

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Fourteenth Session (Part-II)**  
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Monday, December 22, 2008/Pausa 1, 1930 (Saka)*

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of our former colleague, Shri Jagdish Awasthi.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha from 1957 to 1962 and of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing the Bilhaur parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Awasthi was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Pradesh Vidhan Sabha from 1974 to 1977.

Shri Awasthi was a Member of the Committee on Petitions during the Second Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

An educationist by profession, Shri Awasthi worked untiringly for the spread of adult education. He was the Chairman of the Madhyamik Shikshak Sangh, Kanpur from 1958 to 1960; Advisory Committee, ITI, Kanpur from 1967 to 1969 and from 1980 to 1981 and the Managing Committee, Makanpur Higher Secondary School, Kanpur Dehat. Shri Awasthi also served as the Secretary, Hind Kisan Panchayat, Kanpur from 1950 to 1957.

Shri Awasthi took special interest in the cooperative movement and served as the Chairman of the District Co-operative Bank, Kanpur. He was a member of the Co-operative Milk Board, Kanpur and Khadi and Gramodyog Board, Uttar Pradesh from 1973 to 1975.

Shri Awasthi was the Editor of *Mankind*, an English magazine from 1959 to 1962.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi passed away on 21 September, 2008 at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 85.

We deeply mourn the loss of our friend and I am sure, the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.03 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence  
for a short while*

*[Translation]*

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, several Union Ministers...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please speak one by one.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what you are talking of.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to everything; I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, the Government does not want it to be discussed...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, a statement has appeared in the newspapers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said that I would not listen to you,

*[English]*

I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: The Government does not want a discussion on it. The Union Minister is giving statement about it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Union Minister will be here after an hour. I do not know about it. You please sit down.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, Shri Digvijay Singh's statement has appeared in the newspapers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Santosh Gangwar ji, you are now a Deputy leader. You have been appointed the Chairman of PAC. You please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you after the Question Hour.

Question No. 321. Shri Ravi Prakash Verma—*not present.*

11.05 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

### Sale of Wheat in Open Market

\*322. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) currently holds wheat in excess of its requirement in the country;

(b) if so, whether FCI had invited tenders to sell wheat in the open market in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the value and quantum of wheat for which tenders were received by the Government;

(d) whether the tenders so received fell short of the quantum offered by the FCI; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### Statement

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The total stock of wheat in the Central Pool held by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies as on 1.12.2008 is 195.98 lakh tonnes.

In view of the comfortable position of stocks of wheat in the Central Pool, Government decided to release wheat in the open market in order to increase its availability in the open market and to check inflationary trends in the food economy.

Allocation of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat has been made to States/UT Governments for distribution to household consumers and small processors of wheat. Sale of wheat to bulk consumers is being done by FCI through open tenders.

FCI has floated tenders for sale of 8.68 lakh tonnes of wheat to bulk consumers in various States/UTs. Against these tenders, as on 11.12.2008, FCI has received bids for 2.42 lakh tonnes of wheat, at a value of Rs. 264.96 crores (approximately).

FCI is inviting tenders for the balance stocks in suitable tranches in consultation with State Governments. The primary objective of the scheme is to check inflationary trends in the open market prices of wheat. This objective has been achieved as the open market prices of wheat have remained stable in 2008-09.

[*English*]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, FCI has got so much of wheat available. Is there any possibility of giving additional quota to above poverty line category States in South?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Our position is quite comfortable and if there is a demand from any State, then we are ready to consider on an *ad hoc* basis.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, all over the world, there is a shortage of wheat. We have so much of surplus of wheat available in FCI. Is there any possibility of exporting wheat to other countries after reaching the below poverty line and above poverty line categories?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: When we have finalized the wheat budget for this year, we have kept some stocks reserved for export purpose. But this export will not be on regular trade channel and it will be through diplomatic channel. The Government of India is getting requests through diplomatic channel from some countries and our Minister of External Affairs will consider them and then we will fulfill their suggestions.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just stated that the Food Corporation of India and the State agencies have 195.98 lakh tonnes in the Central pool as on 01.12.2008. I would like to know, through you, from the hon. Minister the stock of imported wheat and the stock of wheat procured from the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and other States? I would also like to know why the need arose to import wheat from other countries on comparatively higher prices when we have so much of wheat stock?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, the decision to import wheat was taken two years back and at that time, we did not have sufficient stock. A specific programme was formulated to enhance the production of wheat and minimum support price was also hugely increased to give farmers better prices in the country last year. Certain States paid more attention towards it and as a result wheat production was much higher. After independence, the country has never witnessed this much production and procurement of wheat as was seen last year in the times of this Government, so we are in a comfortable position. Out of total stock of 195.98 lakh tonnes, one lakh 30 thousand tonnes come from the old stock, the country did not have this much stock, when we imported wheat. Today the position is quite comfortable in the country. We have as much stock as we need. We have marked sufficient quantity for public distribution also. We have adequate stock for sale in open market and, if we receive diplomatic request, we have enough stock for export also. Besides, in case, the country faces any problem such as flood or drought, we have adequate stock, in reserve for it this year.

*[English]*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, I am interested to know from the hon. Minister about the procurement of wheat by the FCI. So far as West Bengal is concerned, FCI has not yet started the procurement. I think the same situation is prevailing in most of the States. What is the plan and programme of the FCI to procure wheat and paddy direct from the farmers? In most of the areas, they are procuring from the middlemen and not directly from the farmers. So what is the plan and programme?  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Panda, you have made your point.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This question is restricted to wheat and wheat procurement we are going to start from the 1st week of April.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you have to wait till April.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav—not present

Shri Avinash Rai Khanna

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will farmers have to wait till April for it? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: What can be done? Procurement will begin at the right time. They cannot approach the farmers before their crop is ready.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what profit FCI or the Government would get from the wheat he plans to sell in the open market and what would the farmer get in return?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Today, it does not seem that we are in a position to earn profit, it is rather a position of loss. Why do we want to go in the open market? We want to control domestic price market so, we have decided to sell in the open market to increase the availability. We did not get any response to the tenders we floated in the market because there is

availability in the market. That is why we did not get the expected response. We have fixed a price including total procurement charges plus the transport cost from Ludhiana, where we would float the tenders and there is no scope of profit from the price we have fixed.

*(English)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 323, Shri Dushyant Singh—not present

Q. 324, Shri Tek Lal Mahto—not present

Q. 325, Shri Jasubhai Dhanabhai Barad—not present

Q. 326, Shri Eknath M. Gaikwad—not present

I think that there is no point in having any Session any longer.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi—not present.

Probably, they have started campaigning even before nominations!

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 327, Shri M. Shivanna. Are you not a candidate this time?

*...(Interruptions)*

#### Prices of Cotton

+

\*327. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:  
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether worldwide increase in cotton production and economic slow down has depressed the prices of cotton in India thereby putting Indian cotton producing farmers in a difficult situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

*(Translation)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) According to the International Cotton Advisory Committee's release on 3rd November, 2008, the global production of cotton during 2008-09 is estimated to be 24.74 million tonnes compared to 26.24 million tonnes in 2007-08. However, the world cotton consumption is expected to decline from 26.38 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 25.46 million tonnes in 2008-09 and exports from 8.34 million tonnes to 7.83 million tonnes due to economic slowdown. The reduction in demand has resulted in a decline in world prices of cotton from an average price of 77.09 US cents per pound (lb) in September, 2008 to 54.96 US cents per pound (lb) in November, 2008. With the arrival of new crop in India, although the prices have shown a declining trend in the past few months, these are observed to be higher than last year.

(c) Based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices and consultations with States and other stake-holders, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton were fixed by the Government of India for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of Cotton for 2008-09 season at Rs. 2500 per quintal and Rs. 3000 per quintal for cotton of Staple Length of 24.5 to 25.5 mm and cotton staple length of 29.5 to 30.5 mm respectively. These are 38.9% and 47.8% higher respectively than the MSP fixed in 2007-08. Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and NAFED have started procurement of Kapas at the MSP approved by the Government to ensure that the farmers receive reasonable price for their produce. In this regards, during the current marketing season, the CCI and NAFED have purchased 32.44 lakh bales and 1.21 lakh bales of cotton respectively up to December, 2008, at the MSP fixed by the Government.

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, recent Global recession has brought down the prices of cotton drastically. Cotton growers are facing great difficulties. Therefore I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government would increase the support price for cotton as cotton growers would be greatly benefitted. Please give details.

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

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Minimum Support Price (MSP) that has been fixed is the highest price that has been given to the farmers. In fact, the prevailing market prices are below the MSP that has been fixed by the Government of India. Hence, the CCI has to enter into the market to protect the interest of the farmers. The price that we have given is the highest price. We are going to complete this year's season. Ultimately, the Government of India will take a decision as per the recommendation of the CACP next year.

[Translation]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry would reduce the interest rate of the bank loans taken by the cotton growers as they are unable to pay higher interest. If so give details.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Ministry does not have the right to fix the interest rate of the banks. It is the Banking Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India which should ultimately decide as to what would be the interest rate in future and how much it should be reduced. Today, I have no right to decide to cut down interest rate and I can not speak further on this topic.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Jayaben B. Thakkar—not present.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. The hon. Minister for Agriculture is very good at coming to the rescue of the cotton farmers by increasing the price by more than 38 per cent as compared to last year. Similar is the situation in regard to palm oil which we brought to his notice. The price of palm oil has come down.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about cotton.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I agree, but the subject is the same.

MR. SPEAKER: Cotton and palm oil!

SHRI K.S. RAO: I mean, they are not same, but they are similar items. In fact the country is short of oilseeds and we are importing edible oil from other countries. It is a requisite that we have to encourage the palm oil growers so that we do not need to import oil. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will adopt the same treatment and be generous in the same way to the palm oil growers by increasing the Minimum Support Price and procuring the same thing.

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

MR. SPEAKER: So many Members are absent, therefore, I am not rejecting that question, but it depends on the hon. Minister to give or not to give the reply. I cannot ask him to answer this question.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is true that the prices of oilseeds in our country have considerably dropped as compared to last year, but still, the price has not gone below the Minimum Support Price; it is above the Minimum Support Price. It is true that we are importing edible oil because there is a gap between the demand and supply in our country. In the last two years, we have seen that the edible oil prices were going very high. Just to protect the interests of the consumers, the Government of India took a conscious decision to remove all types of taxes on the imports. That is why, we could make it available in our country. After studying the present situation, I think time has to come to give a second thought and to introduce some Excise or some taxes on imports so that we are able to protect the domestic producers. Definitely, we will consider in that direction.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, you have been able to make cotton oil!

#### Employment Opportunities in Agricultural Sector

\*328. † SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:  
SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of employment as well as employment opportunities in the agricultural sector have dwindled over a period of time;

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

(c) the steps taken to create additional employment opportunities in the agricultural sector;

(d) whether the Government has assigned the responsibility for technology upgradation in the labour-oriented agricultural sector to any research institute; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such upgraded technology is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) As per Population Census 1991, the total number of cultivators and agricultural workers in the country engaged in agriculture was 210.68 million. The same has increased to 234.10 million in 2001 Census, registering an increase of 11.11% in ten years. As per two most recent quinquennial rounds of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) on Employment and Unemployment, employment on Usual Status basis in agriculture sector was estimated at 239.73 million persons in 1999-2000 (55th round) which has gone up to 258.59 million persons in 2004-05 (61st round), showing an increase of 7.86% in five years. As such dependence on agriculture has increased.

(c) Schemes in the agricultural sector aim at increasing production and productivity and in the process create additional employment in agriculture. Several development programmes such as Macro Management of Agriculture covering Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals, Gramin Bhandaran Yojana, Development of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Micro Irrigation, Rural Credit, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) are being implemented.

Recently, Government has launched two schemes *viz.* (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to increase production of Rice, Wheat and Pulses, and (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to incentivise the States/UTs to invest more in the agriculture sector, district-wise. These Schemes are envisaged to increase employment opportunities. These programmes, apart from creating on-farm and non-farm employment are also expected to improve the income realization by the farmers.

(d) and (e) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an apex organization at the national level for promoting Science and Technology Programmes in the agricultural research and education. ICAR has 48 institutes, 5 National Bureau, 32 National Research Centres and other institutions continuously working in this direction. The technology upgradation in agricultural sector is a continuous process.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Over the years, the area of cultivable agricultural land has gradually declined and the existing lands are also getting diverted to non-agricultural purposes. This has resulted in reduction in

agricultural land, lesser production and loss of employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. I want to know from the Minister, through you, Sir, whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent the diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes and direction, if any, was issued to the State Governments to monitor the situation; if so, the details thereof.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Details are not available right now.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Regarding diversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, in fact, I will require a separate notice, but I will try to reply to the question. There was a discussion in this august House that we should finalize some policy for diversion of agricultural land for SEZ and for industrial purposes, that is, for non-agricultural purposes. There was a Sub-Committee constituted under my Chairmanship and that Committee has made a recommendation which was approved by the Cabinet and sent to all respective State Governments. The main suggestion which has been communicated to the State Governments is that land from where one can have one or two crops should not be diverted for non-agricultural purposes or industrial purposes. Lands which are not essentially cultivable, lands which are not essentially useful for any crop or lands which are barren should be given and it can be converted for non-agricultural purposes, whether it is for urbanization, whether it is for industrialization or whether it is for SEZ.

That type of communication has been sent to all the States. I hope, appropriate action would be taken by the State Governments.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: I want to know whether the Government have any proposal to embark upon the Second Green Revolution to enhance the agricultural operations and also to promote more employment opportunities in the field.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: On the Second Green Revolution also, I would require a separate notice. But, a number of decisions had been taken...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: But you are too knowledgeable. You are answering everyone.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: A number of schemes have been introduced in the last two years. I will just like to remind the hon. Members that about two years back, in the same House, there were a lot of complaints and unhappiness has been expressed by many Members because of the import of some of the agricultural items. Today, we are discussing as to how we are going to disburse the surplus production since the situation has changed because many new decisions have been taken. That is the beginning of the Green Revolution. I am confident even this year's season, our total production will be more than our requirement and we will have surplus. So, we are on the path of Second Green Revolution.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K. Subbarayan—not present.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Although in the statement it has been shown that there is a growth of 11.11 per cent in 10 years in the number of cultivators and agricultural workers, yet our common experience is that the number of agricultural workers is increasing. There is a common experience that there is a decline, in the interest of direct agricultural activities as a result of cost of agriculture being high and the decline in the prices of agricultural products and the non-farm sector is growing very fast. In view of such a situation and the reports of Swaminathan Commission and others are stating that this trend will continue in a country like India. In such a situation, may I know from the Government whether the Government has any comprehensive plan to use the skill of this non-farm people who have been thrown out of the agricultural sector?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Firstly, whatever recommendations which were made by the Swaminathan Commission, most of the recommendations have been accepted. We have started implementing them. Now, the question is the surplus human resource in agriculture. One should not forget that the overall country's position is that there is a too much pressure on land. Just I would like to give a small example. In 1947 when we got the freedom, at that time, the total percentage of our population which was depending on agriculture was 80 per cent out of 36 crores. Today, we have 106 crores and 60 per cent of 106 cores that means, the dependence on agriculture has practically been increased. The growth is more than 300 per cent. We have seen the holding has come down—82 per cent of the farmers of this country is below two hectares; and out of the 60 per

cent agriculture, which is rain-fed because there is no assured water. That is why, it is becoming day by day uneconomical. Unless and until, we reduce the population pressure on agriculture and provide some gainful employment in elsewhere section, I do not think, we will be able to resolve this basic problem. That is the reason why agriculture is important, food security is important and equally, industrialization is also important. There has to be a balance in this where we would be able to use this surplus human resource.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: It is a fact that due to the land conversion some areas of different States, that is, agricultural land, paddy land is being converted into manufacturing area for bricks and for fishery. Due to that, production of paddy and other agricultural varieties is decreasing and also the agricultural workers are thrown out of their jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: They are going to the brick fields.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: No, they are not going to the brick fields. They are not experts in the field of making bricks. They are the agricultural workers. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government has taken cognizance of this matter and as to whether the Government is considering to give directions and guidelines to the State Governments to take steps in order to prevent this conversion and ensure that the agricultural land may not be converted into fishery or brick manufacturing fields.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This particular problem was essentially brought it to the notice of the Government in one State, that is, Andhra Pradesh. It is true that a sizeable acre of land has been converted for the aqua culture purpose but there also, we have communicated to the State Government any land that is useful for any type of food crop should not be converted for this type of purpose. We are not going to encourage conversion for this purpose. It is not correct that production of paddy or rice has been dropped. Last year, we have produced a record paddy. Till yesterday—our procurement of this year also—our procurement was much higher than last year. So, the picture is quite satisfactory...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record. You can raise it in the next Session or next House.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, lakhs of acres of land is lying barren in Kishtwad, Doha and specially in Udhampur and Kathua in my State. There is no production in lakhs of acres of land which is a loss to the people. Sub-standard drip sets and sprinkles are provided which are incapable of irrigating the land. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government could provide any special package for the barren land so that entire land could be irrigated and people could be benefited? I would also like to submit that good quality instruments may be provided for the same.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As per the Constitution, 'agriculture' is a State subject. So, whatever schemes are implemented, they are implemented by the State Government. It is true that the Government of India is providing some financial support for some of these schemes. Now, the hon. Member is complaining that materials which have been supplied for the drip and sprinkler irrigation and other activities are not up to the mark. The Government of India do not buy and supply any material. The Government of India just provide subsidy to the State Government, which the State Government should provide to the farmers. Ultimately, as to what type and what quantity should be purchased, and as to whether it is drip or sprinkler, it is the prerogative of the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I called your name during the last question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sorry, I am late, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask supplementary on any question!

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, we all realize that our economy is based on agriculture and farmers. I would like to submit through you and it is a fact that farmers are not getting due incentives. We are not encouraging the farmers to make them tap their potential, therefore, we are not be able to increase the capacity of production. It has been noticed that production is less than the

capacity. Does the hon'ble Minister propose to provide some incentives to states like Bihar, which is a backward State with low production capacity due to floods and droughts? Does he have any such special scheme?

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: On 19th May of 2008, the Prime Minister had called a special meeting of the Chief Ministers just to discuss this particular problem. A decision was taken there that the Government of India will provide a package of Rs. 25,000 crore, that is, RKVY mainly to bring those States whose productivity is below national average. The choice has been given to the State Governments. They should put forth the proposal; they should submit the proposal according to their need. It is need-based; and the Government of India will provide money. So, we had started implementing the scheme from the last year. Off hand, I will not be able to tell you what exactly, was the monetary support that has been given to Bihar. If there is a separate notice, definitely I will be very happy to communicate all the information to the hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you. I would like to know from the hon. Minister:

*[English]*

"(d) whether the Government has been assigned the responsibility for technology upgradation in the labour-oriented agricultural sector to any research institute".

*[Translation]*

How much progress has been made in the process of technology Transfer through the National Rainfed Farm Development Authority set up by the Government of India two years back and to what extent this technology has been successful in turning around the dryland farms which were running into losses? Will it facilitate in increasing production also as GPD has fallen from 54 percent to 16 percent in the agriculture sector.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Rainfed Authority has been set up by the Government of India two years back; that generally give a guideline to various States on how to implement the programme in rainfed area. Actually the

execution of the scheme is again given to the State Governments; the Rainfed Authority does not take any responsibility of any implementation. Certain money has been provided; in fact, I can give all the details, which will take a lot of time. There are a number of schemes; some schemes are under the Ministry of Agriculture and some others are under the Ministry of Rural Development, like DPAP, etc. There are a number of other schemes also. Through these schemes, substantial monetary support has been provided to various States. In fact, if he wants information, it will take a lot of time. But I can provide this information; this is not a part of this Question, but it is a part of some other Question. I have got the information.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it to the hon. Member.

Q. 329, Shri Subhash Deshmukh—Not present.  
Dr. Dharendra Agarwal—Not present.

Q. 330, Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao—Not present  
Shri B.K. Tripathy.

#### Cuts in Wages

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\*330. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation has warned of big cuts in the wages of labourers/workers in the country and urged the Government of India for urgent steps to protect the interests of labourers/workers;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure minimum wages to the labourers/workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The ILO, in its Global Wage Report 2008-09, has observed that the increase in average wage in

real terms for the countries included in the sample at global level (1.9% per annum) has lagged behind the growth in per capita Gross Domestic Product (4.0% per annum) during the period 2001-07. This indicates that the increases in productivity have not translated fully into higher wages. During the period 1995-2007, it is observed that each additional one percent in annual growth of GDP per capita led to, on an average, increase of only 0.75 percent in the annual growth of wages in real terms. The Global Wage Report emphasizes that in view of these observations, there is a need for renewed interest in determination of minimum wages and collective bargaining, which should be complemented by public intervention. This would benefit particularly the poorer households and the low wage earners.

While the observations made in the Global wage Report are relevant in India, a system is in place to fix and revise minimum wages statutorily and for wage determination through collective bargaining.

(c) In order to ensure the payment of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, compliance is sought to be secured at two levels. While in the Central sphere, the enforcement is secured through the inspecting officers of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) commonly designated as Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CRIM), compliance in the State sphere is ensured through the State Enforcement Machinery. Officials conduct regular inspections and in the event of detection of any case of non-payment or under-payment of minimum wages, they advise the employers to make good the shortfall of wages. In case of non-compliance, penal provisions prescribed in the Act are resorted to.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the Government's high sounding pronouncements, the ILO in its Global Wage Report 2008-09, has observed that India has lagged behind with increase of wages in average in real term at global level of 1.9 per cent per annum. It also indicates that the increase in productivity has not translated fully into higher wages and the annual growth of GDP has not reflected in the wages in real term. Even the minimum wages are not paid in accordance with the provisions of Minimum Wages Act, 1948. When the Government is not obliging to increase minimum wages, the non-payment and under-payments are worsening the condition of the daily earners.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: May I know what is the Government doing to actually address these problems?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Our Department has taken action from time to time to see that the minimum wages are being revised, though it may not be up to the expectation of the people. But I would like to draw your attention to the recent final notification in the Gazette of India *vide* S.O. No. 1994, dated 7th August, 2008, fixing the minimum rates of wages for workers employed in the scheduled employment, employment of sweeping and cleaning, excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines Act, 1993.

In the Central sphere the wage revision has been done at Rs. 120, Rs. 150, Rs. 180 per day for areas 'c', 'b' and 'a' respectively. We have kept in mind what we are paying to the class-IV employees. The minimum wage of Rs. 180 to the scavengers is commensurate to what one can expect in the lowest grade of Government employees. We have kept that spirit and revised the wages. We have done the same thing for the Watch and Ward staff who are working, standing for eight hours. We have done a similar revision of Rs. 120, Rs. 150 and Rs. 180 for 'a' 'b' and 'c' categories. Similarly, for the employees with Arms, we have raised it to Rs. 140, Rs. 170 and Rs. 200 per day—Rs. 20 extra—to 'c', 'b' and 'a' areas. Recently, we have recommended to the State Governments to increase the wages from whatever level it is to minimum Rs. 80 for the State Government employees. It is for the States to raise the minimum wages. In the Central sector it is our responsibility to raise the wages and in the State sector we make a recommendation and it is the States ultimately which announce the rates.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I was referring the ILO observation of the Global Wage Report. I was not telling what the Government is doing. It is like an indictment of the Government of India. I was referring the Global Wage Report of 2008-09. However, in the year 2007-08 how many cases have been detected for non-compliance and how many have been penalized as per the penal provisions prescribed in the Act itself?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mostly in the State sector it is the responsibility of the State Government to take penal action against the employer. They can be imprisoned to the extent of one month in a year. I will get the full details and submit to the hon. Member.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country would become strong only if the workers would get their due wages. Though the Government of India has issued orders regarding minimum wages several times, the concerned agencies do not implement them. Therefore, it is requested that agricultural workers should be provided minimum wages of Rs. 150 and if the farmer is unable to pay this amount, then the Centre Government and the State Government should contribute 25 percent each. Does the Government contemplate taking any decision in this regard?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: We have recommended the amount of minimum wages to the State Governments. Besides, we have taken a huge step towards providing social security to daily wagers and workers engaged in unorganized sector. A bill has been passed in the House in this regard day before yesterday. It will provide social security to the workers.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 331, Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel—Not present. It will then again be monopolised the Agriculture Ministry.

#### **Implementation of Grain Bank Scheme**

\*332. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the guidelines issued by the Government for implementation of Village Grain Bank Scheme;

(b) whether the targets fixed for setting up of village grain bank during the Tenth Plan have been achieved;

(c) if so, the details of the targets fixed and achieved during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the details of targets fixed by the Government for Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the said targets?

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): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (e) Village Grain Banks can be set up in food-scarce areas under the scheme. The latest guidelines for the scheme have been issued in January, 2008, outlining the procedure to setting up Village Grain Banks, eligibility criteria, funding pattern, etc. During the 10th Plan 14,495 Village Grain Banks. State Governments have reported

establishment of 5617 Village Grain Banks during the Plan period. These details are enclosed as Annexure.

During the 11th Plan period, it is proposed to establish 12,823 Village Grain Banks Targets for setting up of Village Grain Banks are not distributed State-wise. They are sanctioned based on the proposals received from the State Governments.

All State and UT Governments were requested to submit Village Grain Bank proposals for sanction during the 11th Plan period as per the guidelines issued in January, 2008. So far 3506 Village Grain Banks have been sanctioned in 11 States during 11th Plan.

*Number of Village Grain Banks (VGBs) Sanctioned and Reported by State Governments as having been Established during 10th Five Year Plan*

Sl.No.	Name of state	2002-03		2003-04		2005-06		2006-07		Total	
		VGB Sanctioned	VGB Set up								
1.	Maharashtra	—	—	75	—	—	—	1377	—	1452	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	820	—	—	—	1214	1214	3743	—	5777	1214
3.	West Bengal	34	34	101	—	—	—	170	170	305	204
4.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	226	226	226	226
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1975	—	—	—	928	928	—	—	2901	928
6.	Orissa	—	—	—	—	240	240	—	—	240	240
7.	Tripura	—	—	17	—	13	13	—	—	30	13
8.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	262	262	1642	1642	1904	1904
9.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	583	—	—	—	583	—
10.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	44	—
11.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	500	500	500	500
12.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	67	100	67
13.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	80	80	80	80
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	—	55	—
15.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	150	150	150
16.	Uttarakhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	—	55	—
17.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	93	93	93	93
	Total	2829	34	193	—	3282	2655	8191	2928	14495	5617

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, people living in rural areas are not aware of the management of the Village Grain Banks established to ensure the availability of food-grains in rural areas and the allocation made in this regard. Therefore, through you I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister what is the total allocation made for this purpose by the Government and the number of such banks operating in rural areas?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): This is a Scheme which was introduced in the year 1996 by the Department of Tribal Affairs of the Government of India. This Ministry implemented this Scheme up to 2003. From the year 2004, this Scheme is being handled by the Department of Food. This Scheme is mainly a sort of insurance against starvation. The villages which are not accessible have been identified in consultation with the State Governments. The total villages which have been sanctioned in the Tenth Plan were 14,495 in 17 States and the target was 15,000. In the Eleventh Plan, it is proposed to establish 12,823 Village Grain Banks and we have already started implementing it. In fact, so far 3506 Grain Banks have been sanctioned in the Eleventh Plan and that process has been started. Now, whenever we get a proposal from the State Government, the Government of India provides food grains according to their demand.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got the required information from the hon'ble Minister. I meant he has not specifically mentioned the benefits which would accrue to the farmers in rural areas from this scheme. We should be informed about the allocation made by the Government under the tenth plan programme and eleventh plan programme for this purpose and the amount spent in this regard. My second supplementary question is this. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you would notice from the reply given to me that the Government of India does not seem to be paying due attention to this scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: What is being done by the Union Government for the upliftment of the farmers?

Similarly, nothing has been done in establishing Village Grain Banks under this scheme. As per the report 240 banks were sanctioned for Orissa in the year 2005-06 and the same number of banks have been established there, similar situation is prevailing in other states. What progress has been made in this regard during the remaining years?

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question?

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what is the achievement of the Union Government in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, I have to give State-wise information where the total amount has been sanctioned from 1996-97 to 2003-04 and particularly the hon. Member wants a specific information about Orissa. The total sanctioned amount in that period was Rs. 427 lakh and all the States put together, it comes to Rs. 2050 lakh which was sanctioned for the Scheme.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: It is observed that the naxalite violation has been spreading its tentacles, especially in the tribal areas of our country. These Village Grain Banks are particularly related to the welfare of the tribal people. I am confused to note that Jharkhand which has gained prominence for discontent of the tribal people in the form of naxal agitation has not been able to set up even a single Grain Bank there. In the case of West Bengal also, out of sanctioned Village Grain Banks numbering 305, only 204 Village Grain Banks have been set up.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what kind of a mechanism could be evolved to ensure that all the sanctioned Village Grain Banks are set up in the tribal villages.

Secondly, before setting up of these Village Grain Banks, what is the funding pattern arrived at between the State and the Central Government?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Sir, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to submit proposals to Government of India for setting up of the Village Grain Banks in tribal villages that are inaccessible.

Secondly, the funding pattern is something like this. The Central Government provides one quintal foodgrains

which are kept as reserve. The normal Public Distribution System is there. As per that whatever is the requirement for allocation is supplied by the Government of India to the States. But this is over and above that. If there is a crisis, if there is a starvation like situation, then we want to keep some stock and the amount of stock will be one quintal per member, up to a maximum of 40 quintal in a shop.

#### **Private Sector In Defence Production**

\*333. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to involve private sector enterprises in joint development of defence technology and manufacture of defence items;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of letters of intent issued to the enterprises;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide eighty per cent funding to the Research & Development projects taken up by the private sector companies in defence production;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government involves private sector enterprises in joint development and manufacturing of defence items through their acquisition schemes categorized as 'MAKE' and 'BUY (INDIAN)', respectively. Request For Proposal (RFP) is issued to private enterprises.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, Ministry of Defence has signed Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement with various foreign countries to promote Defence cooperation. This includes imparting training to Defence personnel of some friendly foreign countries in our Defence training institutions. The enhances mutual understanding between Defence personnel of both the countries and provides an impetus to on-going Defence cooperation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the private sector has been allowed in the private sector. Earlier it was fully under Government control. We have a number of

ordnance factories, a number of Defence production units in this country which are cent per cent under Government control.

I would like to know from the Government as to why the Government of India has changed its earlier policy that strategic sectors and core sectors will always of remain with the Government and the public sector. Now, there is no bar even on Multi-National Companies on coming into this sector. I would like to know whether this will impair our self-reliance in regard to Defence Production which is required for the security of our country.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I would like to put things in perspective as the hon. Member has touched a very important aspect that deals with the preparedness of our Defence Forces. The DRDO is meeting the tactical and the strategic requirements of the Armed Forces and they are trying to give the Armed Forces the capabilities that they seek and also the timeframe that they seek. What has happened over the years is that the DRDO is involving the private sector companies which have these vertical competencies and they have developed partnerships in over 4000 companies, again in those companies which have the vertical competencies. They have allowed them to participate in joint development and manufacture of systems that are required for the Armed Forces. So, it is not like the private sector making an entry for the first time. It has always been present. Now, I think, the thinking today is that if we can build that capability within the country whether it is in the public sector or in the private sector, the whole objective being preparedness of the Armed Forces in a manner. I think, that is the objective with which we are working.

As far as foreign sector participation is concerned, foreign equity participation is limited to only 26 per cent. Today the DRDO outsources 70 per cent of its work to both the public sector and private sector units. Again I would like to reiterate that the whole objection is to meet the preparedness of the Armed Forces in a timely manner.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, he has not explained it and he has not replied to my supplementary. What necessitated it now? It was not the position earlier. It is because we are told, when the disinvestment policy was announced in 1991 under economic reforms, that core sector and the strategic sector will not be open and there will not be any disinvestment in the core and strategic sectors.

Sir, when he would reply to these points, I will ask my second supplementary. He has not replied to my earlier supplementary...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have commented on that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I seek your protection...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is the most important question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, part 'c' of the Question is: Whether the Government proposed to provide eighty per cent funding to the Research and Development projects taken up by the private sector companies in defence production. He has not replied to this part of the Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I agree with you. The answers to parts 'c' to 'e' of the Question do not seem deal with the Question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I want to know whether private companies and also foreign companies will have access to our research and development.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I want to put things in perspective. There are three ways in which we do the acquisition process. We have the "MAKE" category, the "buy Indian" category. As far as the "MAKE" category and "buy Indian" category are concerned, there are a lot of capabilities within the country being built both in the public sector and the private sector. It is these sectors that we seek to assist.

As far as the opening of the strategic sector is concerned, please understand that we are trying to give our Armed Forces the best equipment in a timely manner because what these Forces are seeking are capabilities that are relevant within a certain time frame. If we do not meet their requirements within the time frame, then the whole purpose gets defeated. But that does not mean that we will dilute...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Buying best equipment is different thing and to allow the private sector in this sector is a different thing...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a dialogue hour. It is a Question-Answer Hour. But Mr. Minister, your answers to

parts 'c' to 'e' of the Question do not deal with the question and therefore, he is right on that point. The question is: Whether the Government proposes to provide eighty per cent funding to the Research and Development projects taken up by the private sector companies in defence production. This has not been answered. Therefore, if you can answer to it now, you can do so. Otherwise, you may inform him later on.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, I was coming to that point but I was interrupted.

