds and remunerative prices of their produce. Besides, all arrangements should be made for fertilizers, electricity and water. The Government should consider to provide special facilities to the poorest sections of the society.

[Shri Harisinh Chavda]

Sir, even after so many, years of independence, Harijans have not been provided with all the facilities. Government will have to pay special attention towards them. It is essential to include cultural values in our youth among with providing education to them if we want to brighten the future of our country. They cannot get the education by spending money only. Therefore, Government should pay attention towards them. They will face problems if Government do not take any step in this regard. Teachers are our Guru. Apart from giving education they inculcate cultural values in our children. Therefore, the teachers should possess good character. They should be paid good salaries. Rs. 2500 is a very meager amount they should be paid salaries amounting to at least 5-7 thousand rupees. A child's future should be given in the secured hands of good teachers. However, teachers are not given due respect. My opinion is that good teachers should be appointed and they should be paid good salaries. I request the Finance Minister to provide all facilities in backward areas especially in Banaskantha. People there are in distress because there has been no rains in that area. There is problem of drinking water in the area. In such a situation, my area cannot be saved till the Government provides facilities or give a package to it. With these words, I support the budget.

[English]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not know that my name was there in the list of speakers. But as you have called my name, I would like to take a few minutes and very shortly present the problems of my State. First of all I would like to state that I support this Budget.

I would like to bring to the hon. Finance Minister's kind notice the problem of severe drought in Rajasthan. With the special geographical condition of Rajasthan, it needs some special attention from the hon. Finance Minister. The State has sand-dune, and 56 per cent of the area of the State need special kind of privilege like the privileges enjoyed by States like Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh.

I would also like to request the hon. Finance Minister to grant more money for the Rajasthan Canal Project, which has been lying incomplete for the last 50 years. It is the lifeline of Rajasthan, and it needs much more attention from the Government side.

In my own constituency of Alwar in Rajasthan we have a big industrial area called the Malaviya Industrial

Area (MIA) that is lying absolutely dormant or non-active. Approximately, eight years or ten years back, there was a large industrial township, which is now more or less deserted. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to look into the problems that are faced by the MIA in Alwar. Please figure out some methods and devices that can be resorted to in order to further enhance the industrial climate in that particular area.

The last submission, through you, to the Government is that the Excise Duty on edible oils should be reduced. The last Government created a lot of big industries in the Kutch area, where large plants had come up. They are importing edible oils, and it has jeopardised the growth of the small-scale industries, seed growers, and oil plants in the country. As a result of this measure, the prices of oil seeds have come down. On the one hand we should equate the prices, and on the other we should increase the Customs Duty on edible oil. The crude, which comes from foreign countries to the Kutch port, is the basic reason for the small industries in States like Rajasthan not growing. It is a big problem, and I hope that the hon. Finance Minister will take some action in this regard too.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these few words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Central Budget.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Satpathy, I would be able to give you only two minutes to speak.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I will abide by your instructions. Two of my learned colleagues have already mentioned that the study loans has been a consistent problem with a lot of students. The hon. Finance Minister has also mentioned about the study loans in his Budget speech. The way in which he expressed it made it seem as if it would be easy for the students to get study loan.

I would like to give an example of a student who was trying to get admission in the AMITY institute four days ago in Orissa. AMITY is a private educational institution, and that student needed a loan of Rs. 4 lakh. He went to three banks, namely, the State Bank of India, the UTI Bank and the Bank of India and they all said that the Budget is a joke. They said that they have no information about it, and said that the Government has not informed them about anything like that. They said

that they do not give loans like this. They asked him to bring somebody who was a PAN cardholder or a person who could stand as a guarantee or someone who is able to give them some collateral money. They were not even willing to accept land as guarantee. They told him that if he can get some collateral then only they would be able to give him loan. So, it is a joke.

The next thing is, the hon. Finance Minister claims that a lot of money has been given for horticulture. On one side, learned comrade has already spoken about this. There are no FCI godowns in most of the States of this country where you can store what the farmers produce. Cold storages in this country or cold floor is very limited. Wherever there are cold storages, maintenance is very poor. I do not know about Punjab or a few other States, but in most States, there is acute shortage of electricity and the cold storages do not work. Most of the cold storages do not have generators which can keep them going. So, what happens is where you have perishable products like flowers and vegetables being produced with intense investment in them, if you cannot store them, it has no meaning. So, this is a lopsided Budget. I think, this Budget will only hamper the growth of this country.