MD. SALIM: That is the main question.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: I know it. I was coming to that and I was just explaining the three categories through which acquisition is done.

Sir, there is one sector where we seek to do funding in the ratio of 80 per cent to 20 per cent and that is in the area where there are critical technologies, where we would like to acquire technologies that are critical but are not available within the country. There, we have offered for a joint development and to fund projects where this development can be done in a joint manner. That is the whole objective. The whole objective is to build up the capability. 80 per cent will be funded by the Ministry of Defence and 20 per cent by the units whether in the public sector or in the private sector which is identified for joint development. This is in the areas where we seek critical technologies which are not available within the country. With all due respect, I again want to tell you that the whole objective is to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces in a timely manner for the capabilities that exist.

MD. SALIM: Sir, my supplementary arises from the response given by the hon. Minister to the main Question.

Recently, the Parliamentary Committee came across that DRDO, various ordnance factories and research laboratories have developed equipment and systems with critical technologies and they are awaiting orders in this country like the factory in Pune. But the Government is not prepared to give them orders to produce them whereas the same kind of equipment are being imported from outside. I am not going into specifics because of the critical nature of the Question. But I want to know whether the hon. Minister is prepared to tell the Parliament the list of equipment which fall under the critical nature of the system required by the Armed Forces in the

country, which the DRDO has already developed but the Government is importing similar equipment without giving orders to our own units.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: We are very proud of the achievements made by the DRDO. There are several areas where we have met the requirements indigenously. But there are areas which are still falling short in which they seek to do joint development. They are seeking to build that capability within the country, either through the public sector or through joining hands with the private sector. The whole objective is to build it indigenously.

I am sure that if the Forces seek those capabilities, they will be able to place the orders. That is happening gradually. As and when the forces are satisfied with the field trials, they will give substantial orders.

#### Monitoring of PDS

\*334. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has appointed Area Officers for monitoring of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of the duties performed by the said officers;

(c) whether the Union Government has made any assessment of the Area Officers Scheme during the last two years;

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

(e) the extent to which the said scheme has been successful in improving the functioning of the PDS?

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): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (e) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central

Government and State/UT Governments. There is sharing of responsibilities between Central Government and State/UT Governments in this regard. Apart from TPDS, some Central/centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by State/UT Governments.

For better coordination between Central Government and State/UT Governments for implementing TPDS and other schemes, an arrangement of field visits by senior officers of the Department was introduced in 2000. These officers were termed as Area Officers and specific States and UTs were assigned to them for field visits.

The Area Officers were to make field visits in the assigned State/UTs to assess functioning of TPDS and progress of schemes. This arrangement of Area Officers was reviewed especially for its effectiveness. Field visits of officers brought feed-back on TPDS and other schemes, which was shared with concerned State and UT Governments for improvement. Due to exigencies of office work, however, such field visits have been less.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister, through you, that success of any scheme depends upon the way it is implemented. Our PDS system is very weak, therefore, I have asked in my question also as to what foolproof arrangements have been made by the Governments for monitoring the ration and other foodgrains being transported under the scheme to remote areas with the help of States? Otherwise, there is a possibility that all ration may be embezzled during its transportation. What arrangements have been made for its proper distribution and the manner in which it is going to be implemented.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked about Area officers.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the joint responsibility of Government of India and the State Government. The responsibilities of Government of India are of procurement, storage, allotment to states and arrange transportation upto the

State Headquarters. After the foodgrains reach the State the whole responsibility of its distribution lies with the State Government. The State Government are needed to develop an organizational set up for effective monitoring of the scheme. Therefore, it has been suggested that every public distribution center or shop should appoint an advisory committee including the 'Pradhan' and important persons of the village, and there should also be woman representative in the Committee. They will look after and monitor the total allocation, the amount of foodgrains received, the amount of foodgrains distributed, whether any embezzlement is in between and if there is any embezzlement, the Advisory Committee should inform to the Revenue Officer or Public Distribution Officers. They are required to look after and check it. This whole responsibility is of the State Government. The concept of Area Officer has been introduced some years ago but it did not work out well. Parliamentary Standing Committee has also reviewed their work and they have communicated their unhappiness over the issue. Considering the recommendation of the Committee, Our Ministry will rectify the scheme.

**SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:** Mr. Speaker, Hon'ble Minister has suggested some measures and in view of these I would like to know from Hon'ble Minister the state-wise number of Central Government Employees who have been deputed for this work and why satisfactory results have been not obtained even after their engagement?

Sir, the hon'ble Minister himself admitted that deputing the officers for monitoring has not been proved much beneficial. I would like to know about the reports given by the officers deployed therein, their state wise posting and if it has not been proved beneficial then what is the alternative scheme being formulated by the Government?

**SHRI SHARAD PAWAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Officer's visits have been practically arranged in all 35 States. But it is also true that visits have been not done quarterly as required. If any responsibility is entrusted then it should be fulfilled. They have not accomplished properly the task of visit which was given to them. Wherever visits were done, we have seen the reports and the condition does not appears satisfactory. Therefore, as I said, the Parliamentary Committee has given some suggestions and in view of that we are taking some corrective measures in this regard.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

### Revival Package for Handloom Sector

\*321. **SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of handloom units are facing threat of closure;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide a package for reviving the handloom sector in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds earmarked for the purpose?

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA):** (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Tripura and Chhattisgarh have reported that handloom units in their States are not facing any threat of closure whereas the State Governments of Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Orissa have informed that some of the handloom units are facing threat of closure on account of competition from the mechanized sector, non-availability of credit, non-adaptability with market requirements etc.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has formulated a Financial Package of Rs. 2600 crores for waiver of the overdues of loans of the handloom cooperatives of the country and also, to provide loans at concessional rate of 7% per annum. The Package has been sent to the Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, the Government of India is implementing the following schemes for development and welfare of the handloom weavers:

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- (ii) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (iii) Comprehensive Handloom Weavers Welfare Scheme
- (iv) Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme
- (v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme
- (vi) 10% Rebate Scheme and welfare of the handloom weavers.

**Dryland Farming**

\*323. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made by the Union Government to various States for the promotion of dryland farming during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the total area brought under dryland farming in the country during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the incentives granted to the farmers for dryland farming; and

(d) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) For the promotion of rainfed/dryland farming, various watershed programmes are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development through an integrated watershed management approach. Special emphasis on rainfed/dryland areas has also been given in all other major programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture. The details of the programmes are:

(a) Watershed Programmes:

(i) Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR)
2. Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR)
3. Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)
4. Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acidic Soils (RADAS).

(ii) Ministry of Rural Development

1. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
2. Desert Development Programme (DDP)
3. Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP).

(b) Other Major Programmes:

1. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
2. Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA)
3. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
4. National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
5. Micro Irrigation (MI)
6. Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm & Maize (ISOPOM).

Details of releases made to the State Governments in the last 3 years and allocation for the current year under the aforesaid programmes are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

Research Projects on dryland agriculture are also being implemented by the India Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Dryland Agriculture (AICRPDA). The State-wise allocation under AICRPDA may be given in the enclosed statement-III.

(b) Under the various watershed programmes which also cover dryland areas, an area of 2.64 m.ha. has been developed by Ministry of Agriculture and 11338 watershed projects have been sanctioned by Ministry of Rural Development in the last three years (2005-06 to 2007-08). The State-wise area coverage may be given in the enclosed statement-IV.

(c) In the watershed programmes, assistance is provided to the farmers for natural resource management related activities. Besides, in most of the other agriculture development programmes, incentives are provided to farmers in terms of subsidy for various agricultural inputs/operations. Training support is also provided to the farmers on various technologies concerning dryland/rainfed farming under the aforesaid programmes.

(d) The comprehensive assessment of the aforesaid watershed programmes made by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) revealed that the programmes have helped in creating additional water storage capacity for supplementary/live saving irrigation, increase in cropping intensity & productivity, farmer's income and reduction in soil erosion & runoff.

**Statement I***Allocation/releases under various watershed programmes*

(Rs. in Crores,

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Releases made during the last 3 years (2005-06 to 2007-08)							Allocation for 2008-09						
		NWDPR	RVP & WDPSCA FPR	RADAS	DPAP	DDP	NWD	NWDPR	RVP & WDPSCA FPR	RAS	DPAP*	DDP*	NWD*		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15.01	18.87	—	1.47	151.37	117.48	113.23	11.40	6.50	—	1.80	40.53	32.67	37.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.84	3.83	8.24	—	—	—	52.08	5.19	0.00	3.50	0.27	—	—	16.83
3.	Assam	9.64	1.95	15.00	—	—	—	91.81	6.25	2.87	6.00	3.50	—	—	14.83
4.	Bihar	13.71	0.27	—	0.00	7.02	—	21.40	5.00	0.40	—	0.00	0.00	—	5.71
5.	Chhattisgarh	45.24	13.84	—	—	38.93	—	68.86	10.00	4.00	—	—	19.52	—	27.00
6.	Goa	6.35	—	—	—	—	—	0.24	0.38	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
7.	Gujarat	28.35	66.98	—	14.25	81.42	357.06	74.88	10.00	10.00	—	4.34	23.92	58.17	17.73
8.	Haryana	7.85	7.53	—	8.40	—	157.76	15.87	3.44	2.00	—	2.00	—	6.00	2.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7.95	30.49	—	—	18.64	56.02	72.02	3.00	9.08	—	—	5.85	6.45	15.54
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.15	65.07	—	—	5.20	95.82	23.78	5.42	20.72	—	—	6.40	1.34	2.61
11.	Jharkhand	21.40	3.22	—	—	20.35	—	8.26	1.44	1.90	—	—	1.83	—	5.15
12.	Karnataka	66.78	38.36	—	2.11	103.58	159.35	79.94	19.00	18.00	—	1.88	18.57	22.59	33.51
13.	Kerala	20.05	7.02	—	—	—	—	12.39	6.41	1.60	—	—	—	—	7.14
14.	Madhya Pradesh	60.03	42.07	—	0.00	160.18	—	136.87	26.93	20.54	—	0.00	42.44	—	52.78
15.	Maharashtra	81.97	89.22	—	1.34	156.23	—	56.67	15.54	34.53	—	0.00	36.91	—	13.84
16.	Manipur	22.02	6.16	15.50	—	—	—	26.38	4.08	4.53	6.50	—	—	—	7.04
17.	Meghalaya	17.34	0.10	16.00	—	—	—	25.53	4.97	1.27	5.50	—	—	—	3.13
18.	Mizoram	23.53	10.30	18.00	—	—	—	51.08	8.64	4.53	6.00	—	—	—	17.31
19.	Nagaland	23.44	5.70	27.00	—	—	—	79.48	9.00	3.00	9.00	—	—	—	23.06
20.	Orissa	52.81	7.73	—	—	59.65	—	61.63	37.00	6.93	—	—	17.86	—	14.73
21.	Punjab	18.18	2.41	—	2.08	—	—	9.03	6.00	0.80	—	2.00	—	—	3.43
22.	Rajasthan	98.35	76.65	—	1.91	56.90	891.22	115.23	45.27	34.27	—	0.90	15.23	141.30	35.05
23.	Sikkim	6.09	4.05	—	—	—	—	8.26	3.80	2.20	—	—	—	—	2.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
24.	Tamil Nadu	9.20	29.70	—	0.59	79.24	—	79.99	10.00	10.64	—	0.00	28.07	—	29.25
25.	Tripura	11.03	1.13	10.00	—	—	—	8.48	4.09	0.49	3.50	—	—	—	15.58
26.	Uttarakhand	35.96	15.54	—	—	36.98	—	44.78	11.82	6.24	—	—	3.40	—	18.93
27.	Uttar Pradesh	47.86	39.78	—	0.00	110.51	—	135.41	36.00	22.00	—	0.00	29.53	—	60.19
28.	West Bengal	13.28	1.88	—	—	9.26	—	13.54	10.33	1.80	—	2.00	1.00	—	2.96
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.41	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		629.44	589.78	109.74	32.16	1095.46	1834.71	1487.13	310.23	237.09	40.00	18.51	290.66	268.52	472.24

\*Release made upto 15.12.2008.

**Statement II***Allocation/releases under various development programmes of Ministry of Agriculture*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Releases made during the last 3 years (2005-06 to 2007-08)						Allocation for 2008-09					
		RKVY	*MMA	NFSM	NHM/TMNE	MI	ISOPOM	RKVY	*MMA	NFSM	NHM/TMNE	MI	ISOPOM
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	61.08	148.93	44.62	197.56	313.95	146.83	316.57	65.35	68.63	196.94	149.31	50.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.90	62.70	—	57.42	—	—	6.88	20.50	—	24.00	—	—
3.	Assam	0.00	34.54	11.40	53.80	—	0.03	142.62	16.25	32.63	33.00	—	—
4.	Bihar	57.77	54.56	3.30	68.89	24.80	17.30	148.54	39.00	90.80	142.35	0	8.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	52.96	63.60	14.55	141.19	38.15	15.75	16.48	21.70	87.52	107.48	22.01	4.00
6.	Goa	1.70	11.50	—	5.18	0.12	0.16	6.91	1.00	—	2.74	0.15	—
7.	Gujarat	49.81	129.52	7.37	77.70	128.86	29.25	243.39	36.45	21.55	85.00	150.77	8.00
8.	Haryana	21.52	64.10	21.15	110.06	10.47	16.45	74.00	16.90	27.21	179.29	17.19	6.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16.17	66.85	—	75.00	—	2.5	15.11	20.00	—	21.00	—	1.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	81.55	—	64.83	—	2.17	16.17	36.60	—	21.00	—	0.75
11.	Jharkhand	55.68	25.86	—	78.11	2.29	—	58.62	10.65	13.07	98.72	0	—
12.	Karnataka	154.30	172.63	7.87	214.74	129.04	70.00	316.57	50.25	35.81	209.44	87.17	20.00
13.	Kerala	55.40	90.25	—	176.39	38.39	0.22	60.11	12.75	1.89	148.07	0	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	101.61	113.02	46.12	126.67	16.81	86.5	146.05	62.85	132.69	104.00	48.12	40.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15.	Maharashtra	128.20	341.13	14.14	359.76	274.99	56.64	269.63	92.75	65.50	241.77	189.69	18.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	72.94	—	54.28	—	-	4.14	20.50	—	23.00	—	-
17.	Meghalaya	6.37	26.25	—	64.00	—	-	13.53	14.25	—	27.50	—	-
18.	Mizoram	0	72.50	—	80.95	—	4.93	4.29	23.25	—	25.00	—	3.00
19.	Nagaland	3.19	64.05	—	65.56	—	-	13.89	23.25	—	25.00	—	-
20.	Orissa	39.30	95.86	11.34	118.73	5.62	19.25	115.44	32.80	69.76	81.11	3.58	5.00
21.	Punjab	36.05	10.76	32.88	64.27	15.55	0.88	87.52	17.50	45.19	78.02	6.96	-
22.	Rajasthan	55.76	223.02	24.59	117.69	62.22	93.74	233.75	57.50	42.06	121.80	76.28	25.00
23.	Sikkim	2.77	57.57	—	72.41	—	-	11.37	18.50	—	24.50	—	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	153.60	166.70	12.81	188.77	76.90	37.90	140.38	34.60	47.82	153.76	0	10.00
25.	Tripura	4.16	53.06	—	53.00	—	0.07	34.02	18.50	—	20.00	—	-
26.	Uttarakhand	28.25	72.86	—	79.40	—	-	20.60	23.00	—	21.00	—	-
27.	Uttar Pradesh	103.90	202.44	83.79	162.65	12.41	37.80	316.57	113.75	204.60	144.20	25.67	14.00
28.	West Bengal	54.93	90.54	13.00	93.16	1.95	19.24	147.38	44.25	70.39	47.65	—	6.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.80	—	0.85	—	-	6.43	0.08	—	—	—	-
30.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	-	2.2	0.00	—	—	—	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.20	—	—	—	-	0.61	0.06	—	—	—	-
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	—	—	—	-	1.42	0.00	—	—	—	-
33.	Delhi	0.10	0.00	—	3.00	0.15	-	1.83	0.00	—	2.12	0	-
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.50	—	0.92	—	-	12.08	0.06	—	—	—	-
35.	Pondichery	0.40	0.35	—	—	—	-	6.67	0.35	—	—	—	-
Total		1246.89	2671.24	381.93	326.47	1152.69	666.63	3111.77	945.20	1057.12	2409.46	787.50	218.75

\*This includes allocation/releases under watershed programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### Statement III

*State-wise and year-wise budget allocation for research on Dryland agriculture under AICRPDA*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.93	55.58	46.44	62.56	215.51
2.	Assam	35.53	38.83	40.05	44.46	158.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Chhattisgarh	35.53	38.83	24.90	42.63	141.89
4.	Gujarat	73.88	81.24	85.91	93.26	334.29
5.	Haryana	74.30	81.11	66.09	74.56	296.06
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	21.85	23.87	20.96	33.25	99.93
7.	Jharkhand	43.66	47.59	53.82	70.56	215.63
8.	Karnataka	98.96	107.98	99.28	110.52	416.74
9.	Madhya Pradesh	83.71	103.47	88.47	107.19	392.84
10.	Maharashtra	129.59	141.01	121.22	152.54	544.36
11.	Orissa	29.76	32.48	27.40	35.65	125.29
12.	Punjab	48.15	52.61	57.98	67.56	226.30
13.	Rajasthan	49.75	54.24	62.87	65.56	232.42
14.	Tamil Nadu	31.27	34.14	45.82	50.63	161.89
15.	Uttar Pradesh	111.36	121.66	115.70	136.00	484.71

**Statement IV***Area coverage under various watershed programmes*

(Area in ha, projects in No.)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Area coverage till the end of 2007-08						
		Area developed				No. of projects sanctioned (500 ha. each)		
		NWDPRA	RVP&FPR	WDPSCA	RAS	DPAP	DDP	IWDP*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38439	21980		2000	702	282	44
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	21383	3890	8200				114
3.	Assam	18921	4920	14500				60
4.	Bihar	30113	380			180		45
5.	Chhattisgarh	801128	25180			275		42
6.	Goa	13520						2
7.	Gujarat	72912	71150		35400	585	790	37
8.	Haryana	15499	7750		33000		299	11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12163	21480			94	94	29
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	7370	69080			154	112	25
11.	Jharkhand	80230	560			376		11
12.	Karnataka	135057	83280		3200	530	418	44
13.	Kerala	44608	6090					23
14.	Madhya Pradesh	148343	65410		0	643		55
15.	Maharashtra	120979	82170		3200	796		45
16.	Manipur	38542	5130	15500				17
17.	Meghalaya	28855		22900				91
18.	Mizoram	34503	7860	14200				25
19.	Nagaland	30209	5340	27000				8
20.	Orissa	117389	14930			343		43
21.	Punjab	28897	4480		9000			9
22.	Rajasthan	199517	99990		6000	335	2275	43
23.	Sikkim	9818	3680					9
24.	Tamil Nadu	196693	27150		3600	398		37
25.	Tripura	18541	930	1000				11
26.	Uttaranchal	62377	13170			214		27
27.	Uttar Pradesh	163040	52600			391		63
28.	West Bengal	28862	1970			160		22
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	692	-					
30.	Chandigarh		-					
31.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli		-					
32.	Daman and Diu		-					
33.	Delhi		-					
34.	Lakshadweep							
35.	Pondicherry		-					
Total		1797580	715550	112300	98000	6076	4270	992

\*Project sizes are not uniform and based on the watershed area.

[*Translation*]

**Lifting of Sugar under PDS**

\*324. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sugar allocated and lifted under the Public Distribution System (PDS) during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether some States failed to lift the quota of sugar allocated to them during the said period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor indicating the names of such States during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Central Government is concerned with the allotment of levy sugar to the State Governments/UT Administrations. A statement indicating state-wise allocation of levy sugar made during the last three sugar seasons (October-September) and the current sugar season (upto January, 2009) is enclosed as statement-I.

The levy sugar allotment in respect of 10 States/UTs viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, is made in favour of Food Corporation of India (FCI operated States/UTs). The allotment in respect of remaining States/UTs is made in favour of the concerned State/UT (Direct allottee States/UTs). Information on lifting of levy sugar is available in case of FCI operated States/UTs which is enclosed as statement-II. Information on lifting of levy sugar in respect of direct allottee states/UTs has been reported by Delhi only which is enclosed as statement-III.

The responsibility of lifting of levy sugar and distributing it through Public Distribution System (PDS) lies with the respective State Government/UT Administration. In the absence of full information on lifting of levy sugar by State Governments/UT Administrations, it is difficult to indicate the exact reasons for failure of lifting allotted levy sugar in full or part by their lifting agencies (usually the State Civil Supply Corporations). However, lifting of levy sugar mainly depends upon the prices of non-levy sugar in the open market. In the years of high sugar production, the market prices of non-levy sugar remain subdued and the difference between the non-levy and levy prices of sugar narrows down, resulting in poor/non-lifting of levy sugar and *vice versa*.

**Statement I**

*The Details of State-wise Levy Sugar Allocated to the State Governments/UT Administrations during 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 Sugar Seasons (October-September)*

(Qty. in '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (October, 08 to January, 09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	117.48	124.3	124.46	42.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh#	10.27	10.61	10.32	3.47
3.	Assam#	224.14	224.2	224.29	75.96
4.	Bihar	7.48	77.54	84.6	28.84
5.	Chhattisgarh	26.84	42.95	54.12	19.08
6.	Delhi	35.84	36.38	36.49	12.66

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Goa	1.59	1.59	1.58	0.55
8.	Gujarat	73.08	75.4	75.35	25.94
9.	Haryana	11.91	21.15	31.16	12.01
10.	Himachal Pradesh	55.88	56.01	56.74	19.43
11.	Jammu and Kashmir#	87.07	87.59	88.47	29.61
12.	Jharkhand	0.16	0.15	0.12	0.04
13.	Karnataka	69	82.71	109.64	37.44
14.	Kerala	50.48	49.35	52.92	16.44
15.	Madhya Pradesh	156.67	155.98	155.53	50.04
16.	Maharashtra	106.55	148.7	171.89	60.3
17.	Manipur#	21.9	21.91	21.93	7.45
18.	Meghalaya#	20.96	20.95	20.86	7.12
19.	Mizoram#	8.38	8.37	8.35	2.83
20.	Nagaland#	14.56	14.56	14.49	4.85
21.	Orissa	107.36	108.5	106.99	31.42
22.	Punjab	6.66	15.67	20.77	7.33
23.	Rajasthan	24	55.37	97.05	34.9
24.	Sikkim	3.95	4.34	4.68	1.59
25.	Tamil Nadu	98.09	125.39	139.74	46.71
26.	Tripura#	32.72	32.93	32.94	10.88
27.	Uttar Pradesh	386.3	365.48	412.02	147.45
28.	Uttarakhand	73.03	72.81	73.28	24.94
29.	West Bengal	176.01	178.45	169.62	64.42
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands#	4.74	4.62	4.6	1.56
31.	Chandigarh	0.95	1.01	0.9	0.32
32.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.2
33.	Daman and Diu	0.14	0.53	0.12	0.04
34.	Lakshadweep#	1.4	1.38	1.32	0.44
35.	Puducherry	2.2	2.18	2.12	0.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>2018.39</b>	<b>2229.66</b>	<b>2407.06</b>	<b>829.46</b>

#These are FCI operated States/UTs for allotment and lifting of levy sugar.

**Statement II***Lifting of Levy Sugar in respect of FCI Operated States/UTs*

(Qty. in '000 tons)

Sl.No.	State/UT	2005-06 sugar season	2006-07 sugar season	2007-08 sugar season	2008-09 sugar season (upto Nov. 2008)
1.	Assam	55.51	78.03	44.24	12.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.87	3.80	5.42	0.71
3.	Manipur	7.76	5.30	4.24	1.55
4.	Meghalaya	4.69	10.18	8.22	0.90
5.	Mizoram	7.92	12.53	4.76	1.41
6.	Nagaland	17.07	8.32	10.42	0
7.	Tripura	17.31	18.49	22.87	1.44
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	55.63	69.15	68.93	12.19
9.	Andaman and Nicobar	4.89	5.52	4.00	0
10.	Lakshadweep	1.62	1.80	0.46	0
Total		176.27	213.12	173.56	30.32

Note: Lifting includes issues against allocation of current year as well as backlog.

Wherever the off-take is exceeding the month's allotment, the same is due to lifting against the earlier month's quota.

**Statement III***Lifting of Levy Sugar in respect of Delhi*

(Qty. in '000 tons)

Financial year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (upto Nov. 2008)
Quantity lifted	34.03	30.68	29.44	18.16

*[English]***Promotion of Textiles Exports**

\*325. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister to TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of textiles produced and exported during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated, released and utilised by the Government for promotion of textile exports during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details regarding the schemes launched by the Government to encourage export of textiles during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has recently evaluated the working of said schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHAKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Production data on individual commodities

comprising textiles, viz. natural/artificial fibre, spun/filament yarn, fabrics, etc. are compiled on an industry basis. The quantity of textile items produced during each of the last three years and the current year is tabulated below:-

Items	Unit	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Provisional)	2008-09 (Prov) (April-September)
Raw Cotton*	Million Kilogram	4097	4760	5355	—
Man-made fibre	-do-	968	1139	1244	558.39
Spun Yarn	-do-	3458	3813	4003	1993.04
Filament yarn	-do-	1179	1370	1509	694.89
Fabrics	Million Square meter	49577	53389	56036	27485

\*(Source: Cotton Advisory Board)

Data on export of textiles products are compiled on the basis of port statistics, and are not maintained State-wise. The quantity-wise data is available in various denominations of units like pieces, metreage, volume and weight etc. depending on the commodity exported and cannot be indicated as a single quantitative unit for textiles products. The value of textiles exported during each of the last three years and the current year is tabulated below:-

(value in Rs. Crore)

2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (P) (April-August)
77567.47	86702.65	89098.15	38314.46

(b) and (c) Funds specifically for promotion of textiles exports under Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) Schemes are not allocated, released and utilized State-wise. The funds from the MDA and the MAI Schemes are provided to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) for various activities such as enhancement of market share, contesting of countervailing duties and anti-dumping cases initiated by foreign countries on Indian imports, export promotion activities in focused markets and accessing new markets. Details of release of funds to the textile sector from the gross outlay of the MDA and the MAI Scheme from 2005-06 till date are tabulated below:-

(Rs. In lakh)

Year	MAI		MDA	
	Gross outlay for all EPCs	Release for Textiles EPCs	Gross outlay for all EPCs	Release for Textiles EPCs
2005-06	4000.00	114.17	5500.00	1000.79
2006-07	4000.00	723.34	5225.25	1644.45
2007-08	4500.00	538.56	5225.25	1513.05
2008-09 (till date)	5000.00	665.64	5225.25	932.86

In addition to the above-mentioned funding for promotion of textiles exports, the Government is also providing incentives for exports by way of Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme and Duty Drawback Scheme, whereby exporters derive monetary benefits from the Government on the basis of exports made by them. Further, to promote exports of textiles from the country and to strengthen the textiles sector of the country in general, the following three flagship schemes are presently in operation:-

- (i) For improving productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textiles products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and reorganisation of Ginning & Pressing factories.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernization and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organized and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.
- (iii) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August 2005.

(d) and (e) A consultancy firm was commissioned recently for evaluation of the SITP Scheme, which has since submitted an evaluation report earlier this month.

#### **Restoration of Old Pension Package**

\*326. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided the basis for calculation of the monthly pension of beneficiaries

under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 as reported in the *Mint*, dated 12 November, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Trade Unions have submitted any representations to the Government for restoring the old pension package for the benefit of the subscribers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The notification referred to by the *Mint* dated 12th November, 2008 pertains to Notification No. GSR 688(E) dated 26.09.2008 whereby the benefits of Commutation, Return of Capital have been deleted and the reduction factor in respect of early pension has been increased from 3% to 4%.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government have taken into consideration the views reflected in the representations made to the Government and during the meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) held on 11.11.2008 wherein concerned representatives of employees were also present it was clarified that the Employees Pension Scheme would collapse if action is not taken to bridge the actuarial deficit as well as encourage the members to wait for the normal age of retirement and obtain full pension rather than opt for an early exit. Also by deletion of provision for commutation, the pensioner would not expend the amount of commutation instantly and then suffer due to a low quantum of pension. These amendments were considered necessary at this stage to arrest the increasing actuarial deficit in the Pension Fund under Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995 as per actuarial reports received in this regard. It was also considered essential to make the Scheme viable and sustainable so as to provide for the enhanced coverage of the Scheme in future.

*[Translation]*

#### **Indebtedness of Farmers**

\*329. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding farmer household indebtedness in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the debt burden on each farmer is more than the average annual per capita income in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether providing liberal/enhanced institutional credit to farmers by banks has increased their debt-burden; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the report on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households" (NSS 59th Round) released by National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in May, 2005, of the 89.35 million farmer households, 43.42 million farmer households (48.6%) were reported to be indebted to either formal or informal or both sources of credit. State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Estimated number of rural households and total and indebted farmer households in each State*

State	Estimated no. of rural households ('00)	Estimated no. of farmer households ('00)	Estimated no. of indebted farmers households ('00)	Percentage of farmer households indebted ('00)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	142512	60339	49493	82.0
Arunachal Pradesh	15412	1227	72	5.9
Assam	41525	25040	4536	18.1
Bihar	116853	70804	23383	33.0
Chhattisgarh	36316	27598	11092	40.2
Gujarat	63015	37845	19644	51.9
Haryana	31474	19445	10330	53.1
Himachal Pradesh	11928	9061	3030	33.4
Jammu and Kashmir	10418	9432	3003	31.8
Jharkhand	36930	28238	5893	20.9
Karnataka	69908	40413	24897	61.6
Kerala	49942	21946	14126	64.4
Madhya Pradesh	93898	63206	32110	50.8
Maharashtra	118177	65817	36098	54.8

1	2	3	4	5
Manipur	2685	2146	533	24.8
Meghalaya	3401	2543	103	4.1
Mizoram	942	780	184	23.6
Nagaland	973	805	294	36.5
Orissa	66199	42341	20250	47.8
Punjab	29847	18442	12069	65.4
Rajasthan	70172	53080	27828	52.4
Sikkim	812	531	174	38.8
Tamil Nadu	110182	38880	28954	74.5
Tripura	5977	2333	1148	49.2
Uttar Pradesh	221499	171575	69199	40.3
Uttaranchal	11959	8962	644	7.2
West Bengal	121667	69226	34696	50.1
Group of UT's	2325	732	372	50.8
All India	1478988	893504	434242	48.6

Source: Report No. 498 on the "Indebtedness of Farmer Households"—NSS 59th Round (January-December 2003) released by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in May, 2005.

*[English]*

#### Improvement in Broadband Services

\*331. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of lines of broadband equipments procured by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for their subscribers in the country;

(b) whether the broadband scheme offered by the (MTNL) has drawn poor response as compared to the similar schemes offered by other service providers in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has made any survey to assess the nature of problems being faced by subscribers of the broadband service in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken by the MTNL to improve the broadband services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of broadband lines procured by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) during 2006-07 and 2007-08 for their subscribers in Delhi and Mumbai are as under:

Year	Delhi	Mumbai	Total
2006-07	Nil	86,000	86,000
2007-08	1,63,000	75,000	2,38,000

(b) and (c) No Sir. MTNL is the third largest operator in terms of number of broadband connections in the country despite the fact that MTNL operates only in Delhi & Mumbai.

(d) and (e) No specific survey has been conducted for broadband services. However, meetings with the service providers are being conducted to ensure smooth functioning of the services.

(f) The action taken/being taken by MTNL to improve the broadband services *inter-alia* are as under:

- Redundant paths have been provided in the local network to avoid complete breakdown of the services.
- International bandwidth has been enhanced from time to time to improve Internet Services
- Call Centre positions are being increased to facilitate easier access by the customers for various requirements of broadband services
- Broadband capacity is being added to meet growing demand including core network
- Land line network is improved by way of replacing Paper Core Unarmed Telephone (PCUT) cables, damaged drop wire etc.
- Value added services like Internet Protocol TV (IPTV), Voice on Internet Protocol (VOIP) are being provided to broadband customers.

[Translation]

#### Arable Land

\*335. SHRI HEMANT KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area in hectares of arable land in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether in view of the foodgrain crisis in the country, any scheme for expansion of arable land is under consideration of the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per available estimates, the Agricultural/Arable land is 182.57 million ha (2005-06) in the country. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Agriculture aims to increase the foodgrains production through various policy measures in close coordination with the State Governments. These include schemes of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) and Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA). The NFSM, a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2007-08, is targeted to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10, 8 & 2 million tonnes, respectively by the end of XI Five Year Plan through area expansion and increase in productivity of crops. Similarly, the RKVY, also launched during 2007-08 is an intervention based on local agro-climatic conditions to incentivize the States to increase the share of agriculture in their State Plans and also to increase the growth in agriculture and allied sectors. Further, to develop the degraded lands with the objective of sustaining the extent of agricultural land, the Government of India is implementing various Watershed Development Programmes, namely, (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR), (iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali & Acid Soils (RADAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA), (v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP), (vii) Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP), (viii) Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and (ix) Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of degraded lands in the country. With these measures, the foodgrains production in the country is projected to be about 239 million tones against the demand of about 234 million tones by 2011-12.

#### Statement

##### *State-wise area of Agricultural/Arable land*

(Area in thousand hectares)

Sl.No.	Name of States	Agricultural/Arable land
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15772.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	361.00
3.	Assam	3224.00
4.	Bihar	6639.00

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	5590.00
6.	Goa	197.00
7.	Gujarat	12412.00
8.	Haryana	3784.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	804.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1050.00
11.	Jharkhand	4184.00
12.	Karnataka	12905.00
13.	Kerala	2323.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	17337.00
15.	Maharashtra	21167.00
16.	Manipur	230.00
17.	Mizoram	218.00
18.	Meghalaya	1058.00
19.	Nagaland	644.00
20.	Orissa	7473.00
21.	Punjab	4270.00
22.	Rajasthan	25621.00
23.	Sikkim	155.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	8164.00
25.	Tripura	310.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	19272.00
27.	Uttarakhand	1512.00
28.	West Bengal	5749.00
29.	Delhi	58.00
30.	Pondicherry	31.00
31.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22.00
32.	Chandigarh	2.00
33.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	24.00

1	2	3
34.	Daman and Diu	3.00
35.	Lakshadweep	3.00
Grand Total		182,568.00

#### MSP for Cotton

\*336. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton paid at the time of procurement by the Cotton Corporation of India is same for all the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the rationale behind the disparity in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for cotton is fixed by the Government of India. The prices are fixed on the basis of each variety of cotton which is same throughout the country for the specific variety.

#### Labour Intensive Technology in Agriculture

\*337. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether from the economic point of view it is more appropriate to utilise labour-intensive technologies in the agricultural sector than machine-based technology;

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

(c) whether the farmers engaged in growing wheat have given preference to labour-intensive technology in certain States of the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken steps to provide central assistance to promote the use of labour-intensive technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The use of appropriate technology in the agricultural sector is

largely a function of availability of resources such as land, labour, capital and other inputs. A "Study relating to formulating long-term mechanization strategy for each Agro-Climatic Zone/State" by Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) has concluded that most of the holding sizes were small and did not justify individual ownership of costly machines. However, such farmers were taking advantage of improved agricultural machinery on custom hiring basis. Thus, the farmers, including wheat growers keeping in view the resources at their disposal, use a mix of labour and capital intensive technologies for various agricultural operations.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

#### **Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers**

\*338. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of the schemes being implemented for social security, education, training and other welfare activities for the beedi workers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds allocated, released and utilised under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received new proposals from some of the State Governments regarding upliftment and welfare of the beedi workers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) A statement-I showing names and details of schemes for welfare of beedi workers in the country, is enclosed.

(b) A statement-II showing the funds allocated, released and utilized under such schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, Region-wise (as the allocation of fund is made Region-wise), and Scheme-wise is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Proposals are received from time to time under the ongoing welfare scheme. These are considered as per the existing guidelines.

#### **Statement I**

*The names and details of schemes for welfare of Beedi Workers in the country:*

Sl. No.	Particulars of the Schemes and Benefits Available
1	2
	<b>HEALTH SCHEME</b>
1.	<p><b>Scheme for Treatment of Cancer</b></p> <p>The actual expenditure on medicines and diet charges incurred by the worker or his dependant on treatment of cancer in a recognised cancer hospital and duly certified by competent authorities shall be reimbursed.</p>
2.	<p><b>Scheme for Reimbursement of Expenditure as a Financial Assistance to Workers Suffering from Heart Diseases</b></p> <p>Financial assistance not exceeding actual expenditure or Rs. 1.30 lakhs whichever is less shall be paid towards treatment charges.</p>
3.	<p><b>Scheme for Reimbursement of Expenditure as Financial Assistance to Workers for Kidney Transplantation and Allied Treatment</b></p> <p>Financial Assistance not exceeding actual cost or Rs. 2.00 lakh, whichever is less shall be paid towards treatment charges.</p>

1

2

4. **Reimbursement of Expenditure on Treatment of Minor Diseases like Hernia, Ulcer, Appendectomy, Prenate and Gynaecological Diseases**

The actual expenditure or Rs. 30,000/- whichever is less will be reimbursed for hospital charges including diet etc. and pre and post operation check ups.

5. **Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Workers**

Lump sum grant of Rs. 1000/- per delivery for the first two deliveries only.

6. **Scheme for Payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilization of Workers/Spouses**

Monetary incentive at the rate of Rs. 500/- per head over and above the incentive given by other agencies.

7. **Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of Workers Suffering from TB**

1. Reimbursement of treatment charges upto Rs. 50 per month to each worker to cover the cost of medicine.

2. Subsistence allowance @ Rs. 750/- p.m. where the worker has no dependant or has one dependant and Rs. 1000/- where the number of dependents is more than one for a period of nine months.

8. **Financial Assistance for Purchase of Spectacles**

Financial assistance toward the cost of frame and lenses to the extent of Rs. 300/- or actual expenditure whichever is less.

9. **Social Security Scheme (Insurance) for Beedi Workers**

1. Natural Death Rs. 10,000/-

2. Death due to accident Rs. 25000/-

10. **Scheme for Providing Financial Assistance of Rs. 5000/- to a Widow/widower of Beedi Worker as well as to Widow/widower Beedi Worker for Meeting the Wedding Expenses of their Daughters**

An amount of Rs. 5,000/- is provided as financial assistance to the widow/widower of beedi worker as well as to widow/widower beedi worker for meeting the wedding expenses of their first two daughters.

11. **Scheme for Providing Financial Assistance of Rs. 1500/- towards Funeral Expenses of Beedi Workers**

An amount of Rs. 1500/- is provided as financial assistance to the family members of the deceased worker.

1

2

**EDUCATION SCHEME****1. Grant of Financial Assistance for Education**

	Girls	Boys
1. Class I to IV (Grant for dress Slates/books)	250	250
2. Class V to VIII	940	500
3. Class IX	1140	700
4. Class X	1840	1400
5. Class XI to XII	2440	2000
<b>PUC I &amp; PUC II</b>		
6. Non-professional degree courses, non-professional post graduate courses, 2/3 years Diploma courses, BCA, BBA & PGDCA.	3000	3000
7. Professional degree courses (BE/B. Tech/MBBS/BAMS/BUMS/B.Sc (Agri.) and MCA/MBA)	8000	8000

**RECREATION SCHEME****1. Supply of TV Sets**

A maximum amount of Rs. 10,000/- for Colour TV set and Rs. 4000/- for Black and white TV set is provided to the Community centre of Beedi workers Co-operative Society.

**2. Organizing Sports/Games, Social & Cultural Activities**

1. Social activities like celebration of National and Regional festivals—Rs. 2500/- per activity subject to a limit of Rs. 7500/- in a financial year for celebrating 3 festivals.
2. Cultural activities like dance, drama, music, elocution competition—Rs. 2000/- per activity subject to a limit of Rs. 14,000/- in a financial year for 7 festivals.
3. Organizing annual sports tournament—Rs. 40,000/- in a year per tournament.

**HOUSING SCHEME****1. Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS) 2007 for Beedi Workers**

A Central Subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- per tenement per worker is granted for construction of a house.

**Statement II**

*The funds allocated, released and utilised under various schemes for welfare of Beedi Workers during last three years*

(Rs. In crores)

Region	States covered	Schemes	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (Upto Oct., 2008)	
			Budget allocated and released	Exp.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ajmer	Rajasthan Gujarat	Health	1.78	1.77	1.85	1.85	1.77	1.96	2.07	1.06
		Education	11628	11630	17640	17630				
		Education	1.16	1.16	1.76	1.76	2.79	2.79	2.50	1.39
		Recreation	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.04
		Housing	0.05	0.05	0.62	0.62	0.35	0.17	0	0
Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	Health	2.52	2.36	3.03	2.98	3.59	3.37	4.19	1.77
		Education	1.58	1.58	1.46	1.46	3.31	3.36	5.71	0.75
		Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Housing	0.16	.16	0.11	0.11	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.01
Bangalore	Karnataka Kerala	Health	5.43	5.36	5.24	5.24	6.62	6.61	7.81	5.16
		Education	8.60	8.60	8.58	8.58	2.19	2.19	33.77	19.28
		Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0
		Housing	1.46	1.46	1.08	1.08	1.09	1.60	0.24	0.23
Bhubaneswar	Orissa	Health	2.38	2.21	2.56	2.54	2.45	2.45	3.03	2.23
		Education	2.03	2.03	0.74	0.74	3.50	3.54	2.53	1.55
		Recreation	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.01
		Housing	4.00	4.00	1.00	1.00	3.26	3.20	0.68	0.72
Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh Tamil Nadu	Health	6.48	6.47	5.75	5.81	6.39	6.42	7.21	5.10
		Education	15.08	15.06	14.03	14.03	26.02	26.01	25.89	17.56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0019	0
		Housing	2.26	0.26	0.39	0.39	0.60	0.71	0.28	0
Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh									
	Chhattisgarh	Health	4.84	4.75	4.84	4.79	4.60	4.39	5.50	3.57
		Education	2.95	2.98	2.97	2.97	4.90	4.83	6.49	1.73
		Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Housing	0.30	0.30	0.90	0.90	0.66	0.80	0.29	0.30
Karma	Bihar									
	Jharkhand	Health	4.17	3.96	3.52	3.32	3.50	3.35	3.89	2.35
		Education	1.35	1.35	1.90	1.30	1.92	1.92	1.83	0.82
		Recreation	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.01
		Housing	0.06	0.03	0	0	0.03	0.05	0.09	0
Kolkata	West Bengal									
	Assam									
	Tripura	Health	4.46	4.34	4.20	4.09	4.67	4.62	8.04	3.44
		Education	5.02	5.01	5.56	5.56	12.41	12.41	16.55	16.70
		Recreation	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.003
		Housing	1.19	1.19	0.49	0.49	2.44	2.44	0.73	0.76
Nagpur	Maharashtra									
		Health	2.08	2.08	2.30	2.30	2.42	2.46	2.62	2.21
		Education	4.30	4.30	5.60	5.50	6.62	6.60	6.17	4.09
		Recreation	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0024	0.0045	0.0045	0.005	0.0047
		Housing	5.61	3.49	2.11	2.11	2.51	2.03	0.48	0.18
		Total	138.77	129.90	136.50	131.58	233.50	228.79	226.59	93.10

*[English]***National Bamboo Mission**

\*339. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bamboo Mission has formulated any action plan to tackle bamboo flowering in the country particularly in the North-Eastern Region (NER);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) the total quantum of bamboo harvested during the last three years in the NER, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether funds were recently released by the Union Government to give relief to the NER affected by bamboo flowering; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the guidelines for utilization of the said funds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) National Bamboo Mission does not deal, directly, with the problem of bamboo flowering. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India taking action on the problem of bamboo flowering. The Ministry of Environment and Forests launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme called "Gregarious flowering of Muli Bamboos" in North Eastern Region. The Scheme with an overall allocation of Rs. 85.00 crore is to be implemented during 2005-06 to 2008-09. Major components of the Scheme are: Resources survey and mapping, Resource extraction and management, Resource utilization, Regeneration plan, Development of necessary infrastructure, Rodent control and precautionary measures to control spread of Epidemics, Control of fire hazards, Famine control and Awareness campaigns. The details of funds allocated during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) The total quantum of bamboo harvested in NER during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) and (e) The Government of Mizoram and Manipur submitted memoranda for assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for damage to crops due to rodent menace on account of bamboo flowering. Inter-Ministerial Central Teams visited the States for assessment of the requirements. Assistance from the NCCF was provided based on the approval of the High Level Committee. Details of the memorandum submitted by the States and assistance approved from the NCCF by the High Level Committee are given in the enclosed statement-III. In this regard, the guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Home *vide* letter no. 32-34/2005-NDM-I dated 27th June 2007 and the same is given in the enclosed statement-IV.

**Statement I**

*Details of funds allocated during the last three years are given below*

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Implementing States	Total approved allocation under CSS scheme	Amount released during 2005-06	Amount released during 2006-07	Amount released during 2007-08	Amount released during 2008-09	State-wise Total release for the scheme
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	00.10	00.65	0.50	00.25	1.5
2.	Assam	13.00	03.25	00.00	2.045	2.204	7.499
3.	Manipur	09.90	02.41	3.034	3.000	1.456	9.90
4.	Meghalaya	06.80	01.71	00.00	3.500	1.59	6.80
5.	Mizoram	23.60	03.00	10.332	5.263	5.00	23.595
6.	Nagaland	08.00	02.10	4.219	1.6810	00.00	8.00
7.	Tripura	21.20	05.25	6.065	5.6850	4.2	21.20
8.	ICFRE	01.00	00.00	00.70	0.00	0.30	1.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>85.00</b>	<b>17.82</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>21.674</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>79.494</b>

**Statement II**

*The State-wise and year-wise total quantum of bamboo harvested during the last three years in the NER is as below*

(In Metric tonnes)

State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Arunachal Pradesh		Not available		
Assam	1,19,605	3,20,391	92,338	5,32,334
Manipur	8,87,470	13,33,585	16,84,990	39,06,045
Meghalaya	300	400	300	1,000
Mizoram	1,187,909	97,642	18,636	1,304,187
Nagaland	—	4,15,000	4,15,200	12,45,430
Sikkim	—	1,500	3,375	8,625
Tripura	1,14,205,552	86,539,309	91,756,433	2,92,501,294

**Statement III**

*Details of the memorandum submitted by the States and assistance approved from the NCCF by the High Level Committee are given below:*

(Rs. in crore)

State	Calamity	Receipt of Memorandum	Assistance sought	Assistance approved*
Mizoram	Rodent Menace (Pest attack)	May, 2007	43.92	12.93
Mizoram	-do-	February, 2008	591.63	49.37
Manipur	-do-	March, 2008	50.02	16.67

\*Assistance approved from the NCCF is subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State, as determined by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Statement IV**

No. 32-34/2005-NDM-I  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
(Disaster Management-I Division)

North Block, New Delhi  
Dated, the 27th June, 2007

To

1. Chief Secretaries of all States
2. The Relief Commissioners/Secretaries, Department of Disaster Management of all States

Subject:- Revision of Items and Norms of assistance from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the period between 2005-10

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has given its recommendations on financing of relief expenditure on natural calamities for the period 2005-10 which were accepted by the Government of India. In

accordance with the said recommendations, an Expert Group was set up in the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary (DM-I) and Central Relief Commissioner to review and revise the extant items and norms of assistance from CRF/NCCF and to recommend norms for the newly included natural calamities of "landslides", "Avalanches", "Cloud burst" and "Pest Attacks" to be followed during the period between 2005-10. The Group comprised of representatives of certain States and Central Ministries.

2. The Government of India has revised the items and norms of assistance considering the recommendations of the Expert Group and accordingly the approved list of items and norms for assistance from CRF/NCCF in the wake of identified natural calamities is given in the annexure. These revised norms will come into force prospectively with immediate effect. The State Governments are requested to kindly ensure that the expenditure from CRF/NCCF is incurred as per these approved items/norms only.

3. The revised items and norms can also be downloaded from website of Disaster Management Division of Ministry of Home Affairs i.e. [www.ndmindia.nic.in](http://www.ndmindia.nic.in).

5. A copy of the communication alongwith its enclosures is also being sent to the Accountants General of the States for necessary action.

6. This supercedes this Ministry's earlier letters on this subject, the last being No. 32-22/2004-NDM-I dated the 15th June, 2005.

Yours faithfully,

(B. MURALI KUMAR)  
Director (NDM-I)

Tele: 23092696/Fax: 23093750

Encl: As above.

Copy for information and necessary follow up action to:-

1. Accountants General of all State Governments.
2. Controller General of Accounts (CGA), New Delhi.
3. Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG), New Delhi.
4. Resident Commissioners of all State Governments.

Copy to:-

1. Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure (Shri V.S. Senthil, JS (PF), North Block, New Delhi.
2. Ministry of Agriculture (Shri Mukesh Khuller, Joint Secretary (DM), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Planning Commission (Shri R. Sreedharan, Joint Secretary (SP), Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. National Disaster Management Authority (Shri J.B. Sinha, Joint Secretary)
5. All concerned Central Ministries/Departments/Organizations.
6. PMO/Cabinet Secretariat.
7. PS to HM/PS to MOS(R)
8. Sr. PPS to Home Secretary/Secretary (BM)/Joint Secretary (DM-I)/Joint Secretary (DM-II)/Publicity Officer/NIC.

**LIST OF ITEMS AND NORMS OF ASSISTANCE FROM CALAMITY RELIEF FUND (CRF)  
AND NATIONAL CALAMITY CONTINGENCY FUND (NCCF)**

FOR THE PERIOD 2005-10

(National Disaster Management Division)  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**Annexure*****Revised List of Items and Norms of Assistance From Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the Period 2005-10 (MHA Letter No. 32-34/2007-NDM-I Dated the 27th June, 2007)***

Sl.No.	Item	Norms of Assistance
1	2	3
1.	<b>Gratuitous Relief</b>	<b>Rs. 1.00 lakh per deceased</b>
	(a) Ex-Gratia payment to the families of deceased persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be necessary to obtain a Certificate of cause of death issued by an appropriate authority designated by the State Government certifying that the death has occurred due to a natural calamity notified by the Ministry of Finance in the Scheme of CRF/ NCCF.</li> <li>• In the case of a Government employee/relief worker who loses his/her life, while engaged in rescue and relief operations, in the aftermath of a notified natural calamity or during preparedness activities like mock drills etc., his/her family would be paid ex-gratia @ Rs. 1.00 lakh per deceased.</li> <li>• In the case of an Indian citizen who loses his life due to a notified natural calamity in a foreign country, his family would not be paid this relief.</li> <li>• Similarly, in the case of a Foreign citizen who loses his life due to a notified natural calamity within the territory of India, his family would also not be paid this relief.</li> </ul>
	(b) Ex-Gratia payment for loss of a limb or eyes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Rs. 35,000/- per person (when the disability is between 40% and 75% duly certified by a Government doctor or doctor from a panel approved by the Government).</li> <li>(ii) Rs. 50,000/- per person (when the disability is more than 75% duly certified by a Government doctor or doctor from a panel approved by the Government)</li> </ul>
	(c) Grievous injury requiring hospitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 7,500 per person (grievous injury requiring hospitalization for more than a week).</li> <li>• Rs. 2,500 per person (grievous injury requiring hospitalization for more than a week).</li> </ul>
	(d) Relief for the old, infirm and destitute children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 20/- per adult, and Rs. 15/- per child per day.</li> </ul>
	(e) Clothing and utensils/house-hold goods for families whose houses have been washed away/fully damaged/severely inundated for more than a week due to a natural calamity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 1000/- for loss of clothing per family and Rs. 1000/- for loss of utensils/household goods per family.</li> </ul>
	(f) Gratuitous relief for families in dire need of immediate sustenance after a calamity. GR should only be given to those who have no food reserve, or whose food reserves have been wiped out in a calamity, and who have no other immediate means of support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 20/- per adult, and Rs. 15/- per child per day.</li> </ul>

1

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3

**Period for providing gratuitous relief**

(i) Natural Calamities other than drought and pest attack (locust and rodent menace only)

- Upto a maximum period of 15 days.
- In the case of above mentioned notified natural calamities of a severe nature, relief can be provided upto 30 days with the approval of State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.

(ii) Drought/pest attack (locust and rodent menace only).

- The maximum period for which the relief can be provided is upto 60 days and in case of severe drought/pest attack upto 90 days.
- In case the drought/pest attack situation persists beyond 90 days, the State Level Committee shall, after a detailed review, decide the further period for which relief can be provided from CRF, on a month to month basis, co-terminus with the actual period of prevailing situation.

**2. Supplementary Nutrition**

Rs. 2.00 per head per day, as per ICDS norms.

**Period for providing relief**

(i) Natural Calamities other than drought and pest attack (locust and rodent menace only).

- Upto a maximum period of 30 days with the approval of State Level Committee for assistance from CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance from NCCF.

(ii) Drought/Pest attack (locust and rodent menace only).

- The maximum period for which the relief can be provided is upto 60 days.
- In case of drought pest attack (locust and rodent menace only) of a severe nature, the period for provision of relief may be extended upto a maximum period of 90 days with the approval of State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.

**3. Assistance to small and marginal farmers for:-**

(a) Desilting of agricultural land

- Rs. 6000/- per hectare:- (where thickness of sand/silt deposit is more than 3 to be certified by the competent authority of the State Government.)

(b) Removal of debris on agricultural land in hilly areas

- Rs. 6,000/- per hectare

(c) Desilting/Restoration/Repair of fish farms

- Rs. 6,000/- per hectare  
(subject to the condition that no other assistance/subsidy has been availed of by/is eligible to the beneficiary under any other Government Scheme)

(d) Loss of substantial portion of land caused by landside, avalanche, change of course of rivers.

- Rs. 15,000/- per hectare  
(Assistance will be given to only those small and marginal farmers whose ownership of the land lost is legitimate as per the revenue records).

1	2	3
	(e) Agriculture input subsidy where crop loss was 50% and above.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 2000/- per hectare in rainfed areas</li> <li>• Rs. 4,000/- per hectare for areas under assured irrigation.</li> <li>(a) No input subsidy will be payable for agricultural land remaining unsown or fallow.</li> <li>(b) Assistance payable to any small farmer with tiny holding may not be less than Rs. 250.</li> </ul>
	(i) For agriculture crops, horticulture crops and annual plantation crops	
	(ii) Perennial crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 6,000 per hectare for all types of perennial crops.</li> <li>(a) No input subsidy will be payable for agricultural land remaining unsown or fallow.</li> <li>(b) Assistance payable to any small farmer with tiny holding may not be less than Rs. 500/-.</li> </ul>
4.	Input subsidy to farmers other than small & marginal farmers	<p>Assistance may be provided where crop loss is 50% and above, subject to a ceiling of 1 ha. per farmer and upto 2 ha. per farmer in case of successive calamities irrespective of the size of his holding being large, at the following rates:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 2,000/- per hectare in rainfed areas</li> <li>• Rs. 4,000/- per hectare for areas under assured irrigation.</li> <li>• Rs. 6,000 per hectare for all types of perennial crops.</li> <li>• No input subsidy will be payable for agricultural land remaining unsown or fallow.</li> </ul>
5.	Assistance to Small & Marginal sericulture farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 2000/- per ha. for Eri, Mulberry and Tussar</li> <li>• Rs. 2500 per ha. for Muga</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Employment Generation</b> (only to meet additional requirements after taking into account funds available under various plans/Schemes with elements of employment generation e.g. NREGP, SGRY)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily wages to be at par with minimum wage for unskilled labourers notified by the State Government concerned.</li> <li>• Contribution from Relief Fund to be restricted upto 8 Kgs of wheat or 5 kgs of rice per person per day—subject to the availability of stock in the State. The cost of the foodgrains is to be worked out on the basis of "economic cost".</li> <li>• The remaining part of the minimum wages will be paid in cash. The cash component should not be less than 25% of the minimum wage.</li> <li>• The above assistance will be for a period of 10 days in a month (15 days in a month in areas where other schemes/projects with elements of employment generation are not in operation).</li> <li>• State Govt. is required to lift and utilize the allocated foodgrains within 03 months from the date of issue of the order of allocation. No request for extension of the said period shall be entertained.</li> <li>• Work to be provided to one person from every willing rural household in the affected areas, Subject to the assessment of actual demand on a case-to-case basis.</li> </ul>

1

2

3

7. **Animal Husbandry:**  
**Assistance to small and marginal farmers/agricultural labourers**  
 (i) Replacement of draught animals, milch animals or animals used for haulage

- As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided from CRF and assessed by the Central Team for assistance to be provided from NCCF.

**Milch animal—**

- (i) Buffalo/cow/came/yak etc. @ Rs. 10,000/-
- (ii) Sheep/Goat @ Rs. 1000/-

**Draught Animals:**

- (i) Camel/horse/bullock, etc. @ Rs. 10,000/-
- (ii) Calf, Donkey, and pony @ Rs. 5000/-

- The assistance may be restricted for the actual loss of economically productive animals and will be subject to a ceiling of 1 large milch animal or 4 small milch animals or 1 large draught animal or 2 small draught animals per household irrespective of whether a household has lost a larger number of animals. (The loss is to be certified by the Competent Authority designated by the State Government).

**Poultry:-**

- Poultry @ 30/- per bird subject to a ceiling of assistance of Rs. 300/- per beneficiary household. The death of the poultry birds should be on account of the notified natural calamity.

**Note:-** Relief under these norms is not eligible if the assistance is available from any other Government Scheme, e.g. loss of birds due to Avian Influenza or any other diseases for which the Department of Animal Husbandry has a separate scheme for compensating the poultry owners.

- (ii) Provision of fodder/feed concentrate in the cattle camps

- Large animals—Rs. 20/- per day
- Small animals—Rs. 10/- per day

**Period for providing assistance**

- (i) Notified Calamities other than drought
  - Upto a maximum period of 15 days.
- (ii) Drought
  - Upto 60 days and in case of severe drought upto 90 days.
  - In case the drought situation persists beyond 90 days, the State Level Committee shall, after a detailed review, decide the further period for which relief can be provided from NCCF, on a month to month basis, co-terminus with the actual period of scarcity onset of rains.

- (iii) Water supply in cattle camps

- To be assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided from CRF and by the Central Team for assistance to be provided from NCCF

**Period for providing assistance**

- (i) Notified Calamities other than drought
  - Upto a maximum period of 15 days.

1	2	3
		<p>(ii) Drought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upto 60 days and in case of severe drought upto 90 days.</li> <li>• In case the drought persists beyond 90 days, the State Level Committee shall, after a detailed review, decide the further period for which relief can be provided from CRF, on a month to month basis, co-terminus with the actual period of scarcity onset of rains.</li> </ul>
<p>(iv) Additional cost of medicines and vaccine (calamity related requirements)</p> <p>(v) Supply of fodder outside cattle camps</p> <p>(vi) Movement of useful cattle to other areas</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided from CRF and by the Central Team for assistance to be provided from NCCF.</li> <li>• Additional expenditure on transport of fodder from the approved fodder depot to neutralize calamity related price rise to be determined on a case-to-case basis by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• To be assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided from CRF and by the Central Team for assistance to be provided from NCCF.</li> </ul>
<p>8. <b>Assistance to Fisherman</b></p> <p>(a) for repair/replacement of boats, nets-damaged or lost</p> <p>—Boat</p> <p>—Dugout-Canoe</p> <p>—Catamaran</p> <p>—Nets</p> <p>(This assistance will not be provided if the beneficiary is eligible or has availed of any subsidy/assistance, for the instant calamity, under any other Government Scheme.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 2,500/- for repair of partially damaged traditional crafts (all types) plus net)</li> <li>• Rs. 7500/- (for replacement of fully damaged traditional crafts (all types) plus net)</li> <li>• Such traditional crafts are to be registered with the State Government.</li> <li>• Extent of damage (partial or full) to be determined/certified by a competent authority designated by the State Government.</li> </ul>
<p>(b) Input subsidy for fish seed farm</p> <p>9. <b>Assistance to artisans in handicrafts/handloom sectors by way of subsidy for repair/replacement of damaged equipments.</b></p> <p>(a) For Traditional Crafts (Handicrafts)</p> <p>(i) For replacement of damaged tools/equipment</p> <p>(ii) For loss of raw material/goods in process/finished goods</p>		<p>Rs. 4,000/- per Hectare</p> <p>(This assistance will not be provided if the beneficiary is eligible for or has availed of any subsidy/assistance, for the instant calamity, under any other Government Scheme except the one time subsidy provided under the Scheme of Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rs. 2,000/- per artisan</li> <li>• Damage/replacement to be duly certified by Competent Authority designated by the State Government.</li> <li>• Rs. 2,000/- per artisan</li> <li>• Damage/Loss to be certified by Competent Authority designated by the State Government.</li> </ul>

1	2	3
	(b) For Handloom Weavers	
	(i) Repair/replacement of loom equipments and accessories	For repair of loom • Rs. 1000/- per loom For replacement of looms • Rs. 2000/- per loom • Damage/replacement to be certified by the competent authority designated by the Government.
	(ii) Purchase of yarn and other materials like dyes & chemicals and finished stocks.	• Rs. 2,000/- per loom • Damage/replacement to be certified by the competent authority designated by the Government.
10.	Assistance for repair/restoration of damaged houses	• The damaged house should be an authorized construction duly certified by the Competent Authority of the State Government. • The extent of damage to the house is to be certified by a technical authority authorized by the State Government.
	(a) Fully damaged/destroyed houses	
	(i) Pucca house	• Rs. 25,000/- per house
	(ii) Kutcha House	• Rs. 10,000/- per house
	(b) Severely damaged houses	
	(i) Pucca House	• Rs. 5,000/- per house
	(ii) Kutcha-House	• Rs. 2500/ per house
	(c) Partially Damaged Houses—both pucca/kutcha (other than hut) (where the damage is minimum of 15%)	• Rs. 1500/- per house
	(d) Huts: damaged/destroyed	• Rs. 2000/- per Hut • (Hut means—Temporary, make shift unit, inferior to Kutcha house, made of thatch, mud, plastic sheets etc. traditionally seen & recognized and known as Hut by the State/District Authorities.)
11.	Provision of emergency supply of drinking water in rural areas and urban areas	• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.
12.	Provision of medicines, disinfectants, insecticides for prevention of outbreak of epidemics	• As above
13.	Medical care for cattle and poultry against epidemics as a sequel to a notified natural calamity.	• As above
14.	Evacuation of people affected/likely to be affected	• As above

1	2	3
15.	Hiring of boats for carrying immediate relief & saving life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• The quantum of assistance will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred on hiring boats and essential equipment required for rescuing stranded people and thereby saving human lives during a notified natural calamity.</li> </ul>
16.	Provision for temporary accommodation, food, clothing, medical care etc. of people affected/evacuated (operation of relief camps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• Quantum of assistance will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred, during the specified period.</li> </ul>
		<p><b>Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case of natural calamities other than drought for a maximum period upto 15 days.</li> <li>• In case of natural calamities other than drought of a severe nature for a maximum period upto 30 days.</li> <li>• In case of drought, the maximum period for which the relief can be provided is upto 60 days and in case of severe drought upto 90 days.</li> <li>• In case the drought situation persists beyond 90 days, the State Level Committee shall, after a detailed review, decide the further period for which relief can be provided, on a month to month basis, co-terminus with the actual period of scarcity/onset of rains.</li> </ul>
17.	Air dropping of essential supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• The quantum of assistance will be limited to actual amount raised in the bills by the Air Force/other aircraft providers for airdropping of essential supplies and rescue operations only.</li> </ul>
18.	<p>Repair/restoration of immediate nature of the damaged infrastructure in eligible sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (1) Roads &amp; bridges (2) Drinking water Supply Works (3) Irrigation, (4) Power (only limited to immediate restoration of electricity supply in the affected areas), (5) Primary Education, (6) Primary Health Centres, (7) Community assets owned by Panchayats.</li> <li>• Sectors such as Telecommunication and Power (except immediate restoration of power supply), which generate their own revenues, and also undertake immediate repair/restoration works from their own funds/resources, are excluded.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activities of immediate nature</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An illustrative list of activities which may be considered as works of an immediate nature are given in the enclosed Appendix.</li> </ul> <p><b>Time Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following time limits are indicated for undertaking works of immediate nature.</li> </ul> <p><b>For Plain areas</b></p> <p>(a) 30 days in case of calamity of normal magnitude.  (b) 45 days in case of calamity of severe magnitude.</p> <p><b>For hilly areas and North Eastern States</b></p> <p>(a) 45 days in case of calamity of normal magnitude.  (b) 60 days in case of calamity of severe magnitude.</p> <p><b>Assessment of requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the basis of assessment made by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and on the basis of the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> </ul>

1	2	3
19.	Replacement of damaged medical equipment and lost medicines of Govt. hospitals/health centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• The quantum of relief will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred.</li> </ul>
20.	Operational cost (of POL only) for Ambulance Service, Mobile Medical Teams and temporary dispensaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above</li> <li>• The list of items, which fall under operational cost, will generally include:-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of putting up temporary medical camps/temporary dispensaries.</li> <li>• Hiring of ambulance vehicles</li> <li>• Hiring of transport vehicles for mobile medical teams only.</li> <li>• Actual POL expenditure for ambulance and transport vehicles for mobile medical teams.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
21.	Cost of clearance of debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• The quantum of relief will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred.</li> <li>• Cost of clearance of debris includes removal of debris of stones, bricks, steel/iron which is restricted to inhabited areas only.</li> </ul>
22.	Draining of flood water in affected areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• The quantum of relief will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred.</li> </ul>
23.	Cost of search and rescue measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As assessed by the State Level Committee for assistance to be provided under CRF and as per the assessment of the Central Team for assistance to be provided under NCCF.</li> <li>• The quantum of relief will be limited to the actual expenditure incurred on search and rescue operations within a period of two weeks of the notified natural calamity.</li> </ul>
24.	Disposal of dead bodies/carcasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On actual basis, as reported by the State Government or as recommended by the Central Team.</li> </ul>
25.	Training to specialist multi disciplinary groups/teams of the State personnel drawn from different cadres/services/personnel involved in management of disaster in the State".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expenditure is to be incurred from CRF only (and not from NCCF), as assessed by the State Level Committee.</li> <li>• The total expenditure on items 25 and 26, collectively should not exceed 10% of the annual allocation of the CRF.</li> </ul>
26.	Procurement of essential search, rescue and evacuation equipments including communication equipments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As above.</li> </ul>

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1	2	3
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**New Items:**

27. Landslides, cloudburst and avalanches
- The norms for various items will be the same as applicable to other notified natural calamities, as listed above.
28. Pest attack (locust and rodent menace only)
- With regard to the norms of assistance for crop damaged due to pest attack, it will be on the lines of assistance provided to the affected farmers in the wake of damage to crops by other notified natural calamities.
  - However, expenditure on aerial spray of pesticides for pest control will be met under the ongoing Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, as spraying is required to be done on larger areas and not on field to field basis, owned by the individual farmers.
29. (i) Fire
- Norms for Existing Natural Calamity of Fire**
- Assistance in the wake of accidental fire may be provided for loss/damage to lives, limbs, crops, property etc. In inhabited areas as per the items and norms applicable in the wake of other notified natural calamities.
  - The eligibility of assistance as per above criteria is to be certified by the Competent Authority of the State.
  - The Incident relating to Forest fire may be covered to some extent under the Scheme of the Ministry of Environment & Forests i.e. Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, Relief assistance will be provided to the people affected due to forest fire for loss/damage to lives, limbs, crops, property etc. as per the items and norms applicable in the wake of other notified natural calamities, to the extent, such losses are not covered under the Integrated Forests Protection Scheme.
  - With regard to Fire incidents relating to industrial, commercial installations, these are required to be covered under insurance.