As you know, four per cent tax has been increased on steel. That will have a negative impact on growth.

The last point I would like to say is, by bring up the base limit of personal income-tax to one lakh, supposedly, the Government is going to incur a big loss. As of now, the Government has not made paying income-tax an enjoyable experience for any Indian citizen. A PAN card holder is a non-entity in this country. He gets no benefit from the PAN card. It does not work as an identity card. He gets no priorities in simple things like train reservations, air reservations, electricity or buying land or anything. The PAN card is a useless piece of plastic which has no value in this country.

My humble submission to the Government, through you, Sir, would be if the Government can conceive of a project by which the PAN card becomes a relevant document and an identity, a thing of pride for the holder, then people would volunteer to pay income-tax. People would come and say, 'I would like to have a PAN card. I am willing to pay the Government income-tax even if I am below one lakh as an earning person. Please give me the PAN card because I will get so many benefits.' It should entail, compulsory, mandatorily, a minimum guarantee of insurance, say of Rs. 50,000 or

Rs. 1,00,000. He or she should have certain benefits attached to it.

Finally, to sum up my speech—there are a few other points, I will not mention it—what I would like to say is that there has been no imagination, no drive, no interest put into this Budget. It is a Budget which is lifeless, which is aimless and it is not going to take the country to any greater heights of economic independence.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the Budget for 2004-05.

Our hon. Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaramji, submitted a very excellent Budget upon the advice of our leader, hon. Soniaji, and our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singhji. He has covered all the areas, like agriculture, health, textiles, education etc. He has given more importance to agriculture. He announced a number of schemes to agriculturists. In this connection I want to mention one point, which is about the launching of "National Horticulture Mission" to double the horticulture production and also to encourage horticulture, it is decided to set up a State-level Cooperative Society in Anand Model for promoting horticulture. This has to be applied to medicinal plants and other important crops also.

In my constituency, there is a plant by the name '*Gloriosa Superba*'. It is exported to Italy, France, Germany and Swiss. It is purchased by one Altica International through the agents in Mulanur, Markampatti, Rajapalayam and Jayakondam. They are purchasing it from the agriculturists by paying Rs. 400 per one kilo, but they are selling to all the foreign countries at more than Rs. 2,400. They are sucking the blood of the agriculturists. The agriculturists are investing huge money for developing the above plant. Hence, these kinds of medicinal plants have to be purchased by the Government of India through the Cooperative Societies. It is only then that the growers of *Gloriosa superba* will get a price not less than Rs. 2000 per kilogram.

There are more than a lakh of Tapioca planters and thousands of Sago factories in Tamil Nadu. The previous Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand to import starch at a customs duty of 30 per cent. To safeguard the interests of the Tapioca planters and Sago factory owners, this Government has decided to raise the customs duty from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. It is a welcome steps and it must be implemented immediately. Customs duty on Palm oil is

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

increased 70 per cent to 75 per cent. In our area and in Kerala, coconut and other oilseeds are in abundance. So, customs duty on Palm oil must be increased to 100 per cent. Then only coconut growers and other oilseed producers will be saved.

My next point relates to Pensioners and Senior citizens. They are mainly depositing their money in the nationalised banks. They live on the interest accrued on their deposits. Now, the interest rates are reduced. Hence, they are affected badly. The senior citizens must be given 12 per cent rate of interest on their deposits.

I thank the hon. Finance Minister for safeguarding the powerloom owners and handloom weavers in my Constituency, and also particularly in my area, by cancelling the "Cenvat", the tax imposed by the previous Government.

Another important decision announced in the Budget 2004 is setting up of a Desalination Plant at Chennai. For a number of years, people residing in Chennai have been undergoing many troubles due to lack of water. The residents to Chennai are thankful to the Finance Minister for this. That scheme has to be started immediately.