**APPENDIX**  
(to item No. 18)

**Illustrative List of activities identified as of an immediate nature.**

**1. Drinking Water Supply:**

- (i) Repair of damaged platforms of Hand pumps/ Ring wells/Spring-tapped chambers/Public stand posts, cisterns.
- (ii) Restoration of damaged stand posts including replacement of damaged pipe lengths with new pipe lengths, cleaning of clear water reservoir (to make it leak proof).

- (iii) Repair of damaged pumping machines, leaking overhead reservoirs and water pumps including damaged intake-structures, approach gantries/jetties.

**2. Roads**

- (i) Filling up of breaches and potholes, use of pipe for creating waterways, repair and stone pitching of embankments.
- (ii) Repair of breached culverts.
- (iii) Providing diversions to the damaged/washed out portions of bridges to restore immediate connectivity.

- (iv) Temporary repair of approaches to bridges/embankments of bridges, repair of damaged railing bridges, repair of causeways to restore immediate connectivity, granular sub base, over damaged stretch of roads to restore traffic.

### 3. Irrigation:

- (i) Immediate repair of damaged canal structures and earthen/masonry works of tanks and small reservoirs with the use of cement, sand bags and stones.
- (ii) Repair of weak areas such as piping or rat holes in dam walls/embankments.
- (iii) Removal of vegetative material/building material/debris from canal and drainage system.

### 4. Health

Repair of damaged approach roads, building and electrical lines of PHCs/Community Health Centres.

### 5. Community assets of Panchayat

- a. Repair of Village internal roads
- b. Removal of debris from drainage/sewerage lines
- c. Repair of Internal water supply lines
- d. Repair of street lights
- e. Temporary repair of primary schools, Panchayat ghars, community halls, anganwadi, etc.

#### Unique Identification Numbers

\*340. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to provide unique identification number to all beneficiaries of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has been finalized by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on allocation of such unique identification numbers to the beneficiaries of ESIC; and

(d) the time by which such numbers are likely to be allocated to all the beneficiaries of ESIC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has a system of providing Unique Identification Numbers to Insured Persons covered under the ESI Scheme. This is a continuous process. Laminated Identity Cards bearing such identification number are provided to the Insured Persons. Beneficiaries like family members of the Insured Persons are not separately provided any separate number, but avail themselves of the benefits with reference to the Identification number given for the Insured Person.

An IT roll out plan is in the process of finalisation. The last date for submission of bids is 19th January, 2009. During the roll out and implementation of the project, a suitable computer enabled card will be issued to each Insured Person which would carry the unique identification number so that in case the Insured Persons changes jobs he does not face any difficulty in getting ESI benefits. The estimation of expenditure would be known only after the bids are finalised. The likely time-taken to roll out the plan is 18 months after it is finalised.

*[Translation]*

#### Scientists of ICAR

3251. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of scientists working in research institutes of ICAR have been deployed for unscientific works;

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

(c) the extent to which such deployments are likely to affect the quality of agricultural research; and

(d) the time by which such scientists are likely to be redeployed for research work?

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):** (a) Yes, Sir. In a few cases, the Scientists in the ICAR have been deployed for other than scientific work in addition to their normal scientific work due to administrative exigencies.

(b) No scientists has been assigned other than scientific work on whole time basis. The scientists have been assigned such work in addition to their normal research work only as a stop gap arrangement in the interest of smooth and efficient functioning of the institutes.

(c) It is ensured that in the event of scientists being entrusted additional responsibilities, the quality of research work does not suffer.

(d) Even in cases where scientists have been assigned other than scientific work as additional charge, the scientists continue to be engaged in scientific work. There is, therefore, no question of deploying them back for research work.

*[English]*

#### Unclaimed Amount in Post Offices

3252. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Post Offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of account holders with the Post Offices in the country alongwith the amount deposited therein;

(c) unclaimed amount out of the above lying with the Post Offices; and

(d) the manner in which the said amount is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Total number of Post Offices in the country is 1,55,035 (as on 31.03.2008). State/Circle-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Total number of account holders with the Post Offices is 17,47,19,458 and the amount deposited therein is Rs. 3,45,434.15 crores as on 31.03.2008.

(c) and (d) No amount is lying unclaimed with Post Offices, as the depositors/claimants are free to claim their amount at any point of time. All the funds collected under Post Office Savings Schemes by post offices are transferred to Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs who utilize these funds for development and other purposes.

#### Statement

##### Category-wise Post Offices as on 31.3.2008

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	HOs		SOs		EDSOs		EDBOs		Total		Total No. of POs
		Urban	Rural									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	98	6	981	1352	12	19	196	13485	1287	14862	161498
2.	Assam	19	0	222	182	0	35	57	3292	298	3709	4007
3.	Bihar	30	1	367	645	18	81	17	7898	432	8625	9057
4.	Chhattisgarh	10	0	195	128	0	0	18	2772	223	2900	3123
5.	Delhi	12	0	406	4	10	9	62	68	490	81	571
6.	Gujarat	34	0	635	638	0	33	58	7515	727	8186	8913

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Daman and Diu	0	0	4	3	0	0	0	12	4	15	19
	Dadar Nagar Haveli	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	34	1	37	38
7.	Haryana	6	0	293	178	3	11	12	2140	324	2329	2653
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15	3	100	343	4	14	0	2298	119	2658	2777
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	9	0	175	74	11	11	32	1379	227	1464	1691
10.	Jharkhand	13	0	226	209	11	17	22	2593	272	2819	3091
11.	Karnataka	59	0	926	803	11	24	261	7742	1257	8569	9826
12.	Kerala	45	6	485	959	69	394	308	2790	907	4149	5056
	Lakshdweep	0	0	0	7	0	2	0	1	0	10	10
	Mahe	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4	0	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	42	0	692	323	33	33	93	7107	860	7463	8323
14.	Maharashtra	59	nil	1107	954	10	108	108	10249	1284	11311	12595
	Goa	2	0	45	57	0	3	7	144	54	204	258
15.	North East:											
	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0	17	31	0	0	0	251	18	282	300
	Manipur	1	0	11	42	0	0	0	643	12	685	697
	Meghalaya	2	0	26	35	0	0	2	423	30	458	488
	Mizoram	1	0	23	17	2	3	32	327	58	347	405
	Nagaland	1	0	15	27	0	0	10	275	26	302	328
	Tripura	3	0	29	53	2	7	24	598	58	658	716
16.	Orissa	35	0	519	638	9	49	16	6896	579	7583	8182
17.	Punjab	21	0	420	325	0	8	11	3076	452	3409	3861
	Chandigarh	1	0	40	2	0	1	0	6	41	9	50
18.	Rajasthan	46	2	593	692	2	20	33	8930	674	9644	10318
19.	Tamil Nadu	92	0	1356	1308	27	175	334	8728	1809	10211	12020
	Pondicherry	1	0	23	9	0	0	13	49	37	58	95
20.	Uttarakhand	13	0	190	181	5	73	10	2242	218	2496	2714
21.	Uttar Pradesh	71	0	1614	855	109	263	152	14598	1946	15716	17662
22.	West Bengal	45	0	945	714	81	251	38	6674	1109	7639	8748
	Andaman Nicobar	1	0	10	16	1	5	0	68	12	89	101
	Sikkim	1	0	12	10	0	0	0	186	13	196	209
	<b>Total</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12704</b>	<b>12017</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>125489</b>	<b>15862</b>	<b>139173</b>	<b>155035</b>

**Agro-Meteorological Advisory Service  
for Farmers**

3253. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a new Agro-Meteorological Advisory Service to offer advice to farmers and ensure higher agricultural productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the said service is likely to benefit the farmers?

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): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has launched District level Agro-meteorological Advisory Service (DAAS) in India since 1st June, 2008 (beginning of monsoon season) for providing more precise advise to farmers. India Meteorological Department (IMD) in the Ministry of Earth Sciences has started district level quantitative weather forecast upto 5 days from 1st June, 2008, and the products comprise of forecasts for 7 weather parameters viz., rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures, wind speed and direction, relative humidity and cloudiness. In addition, weekly cumulative rainfall forecast is also provided. Based on these forecast products and the available crop information, district-wise agro-advisories are prepared. These advisories are disseminated to the farmers through mass media dissemination (All India Radio, Doordarshan, Print media) as well as Internet (web pages of IMD, State Agricultural Universities etc.) through district level intermediaries.

(c) This service enables the farmers to take timely decision on intercultural operations at field levels. Intercultural operations include cultivar selection, land preparation, seed treatment, sowing, irrigation scheduling, fertilization applications, hoeing & weeding, pesticide/insecticides spray, harvest and post harvest activities.

*[Translation]*

**Minimum Wages to Sulabh International Workers**

3254. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees/labourers working in the Sulabh International Social Service Organisation at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the employees/labourers working in the said organisation are not being given the minimum wages and other amenities; and

(c) if so, the details of inquiries in respect of the said organisation conducted by the Union Government during each of the last three years and the current year, alongwith outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Since Sulabh International Social Service Organisation is a Social Service Organisation, the information about the number of employees/labourers working therein is not maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

The Government of India has fixed the minimum rates of wages for workers employed in the scheduled employment "Employment of Sweeping and Cleaning excluding activities prohibited under the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1933" at Rs. 120/- Rs. 150/- and Rs. 180/- per day for Area 'C', 'B' and 'A' respectively in the Central sphere vide Notification S.O. No. 1994 (E) dated 7th August, 2008.

The statement showing the Rates of Minimum Wages for Safai Karmcharis under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in different States/Union Territories is enclosed.

**Statement***Rates of Minimum Wages for Safai Karamcharis under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in different States/Union Territories*

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Category of Workers	Minimum wages per day (in Rs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Sweeper	114.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Sweeper	55.00
3.	Assam	Sweeper	79.60
4.	Bihar	Sweeper	89.00
5.	Goa	Sweeper	103.00
6.	Gujarat	Sweeper/Scavenger	103.40
7.	Haryana	Sweeper	138.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Sweeper	100.00
9.	Jharkhand	Sweeper	89.81
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sweeper	66.00
11.	Karnataka	Sweeper/Scavenger	96.88
12.	Kerala	Sweeper	106.52
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Sweeper	122.87
14.	Maharashtra	Sweeper scavengers	
		Zone-I	138.96
		Zone-II	135.11
		Zone-III	131.26
15.	Manipur	Sweeper	72.40
16.	Mizoram	Sweeper	103.00
17.	Nagaland	Sweeper	66.00
18.	Punjab	Sweeper	102.60
19.	Rajasthan	Sweeper	100.00
20.	Sikkim	Sweeper (Safaikaramchari)	100.00
21.	Tamil Nadu	Sweeper	78.88
22.	Tripura	Safaikaramchari	85.00

1	2	3	4
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Sweeper	113.70
24.	Uttaranchal	Sweeper	106.04
25.	West Bengal	Sweeper	121.19
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Sweeper	
		District 'Andaman'	130.00
		District 'Nicobar'	139.00
27.	Chandigarh	Sweeping	136.40
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Sweeper	99.80
29.	Daman and Diu	Sweeper	95.00
30.	Delhi	Sweeper	142.00
31.	Lakshadweep	Sweeper	71.80
32.	Puducherry	Sweeper	78.00

*[English]*

**Medical Insurance Scheme for Contract Labourers**

3255. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a proposal to compensate the contract labourers, on retrenchment from job;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to bring the said labourers under the Medical Insurance Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(f) the number of said labourers likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The workers employed as Contract Labourers are governed by the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Contract

Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Central Rules, 1971. They are employed for a specific period under the contract and there is no proposal to compensate the contract labourers on retrenchment from job.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) There is no new scheme under consideration for providing medical insurance to contract labourers. However, all the contract labourers working in establishments registered with ESI are covered under ESI Schemes.

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of Signal Towers**

3256. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Signal Towers set up by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Gujarat;

(b) whether the said signal towers are adequate for providing telephone and mobile services in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding the inconvenience caused to the people by the said towers;

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

(f) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, BSNL has set up 2,376 mobile towers in Gujarat as on 16.12.2008.

(b) and (c) All district and Tehsil Headquarters and 10,012 villages out of 188,632 are presently covered in Gujarat Telecom Circle by mobile network as on 16.12.2008. Further, BSNL plans to expand the mobile service coverage to all the villages having population more than 1000 progressively in next three years.

(d) to (f) General complaints have been received regarding health hazards & related issues. However as per the studies of World Health Organisation as well as Indian Council of Medical Research, no adverse effects on health due to radiation caused by mobile telephone towers have been proved so far. Government has adopted the guidelines issued by International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) regarding Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) for mobile phones and reference levels for limiting Electro Magnetic Emission.

*[English]*

#### **Introduction of Convergence Technology**

3257. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of convergence of web and other value added services, being introduced in the country, through new mobile handsets alongwith the impact thereof on the subscribers mainly for voice transactions;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take suitable steps to safeguard the interests of common man, especially in rural areas and regulate the induction of new technology to protect mobile consumers and ensure

lower rental rates and call charges offered by the service providers to finance the convergence technology; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Convergence of data, voice and multimedia is a result of continuous technological upgradation & innovations. The various features are added by service providers, solution providers, equipment vendors and content developers to meet the subscriber's perceptions and expectations. Voice, data & multimedia are three different applications and subscriber is free to choose any service according to his requirement. Therefore, there is no established transactions.

(b) and (c) Various technology options and tariff plans are available to suit various segment of subscribers. Government encourages introduction of new technologies and services across the country including rural areas. There is no proposal to regulate induction of new technology. The introduction of new technology and services offers voice along with rich value added services which propels the growth and is making mobile handsets more affordable and within reach of common man.

#### **Staff Strength of HAL**

3258. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Category-wise;

(b) whether a number of its officers have left their jobs in the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the HAL has taken any steps to re-call the officers who left their jobs in the recent past;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to further improve the performance of the HAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) The total staff strength (Regular Employees) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited as on 31.10.2008 is as under:-

Category	No. of Employees
A	7917
B	1888
C	24705
D	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>34582</b>

2. The number of officers who have resigned from the Company from 2004 onwards are as follows:

Cadre	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 (upto 1st November, 2008)
Junior Management	122	279	398	220	120
Middle Management	10	28	64	55	38
Senior Management	3	10	16	7	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>161</b>

3. A concise advertisement was released in March, 2008 in the Press and a detailed advertisement was hosted on the Company's website seeking ex-HAL officers to join back the Company in different disciplines.

The following steps have been taken to further improve the performance of HAL:

- (i) Separate dedicated facilities have been created for different Divisions.
- (ii) Upgradation and modernization of the Divisions through Technology Transfer.

- (iii) Implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) to streamline the business processes.
- (iv) Involvement of Indian Private Industries to participate in its Design & Production Programmes.
- (v) Lean initiative has been implemented in the Company.

[Translation]

#### Allocation for Agriculture

3259. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent/to be spent on agriculture in the country during the last three years and the current year and its percentage share in the Gross Domestic Product; and

(b) the amount allocated/proposed to be allocated to Gujarat for agriculture and dairy development during the said period and achievement made therein?

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): (a) The total plan outlay of Ministry of Agriculture Department-wise and its percentage share in the Gross Domestic product is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) The amount allocated and released to Gujarat State for agriculture under Centrally Sponsored Schemes during 2005-06 to 2007-08 and current financial year 2008-09 and financial achievement thereon is attached as statement-II. The amount released to Gujarat State for Dairy Development during 2005-06 to 2007-08 and current financial year 2008-09 is enclosed as statement-III.

#### Statement I

*Plan Outlay of the Ministry of Agriculture Department-wise during 2005-06 to 2007-08 and current financial year 2008-09*

Table 1

Sl.No.	Name of Deptt.	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	4209.32	4840.00	5580.00	10105.67
2.	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries	669.00	777.00	910.00	1000.00
3.	Department of Agriculture Research & Education	1150.00	1350.00	1620.00	17660.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6028.32</b>	<b>6967.00</b>	<b>8090.00</b>	<b>12865.67</b>

\*Plan Outlay of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation inclusive State Plan schemes (i) Watershed Development in shifting Cultivation Area in North Eastern States (ii) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

**Table 2**

Percentage share of Agriculture and Allied Sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Agriculture & Allied Sectors	Total GDP	Agriculture & Allied Sectors (%)
2005-06	511013	2612847	19.6
2006-07	530236	2864309	18.5
2007-08	554336	3122862	17.7

**Statement II**

*Details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Coop. in the State of Gujarat*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2005-06			2006-07			2007-08			2008-09		
		All.	Rel.	Exp.	All.	Rel.	Exp.	All.	Rel.	Exp.	All.	Rel.	Exp.
1.	Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms (ATMA)	219.50	116.00	14.67	429.75	194.00	71.36	1042.03	311.21	239.75	596.00	189.39	67.86
2.	National Horticulture Mission (NHM)	6844.00	3239.28	1011.24	8796.00	2577.03	2823.55	6917.86	1954.24	3357.00	8600.00	2131.83	589.17
3.	Micro Irrigation	2182.01	2182.01	701.17	8825.74	3355.90	3930.75	16510.99	7349.80	5200.55	15077.31	3927.00	2386.99
4.	National Food Security Mission	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	737.25	737.25	79.41	2155.41	832.89	10.00
5.	Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)	750.00	812.42	658.11	1200.00	1095.11	1072.18	1500.00	1372.18	1249.12	1650.00	1080.23	633.92
6.	Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme	2200.00	4850.00	39803.82	2170.00	2330.84	5571.82	2400.00	5771.85	5382.86	3645.00	1822.50	1707.92
7.	Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM)	1850.00	1850.00	1714.06	975.00	975.00	1648.42	1000.01	000.0	1663.83	800.00	200.00	0.00
8.	Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	5371.00	4981.00	4576.00	24329.00	11451.00	0.00

Note: \$ The Scheme is being implemented w.e.f. 2007-08.

**Statement III**

*There is no state-wise allocation of funds under dairy development schemes. However the details of funds released to Gujarat State under dairy development scheme to Gujarat State during last three years and current year*

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of Schemes	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 Upto 30.11.2008
1.	Strengthening infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production (CMP)	251.25	113.28	342.42	396.52
2.	Dairy Venture Capital Fund*	6.50	1.59	0.000	0.000
	Total	257.75	114.87	342.42	396.52

\*Interest free loan disbursed by NABARD under the scheme.

**Committee on Wages and Service Conditions**

3260. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any commission or high powered Tripartite Committee is working to fix wages and service conditions of Public Sector Undertaking employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a similar commission/committee has been set up to fix the wages and service conditions of the employees working in textiles, engineering, paper, sugar and distillery industries in the private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Labour and Employment has constituted Industrial Tripartite Committees (ITCs), one each for Cotton Textiles, Jute, Road transport, Electricity Generation and Distribution, Engineering, Sugar and Plantation industry. These are non-statutory Standing Committees constituted with the objective of providing a

forum whereby the social partners through dialogue can appreciate the problems of industries and workers affected by economic reforms.

*[English]*

**Classification of Gram Panchayats**

3261. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently classified certain Gram Panchayats as urban;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria adopted therein;

(c) whether the rent on telephone has been hiked and number of free calls reduced on the basis of this classifications; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has not classified any gram Panchayat.

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

**Extraction of Bio-Fuel by Defence Laboratory**

3262. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur (Assam) has developed a system to extract bio-fuel from micro algae available in ponds and fields of North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to carry on further research and gauge the potential of this resource?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) The Defence Research Laboratory, Tezpur is trying to identify a fresh water algal strain in North Eastern Region as a source of higher lipid content which can be converted into bio-diesel. The Laboratory is collecting samples of micro algae from different districts in North East for identification of a strain which has higher amount of lipid contents for bio-fuel production.

**Decline in Sales of Computers**

3263. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the sale of computers have registered sharp decline during the current year in comparison to the previous years in the country;

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

(c) whether steps have been taken to boost the sale of computers in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) According to Manufacturers Association for Information Technology (MAIT), the growth of sales of Personal Computers (PC) in the country is estimated to be 4% during January-December, 2008, as compared to a growth of 16% during the corresponding period last year. The decline is owing to two reasons. On the one hand, strengthening of US

Dollar against the Rupee in the last six months has lead to increased cost of imported inputs, while on the other, the global economic slowdown, is now impacting domestic consumption in India.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to promote electronics hardware manufacturing including computers, in the country, as listed in the enclosed statement. Specifically, excise duty on computers has been reduced from 12% to 8%. Microprocessors, Hard Disc drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives are exempted from excise duty. These steps have been taken to bring down the cost of computers and hence, boost the sales of computers in the country.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Government initiatives to promote electronics hardware manufacturing*

**1. Foreign Direct Investment:**

— Approvals for all foreign direct investment upto 100% in the electronics hardware manufacturing sector are under the automatic route.

**2. Customs Duty:**

— Peak rate of customs duty is 10%. Customs duty on 217 Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) Items has been abolished from 1.3.2005.

— All goods required in manufacture of ITA-1 Items have been exempted from customs duty subject to Actual user condition.

— Customs Duty on specified raw materials/inputs used for manufacture of electronic components and optical fibres/cables is 0%.

— Customs duty on specified capital goods used for manufacture of electronic goods is 0%.

**2. Excise Duty:**

— The general rate of excise duty (CENVAT) has been reduced from 14% to 10%. Excise duty on computers is 8%.

- Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives, CD ROM Drives, DVD Drives/DVD Writers, Flash Memory and Combo-Drives have been exempted from excise duty.
- Parts, components and accessories of mobile handsets including cellular phones are exempted from excise duty.

### 3. Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS):

- A Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS) to encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India, has been announced by the Government *vide* Gazette Notification dated 21st March, 2007. A set of guidelines have also been issued on 14.9.2007.

### 5. Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG):

- Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme (EPCG) allows import of capital goods on payment of 3% customs duty.
- The export obligation under EPCG Scheme can also be fulfilled by the supply of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) items to the DTA provided the realization is in free foreign exchange.

### 6. Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) Items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA):

- Supplies of Information Technology Agreement (ITA-1) Items and notified zero duty telecom/electronic items in units are counted for the purpose of fulfillment of positive Net Foreign Exchange Earnings (NFE).

### 7. Special Economic Zones (SEZs):

- Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are being set up to enable hassle free manufacturing and trading for export purposes.
- Sales from Domestic Tariff Area (DTA) to SEZs are being treated as physical export. This entitles domestic suppliers to Drawback/DEPB benefits, CST exemption and Service Tax exemption.

- 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profits for 5 years thereafter.

### 8. Second hand capital goods:

- Second hand capital goods are freely importable.

### 9. The Foreign Trade Policy for Electronics & IT products has been liberalized.

### 10. Simplification of Procedures:

- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) has been implemented by customs and is under implementation by central excise. Applications related to Foreign Trade like IEC Code, EPCG, Advance Licence, etc. can be filed electronically with the DGFT.

### 11. Promotion of Research & Development

- Weighted deduction of 150% of expenditure incurred on in-house R&D in case of a company engaged in the business of electronic equipment, computers and telecommunication equipment is available under clause (1) of sub-section (2AB) of Section 35 of the Income Tax Act.

Department of Information Technology has put in place the following Schemes.

- **Support International Patent Protection in Electronics & IT (SIP-EIT):** Under this scheme SMEs and Technology Start-up units will be reimbursed costs incurred in filing international patent applications in Electronics & ICT domain for their indigenous inventions to the extent of 50% of the actual cost incurred by the applicant on filing International Patent, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs per application.
- **Multiplier Grants Scheme:** The objective of the scheme is to encourage industry to collaborate with premier Academic and Government R&D institutions for development of innovative and commercially viable products/packages. Under this scheme, the Government would provide grants up to the maximum of twice the amount invested by the industry/industry consortium/association towards the innovation at academic/R&D institution.

- **Scheme for Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE) in the area of Electronics, ICT and management:** The Scheme aims to assist Institutions of Higher learning (IITs, IIMs, IIITs and NITs) to strengthen their Technology Incubation Centres and thus enable young entrepreneurs to initiate technology start up companies for commercial exploitation of technologies developed by them.

#### Impact of Child Labour Schemes

3264. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons/children benefited under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) and other poverty alleviation and income generation schemes;

(b) whether any study/survey has been conducted by the Union Government to ascertain the impact of the said schemes in eradication of child labour; and

- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Project (NCLP), so far, 4.83 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system. The number of beneficiaries assisted/employment generated (mandays) under different Poverty Alleviation and Income Generation schemes are as under:

Name of the Scheme	Activity	No. of beneficiaries
Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana	Number of urban poor assisted to set up individual/group micro enterprises for self employment (since 1.12.1997 and as on 10.12.2008)	1217978
	Number of urban poor imparted Skill training (since 1.12.1997 and as on 10.12.2008)	1359916
Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yozana	Swarozgaries assisted living below the poverty line during 2007-08 (as per the reports received as on 22.05.2008)	1410007
National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	Employment generated during 2007-08 (as per the reports received as on 22.05.2008)	14344.92 lakh mandays.
Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yozana	Employment generated during 2007-08 (as per the reports received as on 22.05.2008)	2017.78 lakh mandays

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. Government had conducted evaluation of the NCLP scheme to ascertain the impact of the said scheme. The major findings of the said evaluation are given in the enclosed statement. However, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Ministry of Rural Development have not conducted any study/survey specifically to ascertain the impact on eradication of child labour.

#### **Statement**

- In most areas, the community has welcomed the opening of the NCLP schools/centres, which have provided an opportunity to fulfill the specific educational, needs of the identified target group. The special schools need to be continued and should be relocated to areas where they are most required.
- The enrolment rate has been as high as 95% with attendance rate averaging at 75%. The projects have made a fair impact in the areas where they are being run.
- Selection of teachers is crucial to the success of the programme. Where they have been systematically trained, the project has shown very positive results.
- Stipend and nutrition at school were important determinants for enrolment and retention of children in school.
- One of the primary objective of the project is to mainstream as many children as possible into the formal school system. The position regarding mainstreaming showed a varied picture. While schools using the formal school curriculum have shown better levels of mainstreaming, schools using the non-formal curriculum have also managed to successfully mainstream students.
- Vocational training in most projects suffers from a paucity of funds and is not based on a scientific need based assessment of the labour demand in the area.
- Aspects of awareness generation, convergence and infrastructure in the schools need to be paid more attention.
- There is need for a full time project Director for the project.
- A systematic plan of action needs to be drawn up for follow up with children who have been mainstreamed.

- The scheme of NCLPs remains the most powerful intervention available to the Government to combat the menace of child labour. The time is crucial for consolidation and expansion with certain modifications in structure and content.

#### **Production of Oilseeds**

3265. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding production of oilseeds in the country during the last three years and the current year, crop-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether per acre productivity of oilseeds in the country is very low in comparison to other countries; and

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

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): (a) The State-wise and crop-wise estimates of production of major oilseeds in the country during 2005-06 to 2008-09 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports, the productivity (yield) of oilseeds in India is significantly lower in comparison to other major oilseeds producing countries such as Russia, Cambodia, Austria, Bulgaria, etc.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided on 75:25 basis between the Government of India and the State Governments for Production of breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development, integrated Pest Management etc. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies and improved varieties/hybrids in oilseeds are also being conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology efforts among the farmers.

**Statement***State-wise and Crop-wise Estimates of production of major oilseeds in India during 2005-06 to 2008-09*

('000 Tonnes)

State	Groundnut				Soyabean				Rapeseed & Mustard**			Oilseeds			
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2008-09†	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2008-09†	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08*	2008-09†
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Andhra Pradesh	1366.0	743.0	2539.0	1430.0	191.0	156.0	172.0	252.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2041.0	1362.0	3309.0	1854.0
Arunachal Pradesh	NG	NG	NG	NG	3.6	3.6	#	#	18.4	18.4	#	22.7	22.7	#	#
Assam	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	97.0	116.0	114.0	113.2	134.0	132.0	14.0
Bihar	0.5	0.5	1.0	0.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	76.0	89.4	73.0	136.5	147.4	131.0	5.0
Chhattisgarh	31.6	21.1	35.0	18.0	36.8	68.3	80.0	44.0	18.9	23.5	21.0	126.5	161.4	175.0	75.0
Goa	7.9	4.6	#	#	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	7.9	4.6	#	#
Gujarat	3389.0	1435.0	3355.0	2893.0	29.0	26.0	26.0	65.0	456.0	504.0	512.0	4682.0	2569.0	4747.0	3742.0
Haryana	2.2	2.1	3.0	3.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	792.0	802.0	599.0	825.2	834.6	646.0	9.0
Himachal Pradesh	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.4	1.0	1.0	2.8	4.5	5.0	5.2	7.1	7.0	2.0
Jammu and Kashmir			0.0	0.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	1.3	37.0	37.0	2.7	42.3	40.0	1.0
Jharkhand			15.0	7.0		0.1	0.0	0.0		33.4	37.0	8.5	50.0	67.0	10.0
Karnataka	671.0	379.0	685.0	330.0	71.0	94.0	94.0	121.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	1715.0	1125.0	1457.0	661.0
Kerala	2.4	3.0	3.0	3.0			0.0		NG	NG	NG	2.6	3.2	3.0	3.0
Madhya Pradesh	234.4	193.4	187.0	150.0	4500.7	4784.9	4491.5	5434.0	647.5	693.4	629.0	5721.9	5814.2	5354.0	5650.0
Maharashtra	410.0	399.0	482.0	230.0	2527.0	2982.0	3961.0	3072.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	3373.0	3721.0	4858.0	3381.0
Manipur	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.1	0.1	#	0.7	0.7	#	#
Meghalaya	NG	NG	NG	NG	1.0	1.0	#	#	4.8	4.8	#	6.7	6.6	#	#
Mizoram	NG	NG	NG	NG	2.7	2.0	#	#	1.0	0.3	#	5.4	3.8	#	#
Nagaland	0.8	1.0	#	#	32.0	30.6	#	#	21.2	20.7	#	62.8	62.6	#	#
Orissa	106.3	87.7	102.0	30.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	3.3	2.6	3.0	187.7	175.1	199.0	80.0
Punjab	3.0	3.8	3.0	4.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	54.0	46.0	34.0	89.6	78.2	73.0	8.0
Rajasthan	491.0	395.7	477.0	317.0	856.3	771.3	1071.0	883.0	4416.9	3805.6	2506.0	5964.0	5196.8	4341.0	1463.0
Sikkim	NG	NG	NG	NG	3.3	3.3	#	#	3.9	3.9	#	7.2	7.2	#	#
Tamil Nadu	1098.2	1006.5	1297.0	588.0	NG	NG	NG	NG	0.1	0.1	0.0	1152.9	1083.5	1433.0	653.0
Tripura	0.8	0.6	#	#	NG	NG	NG	NG	2.3	1.4	#	3.9	3.1	#	#
Uttar Pradesh	90.5	73.0	59.0	79.0	3.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	907.8	873.8	916.0	1066.5	1033.3	1024.0	110.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Uttaranchal	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	15.0	10.0	19.0	19.0	12.0	9.0	9.0	30.0	21.0	30.0	22.0
West Bengal	83.1	98.3	108.0	2.0	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.0	383.0	338.6	346.0	810.4	645.4	670.0	139.0
Dadara and Nagar Haveli	NG	0.1	0.1	#	#										
Delhi	NG	2.9	0.3	#	2.9	0.3	#	#							
Pondicherry	3.1	3.1	#	#	NG	3.2	3.2	#	#						
Others	NG	NG	11.0	7.0	NG	NG	46.0	47.0			55.0			130.0	64.0
All India	7993.3	4863.5	9363.0	6065.0	8273.5	8850.8	9986.5	9942.0	8131.2	7437.8	5903.0	27977.9	24289.4	28826.0	17947.0

\*4th Advance Estimates released on 09.07.2008.

\*\* Rapessed & Mustard being rabi crop, the estimated production for 2008-09 is not available so far.

\$ 1st Advance Estimates released on 25.09.2008 (Kharif Only).

# Included in others.

NG—Not Grown, NA: Not Applicable.

[Translation]

#### National Horticulture Mission

3266. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a special project under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) to promote horticulture in the country including Himachal Pradesh in view of its favourable geographical and environmental conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of the States proposed to be covered under the said project?

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): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation had launched two Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development of horticulture in the country (1) Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States in the year 2001-02, namely: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and was extended to Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during the year 2003-04. (2) National Horticulture Mission, launched during the year 2005-06, which is being implemented in the remaining States and UTs.

The activities taken up under these schemes are to promote horticulture including production of quality planting material, area expansion of various horticulture crops, rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, adoption of organic farming, integrated pest management, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, training, post harvest management, marketing and processing.

#### Trainer Aircraft In Air Force

3267. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of state-of-the-art trainer aircraft in the Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to improve the quality of training in view of the fact that most accidents occur due to human error; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) All the trainer aircraft in the Indian Air Force have been in service for nearly 25 years except for the recently inducted Hawk Mk-132 aircraft. Proposals are being progressed for procurement of additional Hawk aircraft and Intermediate jet Trainer as well as for replacement of the existing HPT 32 trainer aircraft to modernize the trainer fleet of the IAF.

(c) and (d) Several steps have been taken to enhance the quality of training including induction of simulators and improvement of training syllabi in the training establishments so as to enable the trainer pilot to be adequately prepared for flying the aircraft and handle modern on-board cockpit systems with greater proficiency.

[English]

#### Opening of Railway Mail Service Sections

3268. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway Mail Service (RMS) sections for sorting purpose which are functioning in the country at present;

(b) the total number of said sections closed so far;

(c) whether there is any plan to open more RMS sections for sorting purposes in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) At present, no Railway Mail Service (RMS) Section for sorting purposes is functioning in the country.

(b) All Railways Mail Sorting Sections were closed by the Department as a policy measure.

(c) There is no plan to open any RMS Sorting Sections in the country.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

#### Contract Labourers in DMS

3269. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) has engaged a large number of contract labourers for its operation;

(b) if so, the number of contract labourers engaged during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) the payment made to contractors alongwith the wages actually paid to contract labourers during the said period;

(d) whether the contract labourers are getting Minimum Wages are prescribed under Minimum Wage Act, 1948;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the said labourers are getting all the facilities at par with the regular employees of DMS; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to stop the exploitation of contract labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. The Delhi Milk Scheme has informed that it has not engaged any contract labourer during the last four years. However, some of the activities like Packaging of milk in polypacks, washing of crates, transportation of milk and milk products and batch coding of milk pouches etc. have been outsourced on job work basis.

(b) to (g) Any establishment, employing contract labour under the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 has to ensure minimum wages (if the employment is a scheduled one under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948) and other benefits as per the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. Where reports of violation of the provisions of the Act are received, the office of Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) takes action in the context of the establishments coming under Central Government. For the States, the said Act is implemented by the labour departments of respective State Governments.

#### Amendment in Seed Laws

3270. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:  
SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend seed laws to provide for the establishment of a National Seeds Board and compulsory registration of different varieties;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which it is likely to benefit the farmers?

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): (a) and (b) There is a provision under the Seeds Bill, 2004 for compulsory registration of crop/varieties, which are indented to be sold in the market. The powers of registration will be vested in an Authority called Central Seed Committee. However, there is no provision to set up a National Seeds Board.

(c) The farmers will have the right to save, use, exchange, share or sell seed without registration. However, the farmers will benefit from registration of different varieties as under:-

- (i) Regulation of seeds and planting materials of all agricultural, horticultural, plantations crops etc. will ensure availability of true to type seeds to the farmers;
- (ii) Registration requires labeling of expected performance of seeds. The farmers will be assured of quality of seeds purchased by them;
- (iii) In case the seed fails to provide the expected performance, the farmers can claim compensation;
- (iv) Registration will help to check sale of spurious and poor quality seeds;
- (v) Registration will facilitate import and export of seeds and planting materials by ensuring quality.

*[Translation]*

#### **Production and Export of Rice**

3271. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of rice during the ensuing Kharif season;

(b) whether the Government proposes to export rice and increase its allocation under Price Distribution System in view of its likely surplus availability in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) As per the 1st Advance Estimate of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the estimated production of rice during the ensuing Kharif season is 83.25 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The demand and supply projection of rice for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are as under:-

(in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Supply
2008-09	92.87	93.9
2009-10	94.83	95.5

As per these projections, the estimated supply of rice is just sufficient to meet the domestic requirement. Hence, the Government has decided to ban the export of non-basmati rice and allow the export of basmati rice with Minimum Export Price of US \$ 1200 per MT with export duty of Rs. 8000/- per MT. At present there is no proposal to increase the allocation of rice under Public Distribution System.

*[English]*

#### **Profit by the Department of Posts**

3272. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenue generated and expenditure incurred by the Department of Posts during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the Department of Posts attractive and profit earning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Revenue and expenditure for the last three years and current year is as detailed below:

Year	Revenue (Rs. Crores)	Expenditure (Rs. Crores)
2005-06	5023.49	6429.15
2006-07	5322.44	6779.12
2007-08	5494.90	7272.66
2008-09 (estimated)	6159.31	7535.50
Gross amount up to October, 2008	1786.25	4910.94

(b) The Department has computerized 9639 post offices till 31.03.2008. In order to make the postal services more attractive the Department has modernized 2504 Post Offices till the end of 10th Five Year Plan. A freighter aircraft has also been chartered from Air India to improve delivery services in the North East Sector. Initiatives are being taken to develop partnerships with public and private organizations aimed at leveraging our vast network, especially in rural areas. Rationalization of foreign mail tariff for Letter Post Items has been carried out and is effective from 01.09.2008 with a view to add to the Department's overall revenue. A marketing and publicity effort has also been put in place to make the customers aware of the services made available by the Department.

#### Farmers' Congress

3273. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has organized a Farmers' Congress recently in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which farmers are likely to be benefited by such initiatives especially in West Bengal?

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): (a) to (c) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has not organized any Farmers' Congress recently. However, the Government of West Bengal organized 2nd Green Revolution Summit & Expo from 24th to 26th September, 2008 at Kolkata in collaboration with the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Farmers across the state attended the

Summit and visited the different pavilions. The farmers were benefited by knowing the use of modern agricultural machineries, cultivation of diversified crops, organic farming, tissue culture and modern technologies for new crops cultivation etc.

#### Rehabilitation Package for Farmers

3274. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been detected in the implementation of rehabilitation package for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial action taken thereon;

(c) whether certain States including Karnataka have sought additional funds for the suicide prone districts; and

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

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): (a) and (b) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Gopal Reddy, Director General, Vasantao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, Amravati has been constituted by the Government of Maharashtra on 15th September, 2008 to enquire into the reports regarding incorrect selection of the beneficiaries under the Central and State Government's rehabilitation packages for the farmers in the identified suicide prone districts of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and to ascertain the truth and take action, if necessary. This Committee has been constituted on receipt of reports from certain quarters including the press about the benefits of Central and State Government's rehabilitation packages not reaching to the intended beneficiaries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Procurement of Aircraft**

3275. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest stats of procurement of 126 aircraft for Air Force;

(b) whether Air Craft manufactures of several countries have submitted their proposals to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the proposals have been technically examined; and

(e) if so, the time by which the procurement is likely to be given final shape?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (e) A response to the Request For Proposal (RFP) relating to procurement of 126 aircraft for the Indian Air Force issued on 27.08.2007 has been received from six vendors. The technical evaluation of the proposal is presently underway. This will be followed by field trials and subsequently commercial negotiations culminating in conclusion of the contract after the approval of the competent authority.

*[English]***Food and Nutritional Security**

3276. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the considerable rise in the prices of foodgrains during the last few years a large number of families in the areas of the country are unable to afford adequate quantity of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether severe food and nutritional scarcity in the country has affected almost half the children under three years of age and more than one-third of women in the country;

(c) if so, whether any integrated approach has been formulated to achieve food and nutritional security in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) Government has protected poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The offtake of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice offtake have going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice offtake have gone up from 242 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 316 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 335.27 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. During the period April-September, 2008, 167.38 lakh tonnes wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 1.7.2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg. for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg. for AAY. For rice it is Rs. 5.65 per kg. for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg. for AAY. As per National Family Health Survey report (2005-06) the proportion of children under three years of age who are underweight decreased from 43 per cent in NFHS-2 to 40 per cent in NFHS-3 and the proportion of ever-married women who are thin has decreased to 33 per cent in NFHS-3 from 36 per cent in NFHS-2.

The Government also contributes to the better health of the masses through a complementary approach towards the food and nutrition component through its various programmes and schemes like:

- (i) **Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme** which is the world's largest programme addressing children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers where ICDS provides the following six services:
- Supplementary Nutrition,
  - Immunization,
  - Health Checkups,
  - Referral services,
  - Pre-school, Education,
  - Nutrition & Health Education.

(ii) Nutrition advocacy and awareness generation programmes of the Food & Nutrition Board

- Nutrition Education and Training for both the masses and ICDS functionaries,
- Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition,
- Providing Fruits & Vegetable Processing facilities,
- Mass Media Communication on nutrition awareness,
- Food Analysis and Standardization.

(iii) The two programmes *viz.* Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojana seek to address the problem of inter-generation cycle of malnutrition by taking care of malnutrition among adolescent girls.

**Local Calls between Delhi and NCR**

3277. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone calls made from Delhi to NCR towns and *vice-versa* are still not treated as local calls and do not materialize without prefixing STD code;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the city code does not enable many landline and mobile phones to get access to these cities due to poor technology or other reasons;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The calls made from MTNL Delhi network to NCR towns and *vice-versa* are materialized by dialing 95 followed by city code and subscriber number as these places are not part of Delhi Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA). This facility is available to all subscribers irrespective of whether they are having STD facility or not.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

**Review in Termination Charges**

3278. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:  
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently directed the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) of review the existing termination charges at the earliest so that mobile call rates may be further reduced; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has suggested to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to undertake a review of mobile termination charges based on present and projected cost and traffic.

[English]

**Sale of Ganga Jal through Post Offices**

3279. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sell Ganga Jal from Gangotri through major Post Offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No Sir, There is no proposal with Business Development & marketing Directorate of Department of Posts to sell Ganga Jal from Gangotri through major Post Offices of the country.

However, Ganga Jal is only being sold at present in Haryana Postal Circle through NIT Head Post Office, Faridabad, Gurgaon Head Post Office, Sarhol Branch Post Office and Gurgaon Village Branch Post Office. A pouch of 200 ml Ganga Jal is sold for Rs. 10/-

#### **Agricultural Ornithology**

3280. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any specific programme/project for the development of Agricultural Ornithology aimed at controlling insects and pests affecting agricultural crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details regarding the breeding of insectivorous birds in the country;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the implementation of such projects during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted any specific proposal in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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): (a) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research launched an All India Coordinated Research Project (AINP) on Agricultural Ornithology in 1982 in view of the importance of birds in agricultural ecosystem.

(b) The project involves multi-location work on birds and development of protection technologies in different agro-climatic regions of the country.

India has 1,225 species of birds. In relation to agriculture, 315 species of birds have been identified out of which 63 species are identified as depredatory birds causing crop losses at various crop stages and the remaining 252 species are considered as insectivorous and help in controlling the various crop pests. Artificial nest boxes have been developed to facilitate breeding and are provided in and around the agricultural crop fields to increase the population of important insectivorous birds. The project has achieved successful breeding of 16 key bird species of agricultural importance.

(c) The details of the budgetary allocation provided under AINP-Agricultural Ornithology during the last three years and the current year, State-wise are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the State	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
Andhra Pradesh	34.41	38.97	20.20	28.47	122.32
Punjab	15.15	15.53	14.23	15.56	60.47
Gujarat	16.66	13.85	14.44	16.99	61.94
Kerala	10.45	9.26	6.80	8.59	35.10

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Enforcement of Quality Standards**

3281. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consumer Education and Research Centre has urged the Union Government to enforce stringent quality check on sub-standard, unsafe foreign consumer products;

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

(c) whether several foreign companies are dumping their sub-standard products in Indian markets; and

(d) if so, the concrete plan formulated by the Government to check entry of such products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per Para 2.2 of Foreign Trade Policy, every importer, in addition to complying with the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act and Foreign Trade Policy, is also required to comply to all domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. Keeping in view public health and safety, 85 products have so far been brought under mandatory certification of Bureau of Indian Standards. Accordingly, such products have to be compulsorily certified by Bureau of Indian Standards under its Certification Scheme for Foreign Manufacturers to ensure their conformance to quality specifications prescribed in the relevant Indian Standards before the same are imported into India.

#### **Setting up of ICT Academy**

3282. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has received request from the Government of Kerala for setting up of an Information and Communications Technology Academy in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The proposals received from State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for setting up of ICT Academy have been approved by Government of India. The objective of these ICT Academies is to train faculty who will impart training to students seeking employment in ICT sector.

#### **Setting up of Postal Development Corporation**

4283. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:  
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:  
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a Postal Development Corporation (DPC) in the country;

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

(c) whether PDC will be set up as Special Purpose Vehicle for commercial development of real estate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) There is no proposal to set up a Postal Development Corporation. However, a proposal for setting up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a wholly owned company with limited liability and 100% equity participation by Government, registered under the Companies Act, 1956, for optimum development and management of Postal Estates is under consideration of Government.

#### **Agricultural Development Fund**

3284. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Radhakrishna Committee has recommended setting up of an Agricultural Development Fund to finance special agricultural developmental programmes in the districts facing agrarian distress;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding other recommendations of the said Committee related to the development of agriculture;

(d) whether the Government has identified the district facing agrarian distress; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) and (b) The Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna has recommended that the unutilized portion of banks' obligation towards priority sector lending to agriculture should be fully transferred directly to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) or to the Central Government by issuing non-transferable Rural Development Bonds (RDBs) for financing agricultural development programmes. The Expert Group has also recommended the implementation of the programmes in 100 agriculturally less developed and distress districts identified for special agricultural development programmes.

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

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

The Report of the Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna has pointed out that the underlying causes of agricultural indebtedness are stagnation in agriculture, production and marketing risks, institutional vacuum and lack of alternative livelihood opportunities in terms of off-farm employment. The report focuses on institutions and instruments that would strengthen the farm credit delivery mechanism. The main recommendations of the Radhakrishna Committee are as under:

1. **Immediate Credit Measures Include:** Implementation of the Prime Minister's Relief Package: The needs of individual households should be taken into account with necessary flexibility. Rescheduling of loan of farmers affected by natural calamities. Credit for Rainfed Areas; Formalisation of informal credit; Inclusion of financially excluded; Project-Based Lending.
2. **Financial Architecture Include:** Agency and Mobile Banking; System of Bharat Kisan credit Card; Reforming Lead Bank Scheme; Credit Counseling for Farmers; Simplifying the Procedure for Mortgages; Simplifying procedure to Reduce Transaction Costs; Computerisation of Records; Integration of Micro Finance

Institutions with the Mainstream Banking; Improved Deployment of RIDF.

3. **Institutional Architecture Include:** Federations of Farmers-SHG's
4. **Risk Mitigation Measures include:** Crop Insurance, Weather Insurance; Price Risk Mitigation; Variable Tariff; Crop Surveillance; Mitigating Risks from Spurious Inputs; Strengthening of Research and Extension Services.
5. **Other Measures include:** Expanding Livelihood Base and Rural Health Facilities.

#### **Mandatory Subscription of EPF**

3285. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory for the Indians working outside the country and the foreigners working here to contribute 12 per cent of their salary to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), irrespective of the contributions they may be making to such schemes in other countries;

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

(c) whether the new rule, which applies to all countries, would immediately and adversely affect employees of those countries that have so far not signed the Social Security Agreements with India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Provision has been made for a specified period in respect of Indian employee having worked or going to work in a foreign country with which India has entered into a Social Security Agreement and being eligible to avail the benefits under a Social Security Programme of that country by virtue of the

eligibility gained or going to gain under the said agreement.

Similarly, an employee other than an Indian employee, holding other than an Indian passport, working for an establishment in India to which the Act applies are to be made members of the EPF and pay applicable contribution.

(c) and (d) The new provision brings in equality of treatment. Exclusion is based on reciprocity.

#### **Indian Trade Organisation**

3286. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the National Commission for Farmers for setting up Indian Trade Organisation (ITO) have been accepted by the Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed ITO and the time by which it is likely to become operational?

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): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Contract Farming**

3287. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign companies are being given an opportunity to enter into contract farming in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also permitted some persons/companies to undertake contract farming of wheat in Australia and its subsequent import to India;

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

(e) whether the Government has made any assessment of its likely impact on the farmers of India;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the domestic farmers?

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): (a) and (b) With a view to promote contract farming as part of the reforms in Agriculture, the Central Government has circulated a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act to the States in 2003 which provides for the registration of contract farming sponsors and recording of contract farming agreements with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) or a prescribed authority under the Act. By now, relevant provisions have been made by several State Government/UTs in their respective APMC Acts for providing a legal framework to contract farming. The Model Act circulated by the Ministry is suggestive in nature, and, since Agriculture is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide on the implementation of the contract farming arrangements in their State. Under the present system of contract farming prevalent in the country, the Indian and foreign companies enter into agreement of purchase of agricultural produce with the producers in informal way. A statement indicating the details of the companies engaged in contract farming in different States is enclosed.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) No. Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

(g) In order to safeguard the interest of domestic farmers entering into contract farming arrangements, suitable provisions have been included in the Model APMC Act formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture in 2003 and circulated to the state Governments for considering suitable amendments in their concerned Act by adopting those provisions. The Model Act provides for registration of contract farming sponsors and recording of contract farming agreement with the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee or a prescribed authority under the Act, protection of title or rights of the farmers over the land

under such contracts, dispute settlement mechanism and a Model draft agreement suggesting various terms and conditions. By now, relevant provisions have been made by 18 States/Union Territories (UTs) in their respective APMC Acts for providing a legal framework to contract farming. In seven States/UTs, there is no APMC Acts

therefore, there is no regulation of contract farming in such States/UTs. The Model Act circulated by the Ministry is suggestive in nature and since agriculture is a State subject, it is for the State Governments to decide on the implementation of the contract farming arrangements in their States.

**Statement**

*Status of Contract Farming*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Multinationals and others under contract farming as reported by the states
1.	Assam	The name of the local industrial house is M/s Kishlay Snack Products, Dewan Patty, Fency Bazar, Guwahati.
2.	Bihar	Golden chips company, Coimbatore Chennai engaged in contract farming in Begusarai district of Bihar.
3.	Goa	Godrej Agrovet Pvt. Ltd. Khadki Velgem Sattari Goa (for oilpalm and Sanjivani Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd, Dharbandora Tisk Usgao, Ponda Goa (for Sugarcane) are engaged in contract farming in state of Goa.
4.	Gujarat	The companies doing contract farming in Gujarat are Agrocell corporation, Mecain India Ltd. and Desai Cold storage.
5.	Haryana	Public sector undertaking Haryana Cooperative Supply and Marketing Federation Ltd. (HAFED) has undertaken contract farming in 795 Acres of Basmati Rice during Kharif 2006 and 621 Acres of Wheat variety C-306.
6.	Mizoram	1. Godrej Agrovet Pvt. Ltd. 2. Food and fertilizers Ltd. 3. Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd. Eco-first India Ltd.
7.	Orissa	The name of the contract farming sponsors are (i) M/s Welspun India Private Ltd. (ii) M/s Super Spinning Mill, (iii) M/s Amit Green acre, and (iv) M/s Eco Farm. The sponsors are Indian Corporate houses. While Sl.No (i) and (ii) are private textile mills SNo. (iii) and (iv) are private firms.
8.	Punjab	The companies engaged in the contract farming programme are Tata Chemicals Ltd. Pepsi Foods Ltd, Mahendra Shubhlabh Services Ltd., Escorts Ltd. Chambal Agritech Ltd, AM Todd Ltd., Hindustan Liver Ltd, Naranjan Rice Exports Pvt. Ltd., KRBL Ltd. etc.
9.	Tamil Nadu	Cotton-Appachi CARE Foundation, Pollachi and Super Spinning Mills, Coimbatore, Shiva Textile Ltd., Coimbatore in coordination with Cotton Corporation of India. Maize-Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd., Udumalpet Pioneer Hatcheries, Pollachi Pongalur Sakthi Chiken Private Ltd., NAFED Jatropha-M/s Mohan Breweries and Distilleries Ltd. Chennai M/s Shiva Distilleries Ltd., Coimbatore Oilam, M/s Kaveri Palm Oil Ltd. Trichy.

\*Source: Based on the information received from the States.

**Services of BSNL in Border Areas**

3288. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited network is not functioning in the areas around the Indo-Nepal border while the network of mobile services operating from Nepal are functioning in such areas;

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

(c) the remedial action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard keeping in view the security concerns in the border regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There were restrictions on the functioning of mobile services as per the Government policy in the "No Service Zone" i.e. 500 meter within the International Border. This policy has been amended in the month of July, 2008. Accordingly, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is progressively providing coverage in these areas. Presently, Indian operators' mobile signals are prescribed to be faded out when nearing or about to cross the international border and to become unusable within a reasonable distance across the border.

*[English]*

**Joint Farming**

3289. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has formulated any scheme for joint farming by groups of farmers collectively owning 1000 acres of land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Grain Storage and Preservation**

3290. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Grain Storage management and Research Institute has evolved any innovative methods for grain storage and preservation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which these methods have helped in avoiding wastage of foodgrains;

(d) whether the Government proposes to open branches of the said Institute in all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) and (b) The Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute (JGMRI) has developed code of practices for safe storage of foodgrains and pulses including coarsegrains. The institute has also developed scientific storage structures viz. metal bins pucca kothi, RCC ring bins and R.B. bins for safe storage of foodgrains. It has also tested insecticides, fumigants and rodenticides for the control of stored grain insect pests and rodents at farm and commercial level.

(c) These improved techniques have helped in reducing post harvest losses in foodgrains considerably. The post harvest losses in wheat which were reported to be 8% in 1966 have come down to the level of 4.75% during study conducted in 1998-99 and 1999-2000 by IGMRI, Hapur.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration to open the branches of Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute in all the States.

*[Translation]*

**Violation of Labour Laws by Five Star Hotels in Delhi**

3291. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regular employees and contract workers/labourers working at preset in five star hotels in Delhi hotel-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received complaints regarding exploitation of the said employees and workers/labourers by the hotel management;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the details of Employees' State Insurance and Employees' Provident Fund amount outstanding against the said hotels during each of the last three years and the current year, hotel-wise;

(e) the number of cases of violation of Labour laws pending in Labour Courts against them during the said period, hotel-wise; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to give relief to the affected regular employees and contract workers/labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Financial Irregularities in EPFO**

3292. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government and the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have received complaints regarding financial irregularities by EPF Commissioner Offices during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Some cases of over payment and irregular payment were detected by the Internal Audit Parties of EPF Organisation.

Information for the last three years, as available in EPFO is given below:-

1. Over Payment: (Rs. in Lakh)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Amount	33.68	52.74	121.12

2. Irregular Payment:

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Amount	150.00	9.43	1.52

(c) and (d) The over-payments Review Committee of EPFO offices reviews such cases and initiate the process to recover the over-payments and losses, if any to the EPFO. In the case of irregular payments action is taken by the field offices by filing FIR with CBI/Police Authorities wherever required.

*[English]*

#### **Pitiable Condition of Cashew Workers**

3293. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of workers/labourers employed in the cashew industry continue to be pitiable despite the progress and development in the industry;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce suitable welfare schemes for the said workers/labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to improve the conditions and provide social security to unorganized workers, including those engaged in cashew sector, thorough various labour laws like the Workmen

compensation Act, 1923; the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Employment State Insurance Act, 1948; the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 which are fully or partially applicable to cashew workers also. With a view to providing social security to all segments unorganized workers, the Government introduced the 'Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008' in Rajya Sabha on 10.09.2007. The Bill has since been passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Bill seeks to provide the formulation of social security schemes for the unorganized workers. The cashew workers, if covered under the definition of unorganized workers, would get benefit of the schemes to be framed for these workers.

The Government launched 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' providing for cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 to BPL families in unorganised sector through smart card. BPL families engaged in cashew industry are also covered under the scheme.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of the 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the 'Aam Admi Bima Yojana'.

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.

*[Translation]*

#### **Licence to Private Telecom Companies**

3294. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions under which licence is granted to private telecom companies;

(b) whether the said conditions have not been fulfilled so far by some companies; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences are granted to registered Indian companies on the terms and conditions of the UAS licence guidelines dated 14.12.2005.

(b) Sir, all the companies who have been awarded UAS licences fulfil the terms & conditions of UAS guidelines dated 14.12.2005.

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

*[English]*

#### **Loss of Foodgrains due to Flood**

3295. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:  
SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of crops and foodgrains were lost due to unprecedented flood during the current year in some parts of the country including Bihar and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated amount of losses;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide relief including waiver of loans, free seeds for further cultivation to those farmers who have lost their entire crop in the flood;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is also extending any relief to those agricultural workers who are entirely dependant for their livelihood on those lands under flood; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Upgradation of ITIs/ITCs**

3297. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training Institutes/Centers (ITIs/ITCs) functioning at present in the country both in the Government and Private sector, separately, state-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to upgrade these ITIs/ITCs with the public-private partnership in the country including Orissa;

(c) if so, the details and present status thereof alongwith funds earmarked for the purpose State-wise;

(d) whether there is a proposal to upgrade these ITIs/ITCs as Centers of Excellence comparable to world standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The total number of ITIs/ITCs being run by Government and Private sectors in the country as on 30th November, 2008 is 6714 (1980 Govt., 4734 Pvt.). State-wise details of ITIs/ITCs along with their seating capacities are enclosed as statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir. For upgradation of Government ITIs, the Central Government launched a Scheme for "Upgradation of 1936 Govt. ITIs through Public Private Partnership" in the country including Orissa in 2007-08;

(c) Under the Scheme, an Industry Partner is associated with each ITI to lead the process of upgradation. An Institute Management Committee (IMC) is set up in the ITI with the Industry Partner or its representative as Chairperson and Principal of the ITI as member secretary. The IMC is registered as a Society and an interest free loan of upto Rs. 2.5 Cr. per ITI is

given directly to the IMC Society. The loan is repayable in 20 equal annual instalments by the IMC Society over a period of 30 years starting from 11th year of release of funds.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 750 Cr. has been released for upgradation of 300 ITIs. State-wise number of ITIs covered and details of funds released under the Scheme are enclosed as statement-II.

During 2008-09, an amount of Rs. 750 Cr. has been earmarked. The State-wise details of funds earmarked for 2008-09 are enclosed as statement-III. Rs. 260 crore has so far been released during the current financial year.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. All Governments ITIs are proposed to be upgraded as Centres of Excellence in specific trades.

Consequent upon Finance Minister's budget speech 2004-05 and reiteration in 2006-07, 500 Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) were taken up for upgradation by introducing appropriate infrastructure and latest tools, equipment and machinery. Out of these, 100 Govt. ITIs are being upgraded into Centres of Excellence, with an outlay of Rs. 160 crore from domestic resources and the remaining 400 Govt. ITIs through external assistance from World Bank under Vocational Training Improvement Project, with an outlay of Rs. 1581 crore. As on 01.01.2007, there were 1986 Governments ITIs in the country. The remaining 1396 ITIs are being upgraded under the scheme of "upgradation of 1396 ITIs through Public Private Partnership" with effect from 2007-08 at the rate of 300 ITIs per year upto 2010-11 and the remaining 196 in 2011-12 at a total cost of Rs. 3550 crore.

**Statement I**

Sl.No.	Name of State/UTs	Number of Govt. ITIs	Seating Capacity (Govt.)	Number of Pvt. ITCs	Seating Capacity (Pvt.)	Total ITIs/ITCs	Total Seating Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Northern Region</b>							
1.	Chandigarh	2	952	0	0	2	952
2.	Delhi	16	9660	55	3644	71	13304

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Haryana	81	19576	76	6808	157	26384
4.	Himachal Pradesh	60	6260	54	3836	114	10096
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	37	4087	1	110	38	4197
6.	Punjab	94	19220	123	10128	217	29348
7.	Rajasthan	112	11328	462	39455	574	50783
8.	Uttar Pradesh*	236	29196	271	31838	507	61034
9.	Uttarakhand	58	6283	24	2230	82	8513
Sub-Total		696	106562	1066	98049	1762	204611
<b>Southern Region</b>							
10.	Andhra Pradesh	88	22206	456	87436	544	109642
11.	Karnataka	148	24948	863	62574	1011	87522
12.	Kerala	34	15100	443	46378	477	61478
13.	Lakshdweep	1	96	0		1	96
14.	Poducherry	6	1256	9	508	15	1764
15.	Tamil Nadu	59	21592	615	60064	674	81656
Sub-Total		336	85198	2386	256960	2722	342158
<b>Eastern Region</b>							
16.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	512	0	0	1	257
17.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	257	0	0	1	257
18.	Assam	28	5696	3	80	31	5776
19.	Bihar	34	11433	117	15177	151	26610
20.	Jharkhand	19	4672	73	15096	92	19768
21.	Manipur	7	540	0	0	7	540
22.	Meghalaya	5	622	2	320	7	942
23.	Mizoram	1	294	0	0	1	294
24.	Nagaland	8	928	0	0	8	928
25.	Orissa	25	8144	426	65172	451	73316
26.	Sikkim	1	212	0	0	1	212
27.	Tripura	8	816	0	0	8	816
28.	West Bengal	51	12412	21	1096	72	13508
Sub-Total		193	46538	642	96941	835	143479

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>Western Region</b>							
29.	Chhattiegarh	71	8896	23	2480	94	11376
30.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	1	228	0	0	1	228
31.	Daman and Diu	2	388	0	0	2	388
32.	Goa	10	3072	4	365	14	3437
33.	Gujarat	148	55980	312	18376	460	74356
34.	Madhya Pradesh*	149	24190	47	7730	196	31920
35.	Maharashtra	374	93260	254	29716	628	102976
Sub-Total		755	166014	640	58667	1395	224681
Grand Total		1980	404312	4734	510617	6714	914929

MP\*—149 Governments ITIs include 48 Govt. ITIs running under S.C.V.T

UP\*—236 Governments ITIs include 100 Govt. ITIs running under S.C.V.T

**Statement II**

*State-wise no. of ITIs covered and interest free loan released under the Scheme "Upgradation of 1396 Govt. ITIs through PPP" during 2007-08*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of ITIs covered	Loan released (Rs. in Cr.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20	50.0
2.	Kerala	05	12.5
3.	Madhya Pradesh	21	52.5
4.	Maharashtra	62	155.0
5.	Karnataka	26	65.0
6.	Gujarat	19	47.5
7.	Uttar Pradesh	25	62.5
8.	West Bengal	04	10.0
9.	Orissa	04	10.0
10.	Bihar	04	10.0

1	2	3	4
11.	Rajasthan	17	42.5
12.	Jharkhand	02	5.0
13.	Uttarakhand	10	25.0
14.	Assam	06	15.0
15.	Chhattisgarh	12	30.0
16.	Tamil Nadu	12	30.0
17.	Haryana	13	32.5
18.	Himachal Pradesh	09	22.5
19.	Punjab	20	50.0
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	06	15.0
21.	Tripura	01	2.5
22.	Chandigarh	01	2.5
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	2.5
Total		300	750.0

**Statement IV**

*Tentative allocation of Number of ITIs and funds earmarked to the State for 2008-09*

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Tentative No. of ITIs	Funds to be released (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	37.50
2.	Assam	4	10.00
3.	Bihar	5	12.50
4.	Chhattisgarh	13	32.50
5.	Delhi	2	5.00
6.	Goa	2	5.00
7.	Gujarat	22	55.00
8.	Haryana	13	32.50
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	22.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	15.00
11.	Jharkhand	2	5.00
12.	Karnataka	21	52.50
13.	Kerala	5	12.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	22	55.00
15.	Maharashtra	54	135.00
16.	Manipur	1	2.50
17.	Meghalaya	1	2.50
18.	Orissa	4	10.00
19.	Pondicherry	1	2.50
20.	Punjab	18	45.00
21.	Rajasthan	15	37.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	12	30.00
23.	Tripura	1	2.50
24.	Uttar Pradesh	30	75.00

1	2	3	4
25.	Uttaranchal	9	22.50
26.	West Bengal	8	20.00
27.	Nagaland	1	2.50
28.	Mizoram	1	2.50
29.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2.50
30.	Daman and Diu	1	2.50
31.	Dader and Nagar Haveli	1	2.50
Total		300	750.00

**Educational Facilities for Children of Unorganised Labourers/Workers**

3298. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme of providing educational facilities to the children of labourers/workers employed in the unorganised sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are some welfare schemes for providing scholarships to the children of beedi, mines and cine workers. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Bill, 2008 also has provision for educational schemes for children of unorganised workers.