Hon. Finance Minister is a senior Advocate in the Supreme Court. So, he would appreciate this well. State Governments are responsible for funding the judicial institutions. However, no State Government is giving any money for construction of buildings and providing infrastructure facilities to the *mofussil* courts. So, the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India has to allocate special funds for development of infrastructure facilities in courts in Talukas and Districts.

Finally, I request the hon. Finance Minister to waive the interest and penal interest payable by the poor farmers to cooperative institutions. With these words, I extend my total support to the Budget.

Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: List of speakers on General Discussion on the General Budget is finished. Reply of the Finance Minister will be today at 2 p.m.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. today.

00.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, July 21, 2004/Asadha 30, 1926 (Saka).

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise index to the Starred List of Questions

Names	Question No.
1	2
Shri Athawale, Ramdas Bandu	210,
Shri Chandel, Suresh	216,
Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	215,
Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	211,
Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	202,
Shri Deora, Milind	220,
Shri Gangwar, Santosh	208,
Dr. Jagannath, M.	215,
Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	203,
Shri Kurup, Suresh	204,
Dr. Kusmaria, Ramkrishna	209,
Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	212,
Shri Majhi, Parsuram	219,

1	2
Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	214,
Shri Meghwal, Kailash	217,
Shri Panda, Prabodh	211,
Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	218,
Shri Patil, Shrinivas	213,
Shri Rana, Kashiram	206,
Shri Rao, K.S.	217,
Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	204,
Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	205,
Shri Sangwan, Kishan Singh	221,
Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	206,
Shri Adhalrao Patil, Shivaji	207,
Shri Singh, Dushyant	219,
Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	214,
Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	202,
Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	210,

Member-wise Index to the Unstarred list of Questions

Names	Question No.
1	2
Shri 'Bachda', Bachi Singh Rawat	1775,
Shri Ajaya Kumar, S.	1742,
Dr. Ajnala, Rattan Singh	1790,
Shri Appadurai, M.	1777,
Shri Athawale, Ramdas Bandu	1824, 1854, 1859,
Shri Baitha, Kailash	1794,
Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	1736,
Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	1765, 1826, 1854,
Shri Chandel, Suresh	1800, 1847, 1854,
Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	1812, 1853, 1871, 1879,
Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	1798, 1846, 1868, 1878,
Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	1741, 1776,
Shri Deora, Milind	1805,

1	2
Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	1767, 1815,
Dr. Dome, Ram Chandra	1824,
Shri Dubey, Chandra Sekhar	1759, 1776, 1813, 1862,
Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	1854,
Shri Gandhi, Pradeep	1772, 1818,
Shri Gao, Tapir	1758, 1879
Dr. Jagannath, M.	1778, 1829, 1848,
Dr. Jatiya, Satyanarayan	1745, 1807,
Shri Jha, Raghunath	1753, 1857, 1876,
Shri Kamat, Gurudas	1792, 1852, 1866,
Shri Karunakaran, P.	1774,
Shri Khan, Sunil	1751, 1803, 1844,
Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	1790,
Dr. Koya, P.P.	1770, 1822, 1843, 1865,
Shri Krishna, Vijoy	1746, 1760, 1833, 1858,
Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	1787, 1834,
Shri Kumar, Manoj	1788, 1824,
Shri Kumar, Nikhil	1869,
Shri Kumar, Virendra	1791, 1850, 1854,
Shri Kurup, Suresh	1820,
Dr. Kusmana, Ramkrishna	1823,
Shri Libra, Sukhdev Singh	1790,
Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	1749,
Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	1828,
Shri Majhi, Parsuram	1809, 1845, 1867, 1877,
Shri Malhotra, Vijay Kumar	1764,
Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	1750, 1880,
Shri Mandlik, S.D.	1761, 1863,
Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	1760, 1814,
Shri Meghwal, Kailash	1816, 1856, 1873,
Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	1738, 1767, 1815, 1871,
Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	1763,
Shri Murmu, Hemlal	1781,
Shri Murmu, Rupchand	1781, 1793, 1839, 1861, 1874,
Shri Nayak, Ananta	1744, 1777, 1801, 1852,
Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	1752, 1806,
Shri Panda, Prabodh	1831,
Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	1737, 1739,
Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	1830,
Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	1756,