**International Cooperation on Sea Piracy**

3299. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:  
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of increasing sea piracy and the series of incidents in the Gulf of Aden, the Government proposes to formulate a policy to get international cooperation to tackle this menace;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take up the matter with the important Navies of the world and seek help of the United Nations peace keeping force so as to secure maritime trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (d) In view of recent piracy incidents in the Gulf of Aden region, Government has deployed a naval warship in the region. Efforts are being made to have anti-piracy operation under the aegis of the United Nations (UN).

Indian Navy is also in consultation with friendly Navies to have coordinated patrol in this area.

*[Translation]*

#### Per Capita Availability of Land

3300. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita land availability in the country has declined;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted/proposed to be conducted to determine the reasons for such decline;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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): (a) to (e) As per various quinquennial Agriculture Censuses conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1970-71, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1990-91, 1995-96 and 2000-01, the average size of operational holdings in the country was 2.28 hectares, 2.00 hectares, 1.84 hectares, 1.69 hectares, 1.55 hectares, 1.41 hectares and 1.33 hectares respectively, which shows that the average size of the operational holding declined by about 42 per cent in 2000-01 over 1970-71.

While the number of operational holdings increased from 71.0 million in 1970-71 to 119.9 million in 2000-01, the operated area decreased from 162.1 million hectares in 1970-71 to 159.4 million hectares in 2000-01 leading to decline in the average size of operational holdings. The decline in the operated area has been attributed to conversion of land for urbanization/industrialization or transfer of land to meet the requirement of non-agricultural purposes.

*[English]*

#### Corporate Farming

3301. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any committee to study the impact of corporate farming on the farmers of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### Use of Sea Water for Irrigation

3302. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some scientists have suggested the possibility of the use of sea water for irrigation purpose in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken so far to make the sea water suitable for irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Several scientific reports have indicated about the possibility of use of sea water for various purposes including that for irrigation. However, due to relatively higher costs, there has been very limited use of sea water for drinking water purposes. The National Water Policy states that for effective and economical management of our water resources, the frontiers of knowledge need to be pushed forward in the several directions by intensifying research efforts in various areas. The areas for intensive research listed in the National Water Policy, *inter-alia*, include "use of sea water resources".

#### Scarcity of Funds for Agricultural Universities

3303. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agriculture Universities/Institutes in the country are not functioning properly due to the scarcity of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken thereon; and

(c) the details of the infrastructure and financial assistance provided to the States for agricultural research and education?

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): (a) Agricultural education being a State subject, Agricultural Universities mainly depend on their respective State Governments for financial needs, which is limited and these institutions are not able to exploit their full potential. However, the Agricultural Institutes under ICAR are comparatively better funded and prioritise their research agenda for optimized resource utilization.

(b) and (c) Department of Agricultural Research and Education do not provide financial assistance to the State however, limited Central assistance is extended to State Agricultural Universities in the form of development grant including infrastructure development to support educational

issues of national importance. The details of such financial assistance during the three plan period is as under:-

	(Rs. in Lakhs)
IX Plan (1997-02)	21305.00
X Plan (2002-07)	101985.00
XI Plan (2007-12) (Approved)	227665.00

#### Increase in Tariff Rate of Telecom Services

3304. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many private telecom operators have colluded to hike the telecom tariff rates in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms laid down by the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997, the power to regulate tariff of telecom services in the country is vested with TRAI. TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has put most of the tariffs (except for fixed line rural, roaming and circuits) of telecom services under forbearance. This means that service providers are at liberty, subject to certain regulatory principles of TRAI, to offer a variety of tariff packages to subscribers. So far, TRAI has not come across any instance of private telecom operators colluding to hike telecom tariff rates in the country.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (a) above.

#### Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

3305. SHRI HEMANT KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal pertaining to the National Agriculture

Development Scheme (Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana) from Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon; and

(c) the details of the agricultural activities likely to be included under the said scheme?

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): (a) to (c) The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched in 2007-08 to incentivize the States to enhance public investment to achieve 4% growth rate in agriculture & allied sectors during 11th Five Year Plan. Under the Scheme, proposals for projects are approved by the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) headed by the Chief Secretary of the State.

During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 97.12 crore was released for the projects approved under RKVY to Madhya Pradesh for horticulture, seed farms, agriculture infrastructure (seed & soil testing laboratories), agriculture mechanization, extension, natural resource management, micro-irrigation, animal husbandry and fisheries.

During 2008-09, against the total allocation of Rs. 146.05 crore, an amount of Rs. 60.03 crore has been released to State Government of Madhya Pradesh under RKVY (as on 17.12.2008) for crop production, horticulture, infrastructure agriculture mechanization, extension, agriculture research, micro/minor irrigation, animal husbandry and fisheries, etc.

Under RKVY, States can choose projects from wide array of activities such as integrated development of major food crops; agriculture mechanization; enhancement of soil health; development of rain-fed farming systems; support to State seed farms; integrated pest management; strengthening of market infrastructure; extension services; horticulture; micro irrigation; animal husbandry; fisheries; support to the State Government institutions that promote agriculture; study tours of farmers; organic and bio-fertilizers and innovative schemes.

*[English]*

#### Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour

3306. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal seeking funds/assistance for expansion of Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour in Tamil Nadu;

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

(c) the proposed capacity of the harbour on completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government of Tamil Nadu has proposed expansion of Chinnamuttom Fishing Harbour for which the State Government has been asked to conduct necessary engineering and economic investigations and assess the techno-economic feasibility. The fishing harbour after expansion is anticipated to accommodate a total of about 400 Mechanized Fishing Vessels.

*[Translation]*

#### Training to Farmers

3307. SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to train the farmers including landless farmers to use state of the art agricultural implements for augmenting production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to develop human resources in the field of agricultural mechanization, four Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institutes are established at Budni (M.P.), Hisar (Haryana), Garladinne (Andhra Pradesh) and B. Chariali (Assam) to impart institutional as well as on-farm training to the farmers on latest technical know-how on

farm machinery. The technical know-how is also being imparted to the farmers through outsourcing of the training to the institutions identified by the State Govt. under the Central Sector Scheme 'Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstrations'. Similarly for post harvest equipments the information is being disseminated through field demonstrations and training to farmers under the scheme 'Post Harvest Technology & Management'.

The Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" (ATMA) Programme also provides for imparting training & extension support to farmers in different agro-based technologies/areas including farm mechanization through Trainings, Demonstrations, Exposure Visits, Krishi Melas and Farm Schools through 581 ATMAs set up till date in 29 States and 2 UTs.

(c) Not Applicable.

*[English]*

#### **Horticulture Park**

3308. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of Horticulture Parks in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

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): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Allocations for Water Resources**

3309. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of allocations made for water resources during the Ninth and the Tenth Five year Plans;

(b) whether the allocations made for water resources are not adequate;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to review and re-allocate more amount to water resources giving priority to inter linking of rivers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (f) The total outlay for Irrigation, Command Area Development & Water Management and Flood Control in XI Plan (State Plan as well as Central Plan) is Rs. 2,32,311 crore against the outlay of Rs. 95,743 crore during X Plan. In the XI Plan Document, the following five core programmes of the Ministry of Water Resources have been identified as important.

(i) River management activities and works related to border rivers.

(ii) Command area development and water management.

(iii) Accelerated irrigation benefits programme.

(iv) Repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies.

(v) Flood management programmes other border rivers.

It has been stated that in the XI Plan Document that the actual requirement of the water resources sector, in general and above schemes, in particular, could exceed the provisions made in the plan document, the size of the actual yearly allocation may exceed the pro rata allocation during Annual Plan discussion and the issue of an overall increase could be revisited at the time of mid-term appraisal.

#### **Census of Handloom**

3310. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for conducting the census of handloom sector is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in conducting the said census; and

(c) the time by which the said census is likely to be conducted and data released for formulation of development and welfare policies for the said sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) The first census of Handlooms was conducted during the year 1987-88 and second census was conducted in the year 1995-96. Thus, the handloom censuses had been conducted at an interval of about a decade

The work of conducting the Third National Census of Handlooms has been entrusted to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi on 19.3.2008. As per terms of reference, the work is scheduled to be completed within a period of 18 months of award of work. The work is in progress.

*[Translation]*

**Human Resource Development Unit of MTNL**

3311. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people working in the Human Resource (Development Unit of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) whether the works performed by the said unit are being examined;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Total number of people working in the Human Resource Development Unit of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (excluding Group C & D staff) is given below:

Sl.No.	Unit	Total
1.	Delhi	43
2.	Mumbai	45
3.	Corporate Office	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>112</b>

In addition to the above 77 people are working in Training sections in Delhi & Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Periodic monthly review meetings of the respective Units are held at the level of Director (Human Resource), GM (Admin), Delhi/Mumbai and GM (Human Resource), Corporate Office. Regular transfer and posting are carried out in the respective Units to ensure that the work is done effectively and efficiently. The respective Unit heads regularly apprise Director (Human Resource) about the functioning of the Units. As regards Training Section in Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), regular periodic review of the training program is carried out at the respective unit. Emphasis is given to achieve the MOU targets signed with the Government. Center for Excellence in Telecom Technology & Management (CETTM), the state-of-art training center at Mumbai conducts various in-service training programmes/courses, induction programmes for executives, seminars and workshops for the office of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL). The Center for Excellence in Telecom Technology & Management (CETTM) is also used as profit center by conducting training courses and renting out infrastructure for other organization of repute.

**Financial Assistance to NGOs**

3312. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Non-Governmental Organisation's (NGOs) working in Jharkhand have received financial assistance from the Government under the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain NGO's have been found to be involved in financial irregularities; and

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

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): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the National Project on Organic Farming, financial assistance has been provided to the following Non-Governmental Organizations working in Jharkhand:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name and address of NGO	Year	Amount released
1.	Holy Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hazaribagh	2005-06	4.0300
2.	Technology Resource Communication & Service Centre, Welfare Tower, Flat No. 109, Dimma Road, P.O. MGM College, Dimma-831018	2008-09	0.8625
Total			4.8925

(c) and (d) No report of any financial irregularity has been received.

[English]

#### Special Retail Panel

3313. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted the Special Retail Panel;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition and terms and reference of the said panel; and

(c) the time by which its report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Houses for Weavers

3314. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide financial assistance to various States including Madhya Pradesh for the construction of houses for weavers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) "Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS)" has been introduced for implementation during the XI Plan as a 'Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme' for the development of handlooms sector and welfare of handlooms weavers. However, the component of housing under the 'Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme' has been dis-continued during the XI Plan. The weavers may avail assistance towards construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana of the Ministry of Rural Development. As such there is no proposal to provide financial assistance for construction of houses for weavers to any of the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh by the Ministry of Textiles.

#### Distress Sale by Farmers

3315. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether small farmers of the country are compelled to sell their produce in distress at a low price to the contractors and buy the same at a higher price for their consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices has also suggested any measures to tackle this problem; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by the Government thereon?

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): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government extends price support to paddy, wheat and coarsegrains through the Food Corporation of India and State agencies. All foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications are bought by the public procurement agencies at Minimum Support Price (MSP). As per Government policy farmers are free to sell their produce to the Government agencies at MSP or to private agencies, as is advantageous to them. One of the objectives of this policy is to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale.

(c) No, Sir. In the Price Policy Report of 2008-09, there is no reference "to small farmers selling their produce in distress i.e. sell at a low price to contractors and buy the same at a higher price for their consumption".

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### TV Programme through Internet

3316. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start the broadcast of TV programmes through the Internet;

(b) if so, the time by which the said service is likely to be started;

(c) whether necessary preparations for the said service have been made in the country, including Jabalpur; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) The Government has issued guidelines on 08.09.2008 for launching digital television service using the Internet Protocol over a network infrastructure including delivery through Broadband Network.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have already started offering Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services in the country. BSNL has decided to introduce IPTV services in 98 cities including Jabalpur during 2008-09.

#### Plantation of Fruit Trees

3317. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land in hectares brought under fruit plantation during the last one year and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds allocated to various States by the Union Government for the purpose alongwith the amount actually spent thereon during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the number of States in which the allocated amount could not be fully utilized alongwith the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken any initiative to expedite the plantation of fruit trees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) Technology Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh (TMNE) and (ii) National Horticulture Mission (NHM) during the eleventh Five Year Plan for the development of horticultural crops including fruits. State-wise details of area of land in hectares brought under the fruit plantation and funds allocated and released for the purpose during the last one year and the current year are given in the enclosed statement-I and II.

(c) Under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) scheme, out of seventeen States, eight States could not fully utilize the funds allocated for the development of fruits. As the horticulture is seasonal activity and plantation depend on rains, sometimes there is less achievement of physical targets in some of the States.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir, The activities taken up under these schemes are to promote horticulture including production of quality planting material i.e. development of fruit nurseries and plant tissue culture units, area expansion programme for fruit crops, rejuvenation of old

and senile orchards, integrated pest management, protected cultivation, creation of water resources, drip and sprinkler irrigation, imparting training to farmers and extension functionaries on the recent developments in the field of fruit crops.

**Statement I**

*State-wise details of Fruit Plantation under NHM during 2007-08 & 2008-09*

(Area in ha.)  
(Amount in lakhs)

State	Head	2007-08 & 2008-09 as on date	
		Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	Physical	77756	38258
	Financial	6603	4092
Bihar	Physical	5200	16493
	Financial	465	1241
Chhattiegarh	Physical	15990	5373
	Financial	1218	397
Goa	Physical	90	139
	Financial	14	9
Gujarat	Physical	16672	15286
	Financial	1347	1261
Haryana	Physical	10086	3840
	Financial	845	302
Jharkhand	Physical	9475	9559
	Financial	850	240
Karnataka	Physical	38101	27388
	Financial	3113	2990
Kerala	Physical	47875	25311
	Financial	2324	2361
Madhya Pradesh	Physical	10300	11540
	Financial	944	594

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	Physical	30479	45211
	Financial	4785	3236
Orissa	Physical	14875	16606
	Financial	993	1300
Punjab	Physical	9500	4471
	Financial	908	503
Rajasthan	Physical	12365	5263
	Financial	1182	506
Tamil Nadu	Physical	49870	28244
	Financial	4269	2811
Uttar Pradesh	Physical	12282	10975
	Financial	1099	1355
West Bengal	Physical	3330	9764
	Financial	282	981
Total	Physical	364246	273720
	Financial	31242	24176

**Statement II**

*State-wise details of Fruit Plantation under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand during 2007-08 and 2008-09*

Sl.No.	States	2007-08			2008-09
		Physical	Releases	Physical (upto Nov. 08)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	8895	100.20	3205	987.95
2.	Assam	8100	835.00	3767	841.88
3.	Manipur	9617	43.75	8721	215.63
4.	Meghalaya	4219	260.63	1781	271.13
5.	Mizoram	14024	730.98	16844	540.00

(Area in ha.)  
(Rs. in lakhs)

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Nagaland	6530	292.12	6950	315.57
7.	Sikkim	2250	242.08	1823	286.69
8.	Tripura	2580	266.63	2130	279.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7189	952.50	1561	1066.74
10.	Himachal Pradesh	8499	678.81	1413	735.95
11.	Uttarakhand	16811	679.70	3050	422.11

[English]

#### Prevention of Bird Flu

3318. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of birds culled out in the country during the last one year and the current year to prevent spread of Bird-Flu, State-wise;

(b) the compensation paid/proposed to be paid to the families affected by the said culling out of birds;

(c) whether steps have been taken to initiate intensive research on the causes for spread, prevention and treatment of Bird Flu; and

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof alongwith the allocation made for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Following is the State-wise position of birds culled to prevent spread of bird flu and compensation paid in last one year i.e. since 18.12.2007 to 17.12.2008.

Sl.No.	State	Bird culled (approx.) (Lakh)	Compensation paid (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	West Bengal	42.71	1232.00
2.	Tripura	1.92	71.00
3.	Assam	4.61	139.00
4.	Bihar	2.12	43.00
5.	Jharkhand	0.11	0.56

(c) and (d) The High Security Animal Disease laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune and Eastern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ERDDL), Kolkata are engaged in research into various aspects of bird, flu as part of their normal activities. The Bank-funded project on 'Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' provided for an amount of Rs. 22.00 lakh for epidemiological survey.

[Translation]

#### Production of Natural Manure

3319. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether natural manure can be produced from agricultural waste and faecal waste of animals; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to promote the use of natural manure (organic manure) the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed and successfully tested improved technology for preparation of quality composts from animal excreta, agricultural wastes and crop residues which can be enriched with low grade rock phosphate,

pyrites, waste mica and phosphate solubilizing bacteria, etc. Besides this, Vermi-composting technology has also been standardized using various organic resources.

All such technologies are being promoted through literature and other awareness/publicity material. Use of organic manure is an integral part of package of practices being recommended for all crops by all State Agriculture Departments and State Agricultural Universities.

Apart from above, National Project on Organic Farming (NPOF) is being implemented since October 2004 under which financial assistance is being provided as credit linked & back ended subsidy through NABARD for:-

- (i) Setting up of fruits/vegetable waste and agro-waste compost units @ 25% of total project cost restricted to Rs. 40.00 lakh per unit.
- (ii) Setting up of Vermiculture hatcheries @ 25% of the total project cost restricted to Rs. 1.50 lakh per unit.

During the last three years the Government has sanctioned 24 fruits/vegetable waste and agro waste compost units and 1073 vermi-culture hatcheries under NPOF.

[English]

#### Corruption In CSD

3320. SHRI RANEN BARMAN:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is widespread corruption in the Canteen Stores Department (CSD) regarding purchase of various items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the norms for the purchase of alcoholic beverages are consistent with overall purchase policies;
- (d) whether the servicemen receive their wide choice of products that are available in the market; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. Items are procured by Canteen Stores Department (CSD) on the monthly demand placed by the Unit Run Canteens and sales effected by Area Depot. Placement of order by Head Office is carried out by a Review Committee. As and when any complaint is received, necessary action is initiated as per Government rules.

(c) The norms for the purchase of the alcoholic beverages are consistent with overall purchase policies of Canteen Stores Department.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Canteen Stores Department provides wide choice of products covering 3400 items, keeping in view the requirement of the service personnel.

#### Subsidy for High Breeder Seeds

3321. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain State Governments have requested the Union Government to provide subsidy under the National Food Security Mission to farmers for procurement of high breeder seeds of pulses with a view to enhance the production of pulses in the country; and

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

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): (a) and (b) For achieving the additional production of pulses of 2 million tonnes by the end of XI Plan (2011-12), National Food Security Mission-Pulses (NFSM-Pulses) is in operation in 171 identified districts of 14 States of the country. Under the programme, provision already exists to provide full cost for purchase of breeder seeds of pulses to the concerned States. Besides, pulses development programme under Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm & Maize (ISOPOM) is also implemented in non-NFSM districts/States under which similar assistance is provided.

#### Use of Natural Vanilla In Milk Products

3322. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major manufactures of ice cream and other milk products are using natural vanilla in place of synthetic vanilla;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total quantum of natural vanilla procured by the said manufactures; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the vanilla farmers due to such procurement alongwith the price paid for vanilla procurement during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s Mother Dairy is using 240 Kg of natural cured vanilla beans (in extract form of 1% strength) per year and M/s Amul dairy is using around 20 tonnes of cured vanilla beans (in extract form of 5% strength) per year for ice cream manufacturing.

(c) The vanilla farmers are getting a better price this year. The price of green vanilla beans at present is Rs. 125/Kg compared to Rs. 50/Kg. of last year.

The average FOB (free on board) price of dry vanilla beans has come down from Rs. 1703.89/Kg in 2005-06 to Rs. 887.50 Kg in 2007-08. However, in 2008-09 the average FOB price has increased to Rs. 913.84/Kg. The average FOB price of vanilla during the last three years and current year is given below:

Year	Average FOB prices (Rs/Kg)
2005-06	1703.89
2006-07	1596.40
2007-08	887.50
2008-09 (Apr-Oct)	913.84

Government has approved a price support scheme for clearing the stock of cured vanilla beans in the hands of farmers. As per the scheme, cured vanilla beans will be procured from the farmers at a price of Rs. 450/Kg.

#### Implementation of LSG Projects

3323. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has failed to implement most of the projects of Life Sciences Group (LSG) Laboratories;

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

(c) the corrective steps the Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of 81 planned projects, the Life Sciences Group (LSG) Laboratories had undertaken 66 projects (82.48%) during 10th Five Year Plan. The projects were monitored regularly on the basis of Services requirements. Additional 47 unplanned projects were undertaken and those planned projects were dropped which had lost their relevance due to the new emerging global scenario. In the 11th Five Year Plan, the projects have been initiated keeping the futuristic global scenario in mind.

[*Translation*]

#### Redressal of Consumer Complaints

3324. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to check the use of answering machines so that the consumers may directly register their complaints and converse with the officials of Telecom companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of private mobile phone companies, against whom the cases of subscribers harassment have been reported during the last three years and the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The use of answering machine is an internal matter of the service provider concerned.

(d) Following is the year-wise break-up of the number of private mobile phone companies against whom the cases of harassment of subscribers have been reported during the last three years and the current year;

Year	Number of mobile phone Companies
2005	2
2006	2
2007	3
2008	6

(e) The cases of subscriber grievance are forwarded to concerned mobile phone companies for their redressal.

*[English]*

#### **Computerisation of Money Order Facility**

3325. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to computerize the money order facility in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of locations in the country including Jharkhand where this scheme has been launched;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the staff strength of Indian Post Offices to deal with the additional work load; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Department has started electronic transmission of money orders through selected post offices across the country. A total number of 4128 post offices including 82 in Jharkhand are offering this service.

(c) and (d) Induction of technology in postal operation and redeployment of human resources are facilitating to take care of the additional workload wherever it arises.

#### **Merger and Acquisition by Telecom Companies**

3326. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per guidelines for Mergers and Acquisitions by the telecom companies, intra-city mergers are not allowed until completion of three years from the date of issue of licence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the violation off the said guidelines has been reported in the recent past;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Sir, as per guidelines for intra service area Merger of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/Unified Access Services (UAS) Licences issued by the Government, any permission for merger shall be accorded only after completion of 3 years from the effective date of the licences.

(c) to (e) No such violation has been reported.

#### **Promotion of Semi Conductor Technology**

3327. SHRI K.S. RAO:  
SHRI SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered incentives to Indian Information Technology Companies to set up Semi-Conductor fabs and eco-system units for promotion of Semi-Conductor Technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received alongwith the current status of the said proposals;

(c) whether some States including Andhra Pradesh have offered land for setting up these facilities;

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

(e) the additional financial and other incentives offered by the Government to protect and promote Indian Information Technology Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) To encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacturing industries in India, Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS) was announced by the Government on 21st March, 2007. The scheme is open up to 31st March, 2010. Till date 17 proposals in all, have been received under the Scheme. The applicants

are in the process of submitting required information sought by the Government.

A few applicants have acquired land, a few are in the process of being allotted and the rest are yet to decide on the location. The applicants are interacting with various states including Andhra Pradesh for land allotment.

(e) Central Government or any of its agencies can provide incentive of 20% of the capital expenditure during the first 10 years for the units in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and 25% of the capital expenditure for non-SEZ units. Non-SEZ units shall be exempt from Counter Velling Duty (CVD). Units may claim incentives in form of capital subsidy and/or equity as per provisions mentioned in the gazette notification dated 21.3.2007 for SIPS.

Information Technology Companies-Software Technology Parks Units are provided with the benefits of Income Tax exemption under section 10A & 10B of the Income Tax Act.

#### **Appointment of Extra-Departmental Staff**

3328. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines for appointment of Extra-Departmental (ED) Staff and Gramin Dak Sewaks against the regular vacancies;

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

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to accommodate the employees who have worked for decades on Daily wages in the Department;

(d) whether the Government has also constituted any committee to prepare report on the grievances of ED employees/Gramin Dak Sewaks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the implementation status of its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The

Government has notified orders in the Recruitment Rules for appointment of Gramin Dak Sewaks against the regular vacancies in the Department.

(i) 75% of the vacancies in Group 'D' cadre are filled up through Gramin Dak Sewaks on seniority-cum-fitness basis subject to the condition that they should be within 50 years of age.

(ii) In respect of Postman/Mail guard, 50% of the vacancies are earmarked for Gramin Dak Sewaks. 25% of the vacancies are filled up through Gramin Dak Sewaks on seniority basis up to the age limit of 50 years and 15 years of minimum service. 25% of the vacancies are filled up through Gramin Dak Sewaks on merit basis through a Departmental Examination. The unfilled vacancies of Postman to be filled up through Group 'D', if any, are added to merit quota of Gramin Dak Sewaks.

(iii) The unfilled vacancies of clerical cadre to be filled through promotion (50%) from Postman/Group 'D' are also offered to Gramin Dak Sewaks who have qualified in 10+2 examination and have put in a minimum service of 3 years and within 28 years of age subject to the condition that they should have secured percentage of marks in comparison to the last recruitment candidate of respective category. They have to appear in the aptitude test.

(c) The Department has issued guidelines for grant of temporary status and regularization of casual workers on daily wages subject to the condition that they have rendered a continuous service of at least one year. Conferring temporary status is limited to the full time casual labourers engaged up to 01.09.1993. 25% of the Group 'D' vacancies are also filled through casual labourer with temporary status subject to the fulfillment of the condition of age, educational qualification.

(d) and (e) The Government of India constituted one-man Committee under Shri R.S. Nataraja Murti, retired Member of Postal Services Board as Chairman *vide* Resolution No. 6-1/2007-PE.II dated 23.07.2007 to examine Extra Departmental system, wage structure, conditions of employment, providing social security and method of recruitment, disciplinary and conduct rules and also to review the facilities provided by the various classes of Extra Departmental Post Office. The Committee submitted its report to the Government on 29.10.2008. The Department has further constituted a group of senior officers to examine and implementing the recommendations and the report of the Gramin Dak Sewak committee.

**Compensation to Farmers**

3329. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a meagre amount is paid to the farmers for loss of their crops due to natural calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria adopted for assessment of losses; and

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new system for more realistic assessment of losses to ensure adequate compensation to farmers?

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): (a) to (c) In accordance with the items and norms of expenditure for assistance from relief funds in the wake of natural calamities *viz.* Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) for the period 2005-2010, which were revised in June, 2007, input subsidy is admissible to small and marginal farmers for crop loss of 50% and above at the rate of Rs. 2000/- per hectare in rainfed areas, Rs. 4000/- per hectare for areas under assured irrigation and Rs. 6000/- per hectare for all types of perennial crops. Input subsidy is also admissible at the above rates to farmers, other than small and marginal farmers, subject to a ceiling of 1 hectare per farmer for natural calamity occurring for the first time and upto 2 hectares per farmer for successive calamities, irrespective of the size of holding. In addition, National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been implemented in the country, from Rabi 1999-2000 season, as part of risk management in agriculture, with the intention of providing financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of crops as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases.

**Boost in Software and Services Sector**

3330. SHRI B. MAHTAB:  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Software Companies are facing stiff competition from European countries and China in software development and services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being by the Government to boost the domestic software and services sectors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) European countries are not seen as major competitors in software development and services but are viewed as a growing market opportunity by the industry with share of revenues earned from the region steadily increasing. China, however, viewed as a potential major competitor.

(c) Government has provided a number of incentives to encourage the software and services sectors in the country, which have enabled sustained growth in this sector.

**Pilots in Armed Forces**

3331. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of pilots in the Armed Forces of the country alongwith the number of pilots actually working and the posts of pilots lying vacant as on date;

(b) whether the Defence Forces are facing shortage of pilots;

(c) if so, whether any review has ever been made in regard to the reasons for this shortage of pilots;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of measures being adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The vacancies in the Armed Forces are filled up as per normal procedure. These vacancies do not affect the operational requirements. Reviews in this regard are undertaken by the Armed Forces and corrective measures are taken accordingly. In the interest of national security further details cannot be divulged on the Floor of the House.

*[Translation]***Post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme**

3332. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:  
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of irregularities reported in the Recurring Deposit Account Scheme in Post Offices during the last two years and the current year alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to introduce changes in rules for the said Scheme, particularly in regard to slashing the period from minimum three years to one year for operating more business in country;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Total 790 cases of irregularities have been reported in the Recurring Deposit Account Scheme during the last two years and the current year. State-wise detail is furnished in the enclosed Statement.

As regards remedial steps taken in this regard, it is submitted that the following remedial measures which are uniform in the Post Offices in the country, have been taken:

- i. Agents have been prevented to act as messengers or identifier of the depositors for the purpose of withdrawal from Recurring Deposit Accounts.
- ii. Maturity payments of Rs. 20000 and above are now mandatory made by cheques.
- iii. Agents and outsiders' access to the sensitive branches of Post Offices has been restricted. Security of Services containing data of RD Account Scheme has been tightened and access to the server room has been restricted and regulated.

iv. Information of transfer of all type of Savings Accounts including Recurring Deposit Accounts from one Post Office to another Post Office is reconciled at Central Pairing Unit at Delhi.

v. Passbooks of RD Accounts closed by single handed and double handed Post Offices are retained and are sent to their respective Head Post Offices to rule out any irregularity in such closures.

vi. The aforesaid recent instructions are in addition to operative, supervisory and control mechanisms prescribed in the Departmental manuals and instructions issued from time-to-time.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal currently under consideration of Government to introduce changes in rules of Post Office Recurring Deposit Scheme. The features of the Scheme are reviewed from time to time based on public feedback and to facilitate easier operation of the schemes investor friendly.

**Statement***State-wise details of cases of Irregularities reported in Recurring Deposit Scheme*

Name of State	Number of Cases Reported
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	219
Arunachal Pradesh	49
Assam	07
Bihar	24
Chhattisgarh	28
Delhi	04
Gujarat	06
Goa	03
Haryana	13
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu and Kashmir	00
Jharkhand	00

1	2
Karnataka	106
Kerala	00
Maharashtra	69
Madhya Pradesh	55
Manipur	01
Meghalaya	00
Mizoram	00
Nagaland	11
Orissa	00
Punjab	14
Rajasthan	14
Sikkim	00
Tamil Nadu	96
Tripura	00
Uttar Pradesh	12
Uttarakhand	09
West Bengal	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>790</b>

#### **Compensation/Relief to Victims of Mines Accidents**

3333. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the labourers/workers killed or injured in mines accidents have been provided any compensation/relief by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) the details of facilities being provided to labourers/workers employed in the mines, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Training to Students in Defence Institutions**

3334. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some selected students of Delhi University are being imparted training at research centres under the Defence Research and Development Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria for selection of students for the training in Defence institutions?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (c) A large number of students from Delhi University and various prestigious Engineering Colleges are imparted training or carryout their projects in Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) laboratories, every year. Students with recommendations from their University/College are admitted on first-come-first-served basis based on availability of time with subject scientists of the concerned Laboratory of DRDO.

#### **Violation of Human Rights In Armed Forces**

3335. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of human rights violations are increasing in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to address such human rights violations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Instructions and guidelines relating to upholding human values, respect for human rights and prevention of violation of human rights have been issued to field formations.

**Defence Collaboration for Development of UAV**

3336. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed the Aeronautical Development Establishment to co-opt a partner from the Indian Industry to join in the development and production of the Rs. 1,000 crore indigenous medium altitude long endurance Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce the time for design, development and subsequent Transfer of Technology to an Industry for bulk production of Medium Altitude Long Endurance UAV, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been authorized to associate with a Production and Development Partner (PADP) from eligible Indian Industries on a competitive basis. The PADP would work with DRDO during the design and development phase and absorb the technologies. They would become the System Integrator and provide product support after induction.

(c) DRDO has short listed four Industries Consortia through a transparent process and released Request for Proposal (RFP) for PADP.

**Non-Payment of PF Dues by Textile Mills**

3337. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Provident Fund (PF) dues of employees of closed/liquidated textiles mills are pending against the said mills in the country including Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of such mills and the PF dues outstanding against them, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the payment of said dues at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In respect of closed and liquidated establishments the arrears of contribution of workers are paid from Special Reserve Fund.

As and when claims are received by the field offices of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation from the employees in respect of such establishments, allotment is being made from Special Reserve Fund, on request from the concerned field office.

During 2007-08 Rs. 2.55 crores was allotted from Special Reserve Fund for paying the dues of the employees of closed/liquidated establishments including textile mills of Maharashtra.

**Irrigation Facilities in Tribal Areas**

3338. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the irrigational facilities in the Tribal areas of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Schemes for irrigation development including those in respect of tribal areas are planned and implemented by respective State Governments. However, Government of India encourages and provide necessary incentives to State for taking up works for irrigational facilities in tribal areas of the country. Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) of Ministry of Water Resources, several provisions have been made to encourage States to take up irrigation schemes benefiting tribal areas. The scope of AIBP was extended with effect from 1999-2000 to include minor irrigation (MI) schemes for special category States of North-Eastern regions, other hilly States namely Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, and Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa. This was further extended with effect from 1.4.2005 to other states (non-

special category) for those MI schemes with potential more than 100 ha. with preference to tribal and drought prone areas.

**Statement I**

*Details of State-wise MI Schemes under AIBP since Inception upto 18.12.2008*

The guidelines were further relaxed from December, 2006 for non-special category states to include MI schemes with potential more than 50 ha. which serve tribal and drought prone areas. The Central assistance is now provided in the form of Central grant which is 90% of the project cost in case of special category States, project benefiting tribal area, and drought prone area including KBK districts of Orissa. Central assistance released to various states under AIBP for minor irrigation works in tribal area and for special category States is enclosed statement-I.

In consonance with the commitment made in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) regarding launching a comprehensive National Programme for Minor Irrigation of land owned by Dalits and Adivasis, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs initiated a special programme during 2005-06 to provide 100 per cent financial assistance to States for taking up minor irrigation schemes for land owned by tribals. This programme has been taken up under the assistance provided to States for bridging infrastructure gaps in tribal areas under Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The projects are aimed to enhance the productivity of land belonging to tribals, water harvesting, soil conservation and promote economic development, improve socio-economic conditions, generate employment and improvement of bio-diversity and ecological conservation and thereby poverty alleviation of the tribal people residing in the tribal area. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., Rainwater Harvesting for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Farmers was implemented during the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 to provide crop life saving irrigation facilities to homestead/farm lands of SC/ST farmers for augmenting their income. The total subsidy disbursed was Rs. 2,450 lakh out of which Rs. 2,403.98 lakh has been released so far creating 17,161 units of water harvesting structures benefiting a total area of 8,808 ha. in 27 States. State-wise details of subsidy disbursed under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, viz., Rainwater Harvesting for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) Farmers are indicated in enclosed statement-II.

Sl.No.	State	Total Nos. of Schemes	Total CLA/ grant released (Rs. in crores upto 18.12.08)
<b>A. Special Category States</b>			
1.	Anunachal Pradesh	1736	161.25
2.	Assam	511	361.519
3.	Manipur	678	121.4992
4.	Meghalaya	73	17.7426
5.	Mizoram	186	105.969
6.	Nagaland	965	107.887
7.	Sikkim	433	13.4849
8.	Tripura	1167	140.6971
9.	Himachal Pradesh	263	67.884
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	447	304.745
11.	Orissa (KBK)	41	61.060
12.	Uttarakhand	1931	821.2952
<b>Total</b>		<b>8431</b>	<b>2285.0330</b>
<b>B. Non-Special Category States</b>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67	51.30
2.	Chhattisgarh	163	130.7625
3.	Madhya Pradesh	168	157.907
4.	Maharashtra	134	328.83
5.	Bihar	4	3.550
6.	West Bengal	32	8.120
<b>Total</b>		<b>568</b>	<b>680.4695</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>8999</b>	<b>2965.5025</b>

**Statement II***[Translation]***Rain Water Harvesting Schemes for SC/ST Farmers  
Financial Progress (as on 30.11.08)**

Sl.No.	Name of the State/RO	Financial (Rs. lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.49305
2.	Arunachal	6.80000
3.	Assam	370.59970
4.	Bihar	14.50108
5.	Chhattisgarh	38.66950
6.	Goa	0.15000
7.	Gujarat	4.61000
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2.80500
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00000
10.	Jharkhand	70.08650
11.	Karnataka	11.01800
12.	Kerala	0.13500
13.	Madhya Pradesh	115.14130
14.	Maharashtra	26.48300
15.	Manipur	43.79000
16.	Meghalaya	0.00000
17.	Mizoram	24.15000
18.	Nagaland	64.06000
19.	Orissa	627.47518
20.	Punjab & Haryana	24.44650
21.	Rajasthan	49.23725
22.	Sikkim	0.00000
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.45000
24.	Tripura	70.31000
25.	Uttar Pradesh	5.70400
26.	Uttaranchal	25.88100
27.	West Bengal	795.99400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2403.98006</b>

**Scheme for Agricultural Labourers**

3339. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the ongoing schemes to provide assistance to the agricultural labourers in case of accidents;

(b) whether any grant is given to the States for these schemes; and

(c) if so, the details of the funds allocated and released for these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government launched the 'Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana' through Life Insurances Corporation to provide death and disability cover to rural landless households. Under the scheme, the head of the family or one earning member in the family will be insured. The benefits under the scheme include Rs. 30,000 in case of natural death; Rs. 75,000 in case of death due to accident or total permanent disability due to accident. In case of partial disability due to accident, the insurance cover would be Rs. 37,500. The children of beneficiaries of AABY studying in classes 9th to 12th standard are eligible to a scholarship @ Rs. 3000 per quarter per child. The premium under the scheme is Rs. 200, out of which 50% is subsidized from the fund created for this purpose by the Central Government and the remaining 50% to be contributed by the State Government. No grants are released to the States under the scheme.

**Damage to Crops due to Insects**

3340. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether considerable damage to crops is caused by the insects annually in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise and the remedial action taken thereon;

(c) whether more production in the agricultural sector can be achieved through the scientific use of insecticides and pesticides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon?

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): (a) Yes, Sir. The annual crop losses due to insect pests, weeds and diseases etc. are assessed to be ranging between 10 to 30% of crop production, depending on various factors.

(b) Major incidence of pests/diseases on different crops reported State-wise during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed statement. As regards remedial action, besides issue of advisory recommendations to the farming community for the management of these pests, Integrated Pest Management (IPM) modules have been developed and validated in farmers' fields. These IPM modules involve cultural

methods, release of bio-control agents and need based use of pesticides alongwith other pest management practices.

(c) More production in the agricultural sector can be achieved by reducing the crop losses through the scientific and timely use of insecticides and pesticides.

(d) The Government is promoting safe and judicious use of pesticides through Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Central Integrated Pest Management Centres have been established across the country to, *inter-alia*, undertake pest surveillance and provide advisories to the State Governments on pest management including the need based use of pesticides, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers' Field Schools, encourage use of biological means of pest management, etc. The package of practices of IPM for major crops have been developed and circulated to all States and the Union Territories. These packages have also been made available on the web site of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation for the use of extension functionaries and farmers.

#### **Statement**

##### *Crop Damage Due to Major Pest & Diseases in 2006-07*

Sl.No.	State	District	Name of Crop	Name of Pest/Disease
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Haryana	Faridabad	Jowar	Grasshopper
		Hissar	Cotton	Heliothis spp.
		Gurgaon, Faridabad	Cauliflower	Diamond back moth
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar, Anantnag	Apple	Sanjose-scale
		Baramulla	Rice	Blast
		Jammu	Potato	Late blight
3.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Rice	Neck blast
4.	Tamil Nadu	Trichy	Groundnut	Red hairy caterpillar
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh	Cauliflower	Diamond back moth
		Gorakhpur	Sugarcane	Top borer

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman	Brinjal	Fruit & Shoot borer
7.	Kerala	Palakkad Pathanamthita	Rice Coconut	Stem borer Rhinoceros beetle
8.	Punjab	Jalandhar	Potato	Late blight
9.	Gujarat	Vadodara	Cotton	Mealy bug
10.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Chickpea	Gram pod borer
11.	Andhra Pradesh	East Godavari	Rice	Stem rot

*Crop Damage due to Major Pest & Diseases in 2007-08*

Sl.No.	State	District	Name of Crop	Name of Pest/Disease
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	Baramulla	Apple	Pinhole borer
2.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur	Sugarcane	Pyrilla
		Ghaziabad, Meerut, Agra, Muradabad	Sugarcane	White grub
3.	Kerala	Kollam, Eernakulam	Coconut	Leaf rot, Root wilt
		Palakkad, Alappuzha	Rice	Leaf folder, Stem borer
4.	Punjab	Abhohar	Cotton	Mealy bug
		Bhatinda, Abhohar	Cotton	White fly
		Faridkot, Muktsar, Firozpur, Bhatinda, Barnala	Cotton	Mealy bug
5.	Haryana	Faridabad	Sorghum	Grasshopper
		Faridabad	Sugarcane	Pyrilla
6.	Karnataka	Hassan	Potato	Blight
7.	Maharashtra	Latur, Usmanabad, Sholapur	Pomegranate	Oily spot
		Jalgaon	Banana	Sigatoka
		Wardha	Citrus	Gummosis
8.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	Potato	Late blight
9.	Rajasthan	Sriganganagar	Mustard	Alternaria leaf blight, White rust

*Crop Damage due to Major Pest & Diseases in 2008-09*

Sl.No.	State	District	Name of Crop	Name of Pest/Disease
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	Nagpur	Citrus	Gummosis
		Nagpur, Katol, Saoner, Umred, Dhiwapur	Soyabean	Tobacco caterpillar
2.	Karnataka	Mysore, Mandya	Rice	Rice blast
		Dharwad, Haveri	Maize	Stem borer

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Kerala	Palakkad	Rice	Brown Plant Hopper (BPH), Bacterial leaf blight, Brown Leaf spot.
4.	Haryana	Sonipat, Khadar belt	Rice (Basmati)	BPH, White Backed Plant Hopper (WBPH)
		Hlesar, Bhiwani, M. Garh, Sirsa.	Guar	Bacterial leaf spot, Alternaria Leaf spot, Root rot, wilt.
		Kamal, Sonipat, Panipat, Kurukshetra, Yamuna Nagar	Sugarcane	White gurb
		Faridabad, Palwal, Panchkula	Sorghum	Grasshopper
5.	Tamil Nadu	Trichy, Dhinamalur	Cotton	Mealy bug
6.	Rajasthan	Sriganganagar, Hanumangarh	Cotton	Mealy bug
		Alwar, Churru, Dausa	Sorghum	Grasshopper
		Alwar, Churru, Dausa	Bajara	Grasshopper
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut, Ghaziabad	Sugarcane	White grub
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu, Manali	Apple	Fungal disease
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	Apple	Canker, Leaf spot
10.	Chhattisgarh	Durg	Soyabean	Tobacco caterpillar (Spodoptera litura) Girdle beetle

*[English]*

#### **Manufacturing of Defence Aircraft by HAL**

3341. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has received orders from various countries for supply of Defence aircraft during 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) HAL has received an order for supply of 7 Advanced light Helicopter to Ecuador during 2008-09. The Helicopters will be delivered in 3 years time. No Export Order for defence aircraft has been received by HAL during 2007-08.

#### **Evaluation of Employment Generation Schemes**

3342. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the evaluation of various employment generation schemes running for the last four years;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to scrap certain existing schemes and bring in new ones to replace them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Evaluation was conducted in respect of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana and Rural Employment Generation Programme. On the basis of the evaluation, these two schemes have been merged and a new scheme titled Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) has been introduced with effect from 2008-09.

Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (S-JSRY) has been evaluated by an independent agency and on the basis of the evaluation and experiences gained during the implementation of the scheme, some modification in the guidelines have been suggested.

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) has been evaluated through independent Research Organisations located in various parts of the country. Based on their recommendations, the State Governments have been requested to take corrective action.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) has also been evaluated and subsumed in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 with effect from 01.04.2008.

*[Translation]*

#### Fish Production

3343. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE  
PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profession of fishery in the country has been adversely affected due to the lack of proper conservation and maintenance in rivers, ponds and sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore indicating the quantum of fish produced and exported alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(c) the details of conservation works undertaken by the Government in rivers, ponds and sea for development of fishery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) There is no direct impact of lack of conservation and maintenance of rivers, ponds and sea in fishery profession in the country. The total fish produced and exported alongwith foreign exchange earned during each of the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Total fish production (in 000 tonnes)	Total fish exported (in 000 tonnes)	Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. in crores)
2004-05	6304.75	461.33	6646.69
2005-06	6571.63	512.16	7245.30
2006-07	6869.05	612.64	8363.53

(c) For conservation in rivers, ponds and seas, Government of India has been implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005, Ganga Action Plan, The Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, The Environment Protection Act, 1986. Government also imposes ban of fishing during certain period of the year. The State Governments have also taken several measures such as enacting of the Marine Fishing Regulation Acts, control of use of mesh size in fishing nets, diversification/popularization of eco-friendly fishing methods, sea ranching and encouraging aquaculture/mariculture, etc.

*[English]*

#### Non-Iodized Salt

3344. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose a blanket ban on the sale of non-iodized salt;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the said ban in view of its impact on the livelihood of salt pan workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be withdrawn?

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): (a) and (b) The Government has imposed restrictions on the sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption. This notification has been issued under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 with effect from 17th May 2006 in the entire country in order to prevent and control Iodine Deficiency Disorders, as no State/UT is free from IDD. However, there is no ban on the sale of salt for iodization, iron fortification, preservation, industrial medicinal and animal use.

(c) and (d) These restrictions on the sale of non-iodized salt have not affect employment of salt pan workers. In fact, salt iodization has generated more jobs for iodization, crushing/powdering, packing etc.

#### **Integrated Development of Horticulture**

3345. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North-Eastern State, State-wise;

(b) whether inventerisation of different horticultural crops particularly for orange has been taken up in the State of Manipur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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): (a) The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim (TMNE) since 2001-02. The State-wise details of funds

allocated for the scheme are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The detail of area and production of major horticulture crops including Orange in the State of Manipur is given in the enclosed statement-II.

#### **Statement I**

*Details of funds allocated under Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States including Sikkim since inception till 15.12.2008*

Sl.No.	State	(Rs. in crores)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	120.14
2.	Assam	134.24
3.	Manipur	107.32
4.	Meghalaya	124.90
5.	Mizoram	160.03
6.	Nagaland	142.43
7.	Sikkim	129.55
8.	Tripura	103.11
	NRC, Orchids (ICAR), Sikkim -in respect of all North-Eastern States	18.15
Grand Total		1039.97

#### **Statement II**

*Area production of horticulture crops including Orange in the State of Manipur during the year 2007-08*

Sl.No.	Area (ha.)	Production (MT)	
1	2	3	4
<b>A.</b>	<b>Fruits</b>		
1.	Pineapple	8468	72417
2.	Banana	4741	35040
3.	Lime and lemon	2472	16879
4.	Orange	3838	28380

1	2	3	4
5.	Passion fruit	7853	63806
6.	Other fruits	11732	57406
<b>Total (fruits)</b>		<b>39104</b>	<b>273728</b>
<b>B. Vegetables</b>			
1.	Cauliflower	1599	14186
2.	Cabbage	2581	27445
3.	Tomato	1550	15144
4.	Pea	2496	24365
5.	Potato	1690	13796
6.	Other	2177	18742
<b>Total (Vegetables)</b>		<b>12093</b>	<b>113678</b>
<b>C. Spices</b>			
1.	Chillies	7793	46929
2.	Ginger	2005	19889
<b>Total (Spices)</b>		<b>9798</b>	<b>66818</b>

#### **R & D Project on Banana and Mango**

3346. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Government of Gujarat for initiating Research and Development (R&D) Project on Banana and Mango in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be approved and completed?

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): (a) and (b) No specific proposal has been received in Horticulture Division of ICAR from Government of Gujarat for initiating Research and Development Project on banana and mango in the State. However, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Horticulture Mission"

(NHM) from 2005-06 in the country including Gujarat, for the holistic development of horticulture sector. Under the scheme, banana and mango crops have also been identified for the development in the State of Gujarat. The NHM programme has been approved for implementation up to the end of XI Five Year Plan (2011-12).

#### **Setting up of Export Promotion Council for Telecom Sector**

3347. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of exports made from the Telecom Sector during the last three years including the current year;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export in the coming years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up an export Promotion Council for the Telecom Sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The total amount of exports made from telecom sector during the last three years are as under:

2006-07	: Rs. 2523 Crore
2007-08	: Rs. 8131 Crore
2008-09 (April-Sept. 08)	: Rs. 6600 Crore (approx.)

(b) The Government has taken following steps to promote export of telecom equipments:

- (i) No Industrial licence is required for establishing manufacturing units
- (ii) 100% FDI is allowed in telecom equipment manufacturing
- (iii) Promoting setting up of Special Economic Zones
- (iv) upgradation of Infrastructure

- (v) deregulation in Imports and Exports
- (vi) encouraging global manufacturers to set up units in India
- (vii) setting up of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council.

(c) to (e) With a view to promote export of telecom equipments and services, the Government has already set up an Export Promotion Council for Telecom Sector, namely, "Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC). The main functions of the Council are as under:

- (i) to play the role as Apex body for promotion and development of export of telecom equipments and services;
- (ii) to undertake and promote market studies/surveys in selected foreign countries;
- (iii) to undertake publicity and participate in, and or organize exhibitions both in India as well as abroad;
- (iv) to assess manpower and training requirements for export market developments;
- (v) to act as a bridge between manufacturers, exporters and the Government for establishing the correct liaison and perception relationship; and
- (vi) to promote, science, diffusion of knowledge foundation and maintenance of library as related telecom export industry, etc.

#### **Guidelines for Pesticide Dealers**

3348. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue new guidelines making it mandatory for the dealers of pesticide to have adequate knowledge of the pesticide products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such guidelines are likely to be issued?

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): (a) and (b) The Pesticides Management Bill, 2008, which has been introduced in Rajya Sabha on 21.10.2008 to replace the existing Insecticides Act, 1968, *inter alia* provides for grant of license to any person for manufacturing or selling or stocking or exhibiting for sale or distributing any pesticide who himself possesses, or employs a person possessing, such qualifications as may be prescribed. However, a grace period of five years is provided in the Bill for possession of the prescribed qualification by the existing license holder (except a manufacturer), or by a person employed by him.

*[Translation]*

#### **Mobile Phone Subscribers**

3349. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an increase has been registered in the number of mobile phone subscribers in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the contribution of private and public sector companies in this regard;

(c) whether the rate of increase in the number of BSNL Sim Card holders is lower than the private sector;

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

(e) whether the Government has taken any remedial steps in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of GSM mobile phone subscribers during last 3 years and current year alongwith contribution of private and public sector companies are given below:

At the end of March	Number of GSM Mobile phone (in millions)			Share in percentate	
	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector
2005	10.33	30.7	41.03	25.18	74.82
2006	19.1	50.1	69.2	27.60	72.40
2007	30.18	90.29	120.47	25.05	74.95
2008	39.45	153.24	192.69	20.47	79.53
As on 31.10.08	43.55	198.17	241.72	18.02	81.98

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The annual growth in the number of GSM mobile phone subscribers of BSNL and private sector for the last three years is given below:

Year	BSNL's growth	Private sector's growth
2005-06	81.68%	63.19%
2006-07	59.81%	80.25%
2007-08	32.01%	69.72%

The main reason for the lower rate of increase in the numbers of GSM mobile subscribers of BSNL is due to increase in the number of private telecom service providers. Also, the equipment procurement efforts for BSNL's new mobile expansion project received a setback due to court case.

(e) and (f) The BSNL has floated the tender for additional 93 million lines capacity, on zonal basis, to meet the requirement of mobile services in its area of operation for the next three years.

#### **Misuse of Subsidy by Telecom Operators**

3350. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain telecom operators have filed false claims for getting money from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) and have thereby misused the subsidy amount;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details of the eligibility conditions for getting subsidy from the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Errors have been identified in claims submitted by private and State owned service providers who have entered into agreements with Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). However, all such ineligible claims are disallowed at the time of claim verification stage itself or subsequently at the time of physical inspection. The errors committed in such claims *inter alia* includes arithmetical mistakes, claims against faulty, disconnected & closed connections and claims for connections in ineligible areas.

(b) Following steps are taken with reference to ineligible claims:-

- (i) All such ineligible claims on detection are disallowed.
- (ii) Based upon implementation experience, the method of claim verification is continuously improved for ongoing as well as new activities undertaken by USOF.
- (iii) In case of over-payment, the same is recovered as per terms and conditions of relevant USOF agreement.

(c) The USOF Administration enters into Agreements with telecom service providers for implementation of USOF schemes e.g. schemes for provision of Village Public Telephone (VPTs), Rural Community Phones (RCPs), Rural Household connections (RDELs) and mobile infrastructure and service with varying eligibility conditions for subsidy payments defined in these agreements.

*[English]***Green Corridor**

3351. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request for setting up a green corridor to enable farmers to move agricultural products from rural areas to major towns and cities; and

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

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): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

*[Translation]***Smuggling of Drugs through Post Offices**

3352. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of smuggling of drugs/psychotropic substances through Post Offices and private courier companies have come to light recently in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check this smuggling and illegal business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some such cases were noticed in post offices.

(b) One hundred eighty cases have come to light in Delhi Postal Circle, where drugs & psychotropic substances worth Rs. 464.1 lakhs were seized by Custom

Authorities at Foreign Post Office, New Delhi from the articles being set through Post Offices. One such case has come to light in North East Postal Circle, where Deputy Commissioner, Custom, Agartala had raided the India Post Cargo Plane at Agartala Airport and found 39.54 kilogram of Gangja from the articles transmitted through Post Offices. Five cases have come to light in Tamilnadu Postal Circle where postal articles were seized by (i) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Chennai Zonal Unit, Chennai from Chennai Air Foreign/2 (ii) Air Intelligence Unit of Chennai Air Customs at Chennai Airport and handed over to Narcotics Control Bureau, and (iii) Narcotics Control Bureau, South Zonal Unit, Chennai at Air Foreign/2 for investigation.

(c) Provisions are already there in the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 for prohibiting the transmission of such contrabands and narcotics through the Post Offices. In the instant cases, instructions have been issued to field units to ensure that all articles booked over the counter bear complete address of the sender and in case of foreign national, have details of the passport number invariably. They have also been instructed to ensure that no article containing any prohibited content under the Indian Post office Rules, 1933 is booked. Further, the officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) also visit Foreign Post Offices of the Department of Posts to check the outward postal articles. The bags for foreign countries are also scanned by the security arrangements at international airports.

*[English]***Discharge of Army Personnel on Health Ground**

3353. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army has recently discharged a number of personnel on health grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi High Court has ordered reinstatement of the discharged personnel;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):  
(a) to (e) Discharge of permanent low medical category personnel below officers rank of the Army was carried out under the provisions of relevant Army rules.

The Delhi High Court has directed reinstatement of the discharged personnel. In compliance of the Court directions, instructions have been issued for reinstatement of such discharged persons, subject to fulfillment of stipulations laid down by the Court.

#### Funds for C-DOT

3354. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds given by the Government to the Centre for the Development of Telematics (C-DOT) during each of the last three years;

(b) whether C-DOT is unable to generate its own revenues and is entirely dependant of Government support;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make C-DOT commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The budgetary support for C-DOT from Government for the last three years is as follows:

Year	Govt. Budgetary Support (Rs./Crores)
2005-06	75.12
2006-07	82.00
2007-08	96.00
Total	253.12

(b) No Sir, C-DOT has been able to generate its own revenues also and hence, not entirely dependent on Government support.

(c) Revenue generated by C-DOT during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Internal Revenue Generated (Rs./Crores)
2005-06	23.96
2006-07	18.38
2007-08	22.40
Total	64.74

(d) A number of steps have been taken to make C-DOT commercially more viable. These include the following:

1. C-DOT has been asked to focus on less number of R&D projects with a view to achieve breakthrough in such projects, as resources of C-DOT are limited.
2. Research orientation has been changed from Hardware-centric to Software-centric, keeping in view the skill sets.
3. Strategic projects related to telecom security and projects of national importance have been entrusted to C-DOT, such as:
  - (i) Centralised Monitoring System.
  - (ii) Projects for rural and remote areas.
4. A system of signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between C-DOT and the administrative Ministry, viz. Ministry of Communications & IT, has been introduced.
5. Performance of C-DOT is monitored regularly.

#### SAARC Food Bank

3355. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has pledged to contribute 153,200 tonnes of foodgrains to set up a Food Bank with an initial capacity of about 243,000 tonnes to meet the emergency food demands of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries;

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

(c) the share of each SAARC country in the Food Bank; and

(d) the time by which the said bank is likely to become operational?

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): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has pledged to contribute 1,53,200 tons of foodgrains (rice or wheat or in combination thereof) for the SAARC Food Bank, out of initial reserves of 2,43,000 tons to promote collective self-reliance of SAARC members with respect to food security.

(c) The share of each SAARC country in the Food Bank is given below:-

Name of the member States	Assessed share of foodgrains (in tons)
Afghanistan	1420
Bangladesh	40,000
Bhutan	180
India	1,53,200
Maldives	200
Nepal	4,000
Pakistan	40,000
Sri Lanka	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,43,000</b>

(d) The SAARC Food Bank has become operational with the first meeting of SAARC Food Bank Board held on 15th-16th October, 2008.

*[Translation]*

#### Encroachment in Cantonment Areas

3356. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether unauthorized constructions and encroachments in cantonment areas are taking place in various parts of the country, including the Secunderabad Cantonment Area;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### Impact of Ban on Smoking on Livelihood of Beedi Workers

3357. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of ban on smoking in public places on the livelihood and employment of Beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the All India Beedi Industry Federation has submitted a representation to the Union Government for removal of ban on smoking in view of its impact on beedi industry and workers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) .No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A representation dated 27.8.2008 was received from all India Beedi Industry Federation. In this representation the Federation opposed the alleged move by the Government to persuade tobacco growers to shift to alternative crops. This representation does not mention about the removal of ban on smoking.

*[Translation]***Commission to Telecom Booth Owners**

3358. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to provide commission to STD/ISD PCO Booth owners on the lines of private telecommunication booth owners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The commission to STD/ISD PCO Booth owners of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is very competitive as compared to private telecommunication booth owners. The rates of commission of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) is also quite attractive.

(b) The details of commission structure of BSNL are given in the enclosed statement-I. The details of commission structure of MTNL are given in the enclosed statement-II.

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

**Statement I**

*Discount (Commission) allowed to PCO Operators  
(Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited)*

- I. **Discount allowed to Public Call Offices (PCO) Operators**—All types of Postpaid Landline PCOs including fixed PCOs provided on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) & Village Panchayat Telephones (VPTs) (except Local VPT without 95 facility).

Billed Metered Call Unit (MCU) per month	Maximum Retail Price (MRP) per MCU	Discount per MCU
<=400	1.000	0.300
>400<=800	1.000	0.320
>800<=1200	1.000	0.350
>1200<=1500	1.000	0.370
>1500<=2500	1.000	0.385
>2500	1.000	0.400

II. **Discount Structure for Local VPT without 95 facility**

Particular	Discount per MCU
Local VPTs	50%

**Statement II**

*Commission to allowed to PCO Operators  
(Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)*

MTNL, Delhi

I. **Commission to landline PCO booth owners**

Local PCOs		STD/ISD/PCOs	
No. of Calls	Commission	No. of Calls	Commission
0-1499	40%	0-1999	30%
>1500	43%	2000-2999	40%
>2000	45%	3000-1999	43%
		5000 & above	45%

**II. Virtual Calling Card (VCC) Based Local/STD/ISD PCOs Commission—20%****III. Commission to prepaid Fixed Wireless Phone (FWP) PCO Operators**

Recharge Coupon MRP (incl. taxes)	Commission of Operators (Rs.)
500	258.43
1500	1028.10
2500	1994.40

**MTNL, Mumbai****I. Commission to landline PCO booth owners**

Local PCOs	STD/ISD/PCOs
40% upto 3000 calls	30% upto 5000 calls
50% beyond 3000 calls	40% only for calls beyond 5000 calls

**All India Coin Collecting Box (CCB) PCOs**

35% upto 4000 calls

45% more than 4000 calls per month

**II. Commission to prepaid FWP PCO Operators**

Price of Coupon (Rs.)	Commission Margin (%)
500	35%
1000	43%
3000	51%
5000	60%

*[English]***Incentives to Sugar Industry**

3359. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide some incentives including increase in buffer stocks of sugar in view of the problems being faced by the sugar industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the additional funds required/earmarked for the purpose;

(c) whether the concessions available on export of processed sugar are proposed to be extended to the export of raw sugar also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 PRAŞAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No concession is available on export of processed sugar. As such, the question of extending the concession on export of raw sugar does not arise.

#### **Training of Engineers Corps of Armed Forces**

3360. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the College of Military Engineering, Pune, provides training to personnel of the corps of engineers of Indian and foreign armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any understanding with various countries to promote defence cooperation;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for imparting training to personnel of the foreign countries; and

(e) the extent to which the training to personnel of the foreign countries has benefited the Indian armed forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) The details of the personnel of India Armed Forces and friendly foreign countries imparted training during the last three years and in the current year at the College of Military Engineering, Pune, are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The Government of India, Ministry of Defence has signed Memorandum of Understanding/Agreement with various foreign countries to promote Defence cooperation. This includes imparting training to Defence personnel of some friendly foreign countries in our Defence training institutions. This enhances mutual understanding between Defence personnel of both the countries and provides an impetus to on-going Defence cooperation.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Indian Armed Forces Personnel and Personnel from Friendly Foreign Countries Imparted Training at College of Military Engineering, Pune*

Training Year	Number of Indian Armed forces personnel trained	Number of personnel from friendly foreign countries trained
2005-06	3585	51
2006-07	3371	34
2007-08	3596	95
2008-09 (Till Date)	2114	32

#### **Regulation of Mobile Handsets**

3361. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the manufacture, import and sale of mobile handsets in view of its increasing use for triggering explosive devices through remote control; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The Government has no proposal to regulate the manufacture and sales of mobile handsets. With a view to ensure security, the Government has notified to Customers to allow import of mobile handsets after declaration of International Mobile of Mobile handsets after declaration of International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) numbers only. Department to Telecommunications has also directed to all the Cellular Mobile Service Providers to make provision of authentications on mobile handsets with IMEI number for GSM network and Electronic Serial Number (ESN) for CDMA network.

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

**Penalty on Telecom Companies**

3362. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:  
SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE:  
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has imposed fine on Telecom service providers for violation of TRAI' guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount collected by each service provider during the last two years and the current year;

(c) the details of amount spent by TRAI for various purposes for the benefit of subscribers during the said period; and

(d) the number of schemes formulated by the Government towards awareness and capacity building of subscribers in telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The details of amount spent by TRAI for various purpose for the benefit of subscribers during the last two years and the current year is as shown in the table below:

Year	Amount (Rupees)
2006-07	1,18,146
2007-08	8,66,395
2008-09 (Upto October, 2008)	9,91,543

(d) No such scheme has been formulated by the Government.

**Decline of Interest in Agriculture**

3363. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to a survey farmers in the country are gradually becoming disinterested in the profession of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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): (a) Report No. 496 on Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers titled "Some Aspects of Farming" (Reference Period January-December 2003) of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), submitted in July, 2005 covers in detail certain important aspects of farming, which *inter-alia*, reports reasons for not considering it as a suitable profession.

(b) As per the above mentioned report, the details on reasons for not liking farming are given below:

*Percentage of farmer households*

Liking farming	Not Liking Farming due to reason				Total
	Not profitable	Lack of social status	Risky	Others	
60	27	2	8	3	40

(c) A National Policy of farmers, 2007 has been approved by the Government of India with its main aim to focus on the economic well-being of farmers by improving the economic viability of farming in addition to increasing production and productivity. Several programmes such as National Horticulture Mission, Macro Management, National Food Security Mission and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana are under implementation to incentivise farmers to engage themselves profitably in the farming activities.

[Translation]

**Cultivation of Jatropha**

3364. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the quantum of *Jatropha* produced in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the cultivation of Biofuel crops has an adverse impact on other agricultural products; and

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

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): (a) The programme is at R&D stage. The model plantations are two-three years old and economic yield starts after the fourth year.

(b) and (c) As per the Government of India's policy, the edible crops are not used as feed stock for production of biofuel. Cultivation of tree borne oilseeds including *Jatropha* is permitted only on wastelands. Under ongoing R&D programme, intercropping trials of *Jatropha* with other crops have been conducted, which so far have not shown any adverse effect.

#### **Rainfed Area**

3365. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total rainfed area under agriculture and its percentage in total agricultural land in the country;

(b) the reasons for not providing irrigation facilities in such areas;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for optimal utilisation of rain water to provide maximum benefits to the farmers; and

(d) the success achieved therein so far?

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): (a) As per available estimates about 85 million ha. is rainfed area which is about 60% of total net sown area in the country.

(b) Difficult topographical and geographical terrain, limited, ground water availability and constraints in spreading surface water irrigation infrastructure are the main reasons for not providing assured irrigation in the entire net sown areas.

(c) and (d) Government of India has accorded high priority to the holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas through the Integrated Watershed Development Programmes. Following Watershed Development Programmes are under implementation with the major objectives of reduction in soil erosion and land degradation, reduction of run-off by increasing time of concentration, creating additional water storage for supplementary/live saving irrigation, increasing moisture regime etc.

(i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR).