1	2
Shri Patel, Dahyabhai Vallabhbbhai	1754,
Shri Patel, Dinsha	1795,
Shri Patil, Prakash Bapu V.	1778,
Shri Patil, Shriniwas	1802,
Shri Prasad, Anirudh Alias Sadhu Yadav	1760,
Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	1741, 1869,
Shri Rajendran, P.	1775,
Prof. Ramdass, M.	1797, 1842, 1848,
Shri Rao. K.S.	1838, 1856,
Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	1778, 1819, 1849, 1869,
Shri Rawale, Mohan	1768,
Prof. Rawat, Rasa Singh	1743, 1811, 1875,
Shri Reddy, Madhusudan	1789, 1835,
Shri Reddy, Magunta Sreenivasulu	1817, 1850,
Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	1775, 1821, 1851,
Shri Sangwan, Kishan Singh	1796,
Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	1780,
Shri Saroj, D.P.	1771,
Shrimati Sen, Minati	1824,
Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	1755,
Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	1762, 1837, 1860,
Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	1768, 1810, 1848, 1870,
Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	1769,
Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	1843,
Shri Singh, Dushyant	1808,
Shri Singh, Ganesh	1757,
Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	1761,
Shri Singh, Prabhunath	1748, 1840, 1864, 1875,
Shri Singh, Sitaram	1747,
Shri Singh, Suraj	1783, 1871,
Shri Singh, Uay	1841,
Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	1784,
Shri Swamy, G. Venkat	1782, 1832,
Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	1740, 1779, 1799,
Shri Thomas, P.C.	1786,
Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	1836, 1863,
Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	1773,
Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	1779, 1804, 1827, 1855, 1873,
Shrimati Verma, Usha	1785, 1869,
Shri Yadav, Ram Kiripal	1771,
Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	1778, 1829,
Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	1766, 1825, 1854, 1872.

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

<i>Chemicals and Fertilizers</i>	215,
<i>Development of North Eastern Region</i>	
<i>Home Affairs</i>	204, 210, 213, 220,
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	206, 209, 211, 216, 217,
<i>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>	205, 218,
<i>Parliamentary Affairs</i>	
<i>Power</i>	214,
<i>Steel</i>	212,
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>	203, 219,
<i>Urban Development</i>	202, 207, 208, 221.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

<i>Chemicals and Fertilizers</i>	1769, 1798, 1820, 1825, 1836, 1846, 1851, 1856, 1864, 1874, 1875,
<i>Development of North Eastern Region</i>	1780,
<i>Home Affairs</i>	1739, 1740, 1742, 1747, 1754, 1756, 1765, 1766, 1768, 1770, 1774, 1775, 1782, 1783, 1785, 1786, 1788, 1790, 1794, 1801, 1806, 1812, 1815, 1819, 1821, 1827, 1832, 1833, 1838, 1845, 1854, 1855, 1858, 1865, 1868, 1872,
<i>Human Resource Development</i>	1741, 1743, 1751, 1752, 1758, 1759, 1762, 1764, 1771, 1778, 1784, 1787, 1789, 1803, 1805, 1810, 1813, 1817, 1829, 1830, 1835, 1837, 1839, 1840, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1848, 1853, 1860, 1861, 1870, 1873,
<i>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>	1745, 1749, 1750, 1773, 1802, 1822,
<i>Parliamentary Affairs</i>	
<i>Power</i>	1736, 1753, 1779, 1792, 1804, 1824, 1831, 1841, 1869, 1871, 1879,
<i>Steel</i>	1744, 1767, 1776, 1777, 1791, 1807, 1823, 1850, 1862, 1880,
<i>Tribal Affairs</i>	1737, 1757, 1763, 1772, 1781, 1793, 1797, 1800, 1808, 1809, 1834, 1867, 1877,
<i>Urban Development</i>	1746, 1748, 1755, 1760, 1761, 1795, 1796, 1811, 1816, 1818, 1826, 1828, 1852, 1857, 1859, 1863, 1866, 1876,
<i>Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation</i>	1738, 1799, 1814, 1847, 1849, 1878.

© 2004 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Eleventh Edition) and Printed by Dhanraj Associates Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