(ii) Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR).

(iii) Reclamation and Development of Alkali and Acid Soils.

(iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSA)

(v) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(vi) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)

(vii) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

The comprehensive assessment of the aforesaid Watershed Development Programmes made by International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) revealed that the programmes have helped in increasing additional water storage capacity for supplementary/live saving irrigation, increase in cropping intensity and productivity, farmers income and reduction in soil erosion & run off.

#### **Over Exploitation of Water Resources**

3366. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mineral water and soft drink bottling plants operational in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the plants that have been certified by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) or any other competent authority;

(c) the quantum of ground water used by these plants during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the said water was used without the payment of any fees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken for checking the over exploitation of the water resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) certifies drinking water and mineral water bottling plants. As per data made available by the BIS, the number of companies (Licences) manufacturing and selling ISI marked packaged drinking water (PWD) as per IS 14543:2004 and mineral water as per 13428:2004 are 1940 and 12 respectively. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

As per information collected by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) from the State Governments, the quantum of ground water used by the plants in various States ranges from 0.002 to 7.03 Million Cubic Meter (MCM)/Year.

As per information given by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, the water cess is levied and collected by the State Pollution Control Boards for prevention and control of water pollution. Differential rates of cess are collected depending upon the use of water.

(e) The remedial measures taken by the Union Government for checking over-exploitation of the water resources include:

- Circulation of Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge.
- Implementation of a scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells".
- Implementation of a demonstrative scheme on "Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water" in identified areas during the period 2006-09.
- Constitution of Advisory Council on "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" to popularize the concept of artificial recharge among stakeholders.
- Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of Regulation and Control of Ground Water Management and Development.
- Directions issued to State Government to take measures to adopt artificial recharge to ground water/promote rain water harvesting in all the Over-exploited areas of the State.

#### **Statement**

*State/UT-wise Total Number of Companies (Licences) Manufacturing and Selling ISI Marked Packaged Drinking Water (PWD) as per is 14543:2004 and Mineral Water as per 13428:2005 for Mineral Water Industry*

States/UTs	No. of Licences (packaged drinking water)	No. of Licences (packaged mineral water)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	471	—
Kerala and Pondicherry	40	—
Karnataka	145	—

1	2	3
Tamil Nadu	447	—
West Bengal, Bhutan, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	51	—
Orissa	31	—
Bihar and Jharkhand	33	—
Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram	29	—
Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	73	3
Rajasthan	41	—
Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh	78	—
Delhi and Noida	70	—
Himachal Pradesh	7	8
Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh	78	—
Gujarat	179	1
Maharashtra, Goa, Daman and Dadra Nagar Haveli	167	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>12</b>

(Source: Bureau of Indian Standards)

[English]

#### Hoarding of Foodgrains

3367. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether low Minimum Support Price and rising prices of foodgrains has led to hoarding and profiteering by the companies trading in foodgrains while the farmers and consumers continue to suffer as reported by the International Agency Oxam;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the salient features of the said report; and

(c) the details of remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) have been announced by Government in successive years. Details are given in the enclosed statement. Government is not aware of a report of International Agency Oxam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is aware of increase in prices of food items and has taken a number of steps to control the price rise and to soften the impact of price rise on consumers. Government has taken the following specific measures to protect the vulnerable sections of society.

(i) Government has protected poor sections of society through Targeted Public Distribution

System (TPDS) and Antodaya Anna Yonaja (AAY). Under the TPDS, wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene oils are allocated to State Governments for distribution through the Fair Price Shops. The off take of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other welfare schemes (OWS) has, however, been going up. For TPDS, wheat and rice off take have gone up from 242 lakh tonnes in 2003-04 to 316 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 335.27 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. During the period April-September 2008, 167.38 lakh tonnes wheat and rice has been allocated under TPDS. The Central Issue Price for rice and wheat has not been revised since 1.7.2002. For wheat it remains at Rs. 4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs. 2 per kg for AAY. For rice, it is Rs. 5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg for AAY.

- (ii) Government launched a scheme on 28.07.2008 to distribute one million tons of edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy @ Rs. 15/kg. Orders were placed for import of 3.60 lakh tons of edible

oils. Of this, about 3.34 lakh tons of edible oil has landed; and about 1.82 lakh tons have so far been distributed to various States/UTs by Central PSUs for distribution to ration card holders @ 1 per kg ration card per month.

- (iii) Government has recently introduced a scheme under which the Public Sector Agencies like National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), MMTC, PEC Ltd. and State Trading Corporation (STC) can import pulses and sell the same at a subsidy of Rs. 10/- per kg to the State Governments for distribution of pulses through Public Distribution System (PDS). It will be the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that pulses imported under the scheme are lifted and the targeted consumers get it. The scheme, therefore, aims at augmenting availability of pulses within the country through imports specifically for supplying to the poorer sections through PDS at a subsidized price.

**Statement**

*Minimum Support Prices of Various Agricultural Commodities  
(According to Crop Year)*

Commodity	Variety	2002-03		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	% variation (2008-09 over 2003-04)	% variation (2008-09 over 2007-08)
		Special Drought relief price									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Kharif Crops</b>											
Paddy	Common	530	20	550	560	570	580 <sup>a</sup>	645 <sup>\$\$\$</sup> /850-	850	54.55	31.78
	Grade A	560	20	580	590	600	610 <sup>a</sup>	675 <sup>\$\$\$</sup> /850-	880	51.72	30.37
Jowar	Hybrid	485	5	505	515	525	540	600	840	66.34	40
	Maldandi	-	-	-	-	-	555	620	860		38.70
Bajra		485	10	505	515	525	540	600	840	66.34	40
Maize		485	5	505	525	540	540	620	840	66.34	35.48
Ragi		485	5	505	512	525	540	600	915	81.19	52.5
Amar		1320	5	1360	1390	1400	1410	1550 <sup>^^</sup>	2000	47.06	29.03
Moong		1330	5	1370	1410	1520	1520	1700 <sup>^^</sup>	2520	83.94	48.24
Urad		1330	5	1370	1410	1520	1520	1700 <sup>^^</sup>	2520	83.94	48.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Cotton	F-414/H-777/J-34			1725	1760	1760	1770*	1800*	2500#	44.93	38.89
	H-4			1925	1960	1980	1990**	2030**	3000##	55.84	47.78
Groundnut in shell		1355	20	1400	1500	1520	1520	1550	2100	50.22	35.48
Sunflower Seed		1195	15	1250	1340	1500	1500	1510	2215	77.20	46.89
Soyabean	Black	795	10	840	900	900	900	910	1350	60.71	48.35
	Yellow	885	10	930	1000	1010	1020	1050	1390	49.46	32.38
Sesamum		1450	5	1485	1500	1550	1560	1580	2750	85.19	74.05
Nigerseed		1120	-	1155	1180	1200	1220	1240	2405	108.23	83.85
<b>Rabi Crops</b>											
Wheat		620	10	630	640	650\$	750\$\$	1000	1080*	71.43	8.00
Barley		500	5	525	540	550	565	650	680*	29.52	4.62
Gram		1220	5	1400	1425	1435	1445	1600	1730*	23.57	8.13
Masur (Lentil)		1320	5	1500	1525	1535	1545	1700	1870*	24.67	10
Rapeseed/Mustard		1330	10	1600	1700	1715	1715	1800	1830*	14.38	1.67
Safflower		1300	5	1500	1550	1565	1565	1650	1650*	10	0
Toria		1295	10	1565	1665	1680	1680				
<b>Other Crops</b>											
Sugarcane				73	74.5	79.5	80.25	81.18	81.18	11.21	0

#Figures in the bracket indicate percentage increase.

\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 50 per quintal was payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP)

\$\$ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 100 per quintal is payable over the Minimum Support Price (MSP)

^ An additional incentive bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable on procurement between 1.10.2006 to 31.3.2007

In case of Bihar & Kerala additional incentive bonus extended upto 31.5.2007 and in case of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal additional incentive bonus extended upto 30.9.2007.

^^A bonus of Rs. 40 per quintal is payable over & above the MSP.

\*CACP recommended the figure for 2008-09.

Source: D/o Agriculture & Cooperation.

#### Setting up of Beverage Unit by DRDO

3368. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DRDO proposes to set up units to produce herbal beverage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the places where such units have been set up so far and are proposed to be set up during 2008-09; and

(d) the details of the expenditure incurred in setting up of such units in various parts of the country so far?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) does not propose to set up any commercial beverage production unit. However, some of the Life Sciences Laboratories are actively engaged in R&D for various food processing technologies specifically required for Services. The matured technologies are then transferred to industries for commercial production.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**NTC Mills**

3369. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the profit/losses incurred by the National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and mill-wise;

(b) whether steps have been taken by the Government to make the NTC Mills profitable; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Details of profit/loss incurred by National Textile Corporation (NTC) Mills during the last three years and during April-September, 2008, State-wise and Mill-wise are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) Following steps, as approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and

Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM), have been taken to make the company profitable:

- (i) To bring down the administrative cost of NTC, 9 subsidiary-corporation of NTC have been merged with NTC Holding Company, making it a single company with a single Board of Directors, as against 10 Companies for NTC in the past.
- (ii) 67 unviable mills have been closed and compensation paid to the surplus employees of these closed mills who opted for Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS).
- (iii) By offering MVRS to the surplus employees, the number of employees in NTC has been brought down to 12234. Under this scheme, 59,179 employees have availed voluntary retirement.
- (iv) 22 mills have been identified for modernization by NTC itself. Out of these, 15 mills have so far been modernized. In addition to this, modernisation of 16 mills through Joint Venture (JV) route has also been finalized.

**Statement**

*Statewise/Millwise Net Profit/Loss for the last 3 years and current year from 2005-06 to April, 08-Sept., 08*

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Mills	2005-06 Audited	2006-07 Audited	2007-08 Audited	2008-09 April, 08-Sept, 08 Provisional
1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>					
1.	Tirupati Cotton Mills	-287.74	-264.55	-318.70	-134.72
2.	Ananthapur Cotton Mills	1184.4	-327.06	(No Production Activity)	
	Sub Total	-1472.14	-591.61	-318.70	-134.72
<b>Karnataka</b>					
3.	Minerva Mills	-4079.32	-1632.76	-2548.24	-1163.26
4.	Sree Yallama Cotton Mills	-1185.72	-332.85	(No Production Activity)	
	Sub Total	-5265.04	-1965.61	-2548.24	-1163.26
<b>Kerala</b>					
5.	Algappa Tex. Mills	-447.35	-250.05	-890.00	-412.54
6.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-269.29	19.31	-256.21	-97.59

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Kerala Laxmi Mills	-456.06	-60.15	-681.65	-306.94
8.	Vijayamohani Mills	-458.1	-148.49	-470.39	-302.49
9.	Parvathi Mills	-1373.73	-1159.87	-2201.02	-462.24
	Sub Total	-3034.53	-1599.25	-4506.05	-1581.80
<b>Mahe</b>					
10.	Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-393.51	-94.06	-381.26	-221.14
<b>Punjab</b>					
11.	Kharar Tex. Mills	-2032.44	-1007.58	(No Production Activity)	
12.	Suraj Textile Mills	-1820.15	-811.98	(No Production Activity)	
	Sub Total	-3852.59	-1819.56		
<b>Rajasthan</b>					
13.	Udaipur Coton Mills	208.18	-489.70	(No Production Activity)	
14.	Mahalaxmi Mills	-1426.32	-1031.66	-1102.42	-364.78
15.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	-1655.48	-757.47	(No Production Activity)	
	Sub Total	-2873.62	-2278.83	-1102.42	364.78
<b>Gujarat</b>					
16.	Ahmedabad New Tex. Mills	-2255.66	-903.86	(No Production Activity)	
17.	Rajnagar Tex. Mills No.1	-2495.17	-1245.14	-1298.49	-103.44
	Sub Total	-4750.83	-2149.00	-1298.49	-103.44
<b>Maharashtra</b>					
18.	Indian United Mills Dye Works	-1865.52	-2308.83	(No Production Activity)	
19.	India United Mills No. 1	-3432.41	-3681.78	-7280.66	
20.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1	3661.34	258.21	(No Production Activity)	
21.	Tata Mills	-3719.27	-2644.59	-4085.34	-1954.13
22.	Podar Mills	-2695.62	-2856.55	-3458.43	-1569.24
23.	RBBA Mills	-1016.87	-1130.71	-2032.8	-682.35
24.	India United Mill No. 5	-1997.51	-1995.05	-2201.64	-1213.80
25.	Savatram Ramprasad Mills	-666.22	-509.33	-781.68	-386.56
26.	Apollo Tex. Mills	16435.94	16995.28	2602.94	

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Brashi Tex. Mills	-170.09	-378.82	-614.87	-361.07
28.	Chalisgaon Tex. Mills	-756.91	-1274.52	-1125.34	-655.07
29.	Finlay Mills	-3608.74	-4098.89	-2455.48	-1195.42
30.	Dhule Tex Mills	-948.98	-1389.13	-1227.64	-619.27
31.	Gold Mohur Mills	-2596.75	-1393.16	-3684.41	
32.	Nanded Tex Mills	-1135.31	1745	-1208.27	-718.60
33.	New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	-2651.37	-1528.84	-5033.44	
34.	Aurangabad Textile Mills	-520.69	-540.86	-1076.01	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-7684.98</b>	<b>-6732.69</b>	<b>-33663.07</b>	<b>-9355.31</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>					
35.	Burhanpur Tapti Mills	- 847.05	-1080.29	-1178.22	-115.98
36.	New Bhopal Tex. Mills	-1032.30	-1230.36	-1619.13	-439.00
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-1879.35</b>	<b>-2310.65</b>	<b>-2797.35</b>	<b>-554.8</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>					
37.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills Mau.	-1306.35	-408.12	-494.32	-47.70
38.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	-3300.79	-1051.93	(No Production Activity)	
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-4607.14</b>	<b>-1460.05</b>	<b>-494.32</b>	<b>-47.70</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>					
39.	Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	-763.34	-666.00	697.25	-87.09
40.	Sodepur Cotton Mills	-535.08	-596.85	-111.32	-55.06
41.	Arati Cotton Mills	-709.68	-671.52	-63.78	-83.40
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>-2008.10</b>	<b>-1934.37</b>	<b>522.15</b>	<b>-225.55</b>
<b>Bihar</b>					
42.	Bihar Co-Operative Mills	-715.16	-549.50	(No Production Activity)	
<b>Orissa</b>					
43.	Orissa Cotton Mills	-707.85	-663.14	-42.79	-78.73
<b>Assam</b>					
44.	Associated Industries	-604.35	-560.21	(No Production Activity)	
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>					
45.	Cambodia Mills	-240.12	-1077.27	-753.07	-338.98

1	2	3	4	5	6
46.	Coimbatore Murugan Mills	-179.08	-525.82	-289.68	-251.97
47.	Pankaja Mills	240.99	-292.04	4199.39	-319.03
48.	Pioneer Spinners Mills	-120.31	-257.08	-425.69	-233.31
49.	Sri Rangavilas S & W Mills	577.06	-338.52	-535.31	-307.28
50.	Kaleswarar Mills B Unit	*68.7	-286.05	-328.03	-228.93
51.	Sri Sarda Mills	-632.24	-495.91	-1053.67	-419.83
52.	Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	-857.67	-1591.27	-1362.54	-693.45
	Sub Total	-1762.05	-4863.96	-548.60	-2790.78

[*Translation*]

#### Investment in IT Sector

3370. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to promote investment in the Information Technology sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has approved a scheme to create Information Technology Investment Regions (ITIRs). A Gazette Notification has been issued in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) vide No. 7 (5)/2006-E. Infra dated May 29, 2008. The scheme envisages to establish Information Technology (IT), Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) and Electronics Hardware Manufacturing Units (EHMs) including related services and infrastructure. Each ITIR is expected to be a specifically notified investment region with a minimum area of 40 kms. ITIR's are to be identified by the respective State Government. The responsibility of the State Government is to ensure that all physical infrastructure and utilities within its jurisdiction (power, water, roads, transportation, sewerage and effluent treatment facilities) are provided. The Government of India will facilitate development of National Highways, Airport and Rail links to the ITIRs.

To encourage investments for setting up Semiconductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacturing industries in India, Special Incentive Package Scheme (SIPS) was announced by the Government on 21st March, 2007. The scheme is open upto 31st March, 2010. Central Government or any of its agencies can provide incentive of 20% of the capital expenditure during the first 10 years for the units in Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and 20% of the capital expenditure for non-SEZ units. Non-SEZ units shall be exempt from Counter Vailing Duty (CVD). Units may claim incentives in form of capital subsidy and/or equity as per provisions mentioned in the gazette notification dated 21.3.2007 for SIPS.

[*English*]

#### Disbursement of Micro Credit

3371. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has tied up with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to disburse micro credit to women self-help groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme will be introduced in all the post offices of the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the rate of interest to be paid by the self-help groups on the micro credit; and

(f) the commission proposed to be charged by the Post Offices from the NABARD ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding was entered into with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) by Tamil Nadu Postal Circle to disburse micro

credit to women Self Help Groups (SHG) in five identified districts of Tamil Nadu as a Pilot Project. Details of the Pilot Project is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to introduce the scheme in all the post offices of the country. The Memorandum of Understanding is applicable for only five (5) districts of Tamil Nadu state.

(e) and (f) The rate of interest paid by the Self Help Groups is 9% per annum out of which post offices get 3% as commission.

### **Statement**

#### *NABARD-Self Help Group-Post Office Scheme*

#### 1. Details of the scheme: Postal Divisions and Districts in Tamil Nadu where the scheme is in operation

Sl.No.	Name of the Division	Districts served	No. of post offices implementing the scheme	No. of Self Help Group
1.	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai	459	519
2.	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	342	463
3.	Nagapattinam	Tiruvarur	95	172
4.	Pattukottai	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur	217	324
5.	Kumbakonam	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur	148	285
6.	Thanjavur	Thanjavur, Tiruvarur	372	385
7.	Myladuthurai	Tiruvarur	20	75
8.	Karaikudi	Sivagangai	116	121
9.	Sivaganga	Sivagangai	194	502
Total			1963	2846

#### 2. Details of Loan Sanctioned to and Repaid by the Self Help Groups upto November-2008:

* Number of Self Help Groups linked	2846
* Amount of Loan Sanctioned (In Rupees)	1,78,89,950
* Amount of Loan Repaid (In Rupees)	89,48,379

**Production of New Genetic Potato**

3372. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian scientists have been able to increase the protein quantity in potato by making suitable genetic changes therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the name of the States in which such field trials have been carried out; and

(d) the time by which commercial production of new genetic potato is likely to be started in the country?

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): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Transgenic lines of commercial Indian potato varieties have been developed under a collaborative effort between Central Potato Research Institute (ICAR), Shimla and National Institute on Plant Genome Research (DBT), New Delhi.

The project was started in the year 1999-2000 to improve nutritional quality of Potato protein by expressing the high quality seed storage protein (AMA1) of *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* (Ramdana). Eight Indian potato cultivars viz., Kufri Chipsona 1, Kufri Chipsona 2, Kufri Badshah, Kufri Sutlej, Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Pukhraj, Kufri Bahar, and Kufri Sindhuri were transformed with the AMA1 gene. Initially, forty transgenic lines were evaluated at CPRI, Shimla and CPRI Campus Modipuram under transgenic greenhouse. Based on tuber yield and expression of AMA1 gene, 2 lines each of 7 potato cultivars were selected for further limited field trial at CPRIC, Modipuram (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06), CPRS, Jalandhar (2004-05 and 2005-06), and NIPGR, New Delhi (2004-05 and 2005-06).

Significant increase in protein content was observed in two transgenic lines of Kufri Chipsona 2 (K. Chipsona 2/15 and K. Chipsona 2/40) and one line each of Kufri

Badshah (K. Badshah/5) and Kufri Sutlej (K. Sutlej/3). Increase in protein content was 41% in K. Chipsona 2/40, 39% in K. Chipsona 2/15, 21% in K. Sutlej/3 and 16% in K. Badshah/5.

(c) and (d) No field trial could be undertaken due to ban during last 2 years. Field trial can be undertaken only after the approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee. At least 4-5 years would be needed for commercial exploitation of the lines.

*[Translation]*

**Income through Selling of Vacant Lands**

3373. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to generate revenue by selling the vacant plots of land of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total area of land of the said companies old/proposed to be sold during the last two years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir. However, in so far as Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) is concerned, a total of 773.13 acres of land which were identified as surplus prior to disinvestment requires disposal as per the provisions of Shareholder's Agreement (SHA) and Share Purchase Agreement (SPA).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

*[English]*

**Spectrum User Charges for 3G Mobile Service Providers**

3374. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalized a proposal regarding spectrum user charges for stand-alone Third Generation (3G) mobile service operators and one time levy on those operators having over 6.2 MHz of spectrum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposal regarding lock in period on stake sales by promoters of new telecom companies; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The proposal to levy annual spectrum charges for stand alone 3G mobile operators and levying of one time charges for spectrum over 6.2 MHz are under consideration and is likely to be finalized shortly.

(c) and (d) The proposal regarding lock-in period for sale of equity of promoters of UAS Licencees company is under consideration.

*[Translation]*

#### **Repair of Water Bodies**

3375. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for the revival/repair of the water bodies including lakes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds provided therefor in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Government proposes to implement this scheme in the entire country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A pilot scheme for repair, renovation & restoration of water bodies directly linked to agriculture was implemented during the X Plan. The project proposals for Rs. 299.92 crore in respect of 1098 water bodies in

26 districts of 15 States were sanctioned under this scheme. A scheme under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) was also launched in June, 2001 with the objective of restoring and conserving the polluted and degraded lakes, in urban and semi-urban areas of the country. Projects for conservation of 56 lakes at a total estimated cost of Rs. 772.01 crore have been sanctioned under this scheme.

(c) to (e) An outlay of Rs. 2750 crore has been provided in the XI Plan for implementation of the Scheme of Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies in the entire country. An outlay of Rs. 440 crore has been provided in the XI Plan for NLCP.

*[English]*

#### **Telephone Facilities in Villages**

3376. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country with a population of less than 100 persons which have been provided telephone facilities during each of the last three years and the current year particularly in the remote, thickly forested and naxalite infested areas; and

(b) the number of such villages in the country still deprived of the basic telephone facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Universal Service obligation Fund (USOF) entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, laying in thick forests areas/naxalites effected areas. As on 31st October, 2008, 55,420 VPTs have been provided by BSNL.

(b) As per Cencus 2001, there are 60,000 inhabited villages in the country which are yet to be provided with VPT facility. These villages are likely to be provided with VPT facility in next two years.

**Revival of IT Sector**

3377. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Engineers and related qualified persons employed in the Information Technology (IT) Sector have lost their jobs due to the severe crisis facing the IT sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government has introduced a relief package for the affected persons; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the alternative scheme, if any, for revival of IT sector and relief of such workers rendered jobless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

**Delhi Milk Scheme**

3378. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) is incurring losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to minimize the said losses;

(d) whether DMS booth owners have shown more interest in selling products other than DMS milk; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the provisions governing the sale of goods at DMS booths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. DMS is incurring losses due to higher cost of production as a result of excess manpower, increasing input costs and old plant and machinery.

In order to improve the profitability of DMS, Government has taken the following steps:

(i) Government is adopting professional approach in different area of operation such as marketing, transportation and plant operations for increasing overall efficiency.

(ii) To reduce the expenditure, packing of milk in Central Dairy is being completed in two shifts against three shifts.

(iii) Modernization of the obsolete plant, machinery and equipment is being undertaken to reduce the cost.

(iv) Regular monitoring of various efficiency parameters of DMS such as average daily sale of milk, milk handled per unit of electricity and percentage of loss of liquid milk, etc.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The department has not received any such report. However, as per the existing policy, concessionaries of DMS booths are not permitted to sell any prohibited items like cigarette, Gutka, Tobacco, Pan from the DMS milk booths.

12.00 hrs.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Consumers Federation

of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10010/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10011/2008]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:-

(i) The Apprenticeship (Second Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 594(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2008.

(ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 511(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10012/2008]

- (3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 595(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2008 specifying for the purpose of Apprentices Act, 1961, the State Councils for Technical Education, mentioned in the notification in respect of the Trade Test or Examination with Trades or Subjects issued under Section 2 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10013/2008]

[*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) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2002-03.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2002-03, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2002-03.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10014/2008]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2003-04.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2003-04, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2003-04.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT. 10015/2008]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2004-05.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2004-05, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2004-05.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10016/2008]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2007-08, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, for the year 2007-08.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10017/2008]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Horticulture Board, Guragon, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Horticulture Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2007-08.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10018/2008]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2006-07.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-100019/2008]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working
- of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing Jaipur, for the year 2007-08.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10020/2008]
- (12) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619 of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10021/2008]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Adited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Audited General thereon.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10022/2008]
- (13) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2003-04.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Orissa Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2003-04, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.
- [Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10023/2008]

- (15) A copy of the Plant Quarantine Regulation of Import into India (Second Amendment) Order, 2006 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 2074 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2006 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10024/2008]

- (16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2007-08 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Oilseeds and Vegetables Oils Development Board, Gurgaon, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10025/2008]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10026/2008]

- (18) A copy of the Jaggery Grading and Marking Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 810(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 08, under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10027/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): Sir, I beg to lay the Table a copy of the Standards of weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules,

2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 737(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th October, 2008 under sub-section (4) of Section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act 1976.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10028/2008]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2006-07, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2006-07.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10029/2008]

- (3) A copy 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 Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10030/2008]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2007-08 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10031/2008]

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor general thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10032/2008]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, New Delhi for the year 2006-2007, alongwith audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10033/2008]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronic Engineering and Research, Mumbai, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronic Engineering and Research, Mumbai, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10034/2008]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the DOEACC Society, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10035/2008]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10036/2008]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) a copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10037/2008]

(6) A copy of the Telecom Unsolicited Commercial Communications (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 104-15/2008-MN in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2008 under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act. 1997.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT-10038/2008]

*[English]*

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): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 10039/2008]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Children's Film Society, India, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 10040/2008]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 10041/2008]

12.02 hrs.

## RESIGNATIONS BY MEMBERS

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received individual letters dated 19th December, 2008 from Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmaria and Shrimati Neeta Pateriya elected Members from Khajuraho and Seoni Parliamentary Constituencies, respectively, of Madhya Pradesh resigning from the membership of Lok Sabha with immediate effect.

I have accepted their resignations with effect from 19th December, 2008.

12.02<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

## MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA\*

[*English*]

SECRETARY GENERAL: I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to

inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the National Investigation Agency Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th December, 2008."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th December, 2008 agreed without any amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2008 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 17th December, 2008."

I have also to report that Rajya Sabha has passed the following Bills:-

- (i) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2008;
- (ii) The Science and Engineering Research Board Bill, 2008;
- (iii) The Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and
- (iv) The Collection of Statistics Bill, 2008.

Sir, I lay on the Table the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the 18th December, 2008; the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (Amendment) Bill, 2008; and the Collection of Statistics Bill, 2008, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the 19th December, 2008.

12.04 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

33rd and 34th Reports

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings:-

- (1) Thirty-third Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 30th Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (14th Lok Sabha) on Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited; and

\*Laid on the Table.

- (2) Thirty-fourth Report on Physical and Financial Performance of Power Generating PSUs.

12.04<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

**JOINT COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL POSITION  
RELATING TO OFFICE OF PROFIT**

**(I) Report**

*[English]*

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): I beg to present the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit.

**(II) Evidence**

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the evidence tendered before the Joint Committee to examine the constitutional and legal position relating to office of profit.

12.05 hrs.

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

- (i) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 114th and 117th Reports of Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively) pertaining to the Department of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shri T.R. Baalu, I beg to lay the statement in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and direction 73A issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT-10042/2008

September 1, 2004, on the status of implementation of Recommendations contained in the 114th and 117th Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

The Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture had held its meetings on 16th April, 2007 and on 9th May, 2007 to consider the 114th and 117th Reports respectively. The Committee had also taken the Oral Evidence of officers of the Department. The 114th Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 14.05.2007 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14.05.2007. The 117th Report was presented to the Rajya Sabha on 14.05.2007 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 14.05.2007.

I am also laying on the Table of the House a Statement (Part I and Part II) giving the status of implementation of those recommendations contained in 114th and 117th Reports.

12.05<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

- (ii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 28th Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2006-09) pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour, as per Direction issued by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha in pursuance of Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, on 1st September, 2004.

The Twenty Eighth Report of the Committee concern the Ministry of Labour and Employment, which was laid on the Table of the House on 22.04.2008. I would like to mention that the Ministry had submitted to the Committee, the Action Taken Report on this Report on 27.08.2008, which has been taken note of by the Committee.

The status of implementation of the recommendations of the Committee, contained in the Twenty-eighth Report, is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement, circulated

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT-10043/2008

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

among hon. Members. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure.

I would request that this might be considered as read.

12.06 hrs.

- (iii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 25th Report of Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants 2008-09, pertaining to the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I beg to lay a Statement of the Table of the House on the status of implementation of the Recommendations contained in the Twenty Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants for 2008-09 of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) in pursuance of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilizers examined the Demands for Grants, of the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals (Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers) for the year 2008-09 and presented their Twenty Fifth Report to Lok Sabha on 23.04.2008. The Report contains 19 Recommendations. The gist of the Recommendations is as follows:

- (i) Implementation of partially implemented recommendations in the XVth Report on Demands for Grants 2007-08.
- (ii) Proportionate utilization of funds during each year of XIth Five Year Plan.
- (iii) Early Operationalisation of Plastic Waste Management Centre of CIPET at Guwahati.
- (iv) Utilisation of balance amount of absentees's claim for Common Welfare Scheme for Bhopal Gas Disaster victims and their families.

- (v) Removal of toxic waste from Union Carbide plant site at Bhopal.
- (vi) Timely completion of Assam Gas Cracker Project and generation of employment in Assam & other North-Eastern States.
- (vii) Achievement of objectives and smooth functioning by IPFT.
- (viii) Operationalisation of new NIPERs within the scheduled time period.
- (ix) Organization of more awareness programmes by experts and protective measures for safety of industries as well as public.
- (x) Finalization of National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006.
- (xi) Export of pharmaceuticals.
- (xii) Setting up of more PCPI.
- (xiii) Proper utilization of funds allocated for new schemes.
- (xiv) Exploring of all parameters before setting up any unit.
- (xv) Revival of IDPL-Finalization of recommendations of Group of Ministers.
- (xvi) Timely completion of projects of HAL.
- (xvii) Timely completion of Revival Plan of BCPL.
- (xviii) Delinking of KAPL from HAL and early setting up of Cephalosporin Project.
- (xix) Revival of ODCL instead of winding up.

The Standing Committee has analyzed the recommendations contained in their Sixteenth Report on Demands for Grants 2007-08. With the start up of Caustic/Chlorine Plant at Rasayani Unit, the annual turnover of Rasayani Unit would go up to Rs. 210 cr. as per the Revival Plan from the present turnover of Rs. 106.00 cr. The Plant has been recommissioned on 19.9.2008. The mandatory EFC/SFC for some long term programmes of the Department are being held. The process for purchase of machinery for the Plastics Waste Management Centre has already begun in CIPET. The Project is likely to be operationalised by March, 2009. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, *pro rata* compensation to the victims of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster is still continuing. An

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT - 10044/2008.

application in respect of nearly 13000 absentee claimants had been filed by the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court to treat all such cases as closed. The Supreme Court is yet to issue Orders in this regard. The Madhya Pradesh Government has informed that 40 MT of Lime Sludge has been transported from Bhopal to Pithampur in June, 2008. The other 350 MT of toxic waste has to be incinerated soon by Government of Madhya Pradesh to complete the Phase-II of the Roadmap.

The Government of India has released Rs. 100.00 cr. in June, 2008 as capital subsidy for implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project and the ground work including securing of allotted land and site development is being undertaken. IPFT is functioning smoothly and has initiated a project, *viz.* 'Development and Production of Neem Products as Environment Friendly Pesticides' at national level. The Union Cabinet, on 23rd August, 2007, approved the setting up of six new NIPERs at (i) Ahmedabad, (ii) Hyderabad, (iii) Hajipur, (iv) Kolkata, (v) Guwahati, and (vi) Rae Bareli. Gazette Notifications relating to establishment of the six new NIPERs have been issued. Out of the six new NIPERs to be opened, classes were started at four places i.e., Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Hajipur in 2007-08 itself through Mentor Institutes. Classes at NIPER, Guwahati and NIPER, Rae Bareli have been started in the ensuing academic session 2008-09 through Mentor Institutes. Twelve (12) Awareness Programmes in different parts of the country have been planned with concentration of chemical industry relevant to CWC (Chemical Weapons Convention) with due attention to the safety of factory workers and general public. The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM has since been constituted and has held four meetings so far on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008. GOM is yet to make its recommendations to the Cabinet. The Department has constantly been making efforts to seek the 314 decision of the GOM for early finalization of the Pharma Policy. Mega Chemical Industrial Estate have been subsumed in the Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRs). Apart from this, Promotion of export, Trade and Investment in the Sector is being promoted through setting up of PCPIRs holding of India Chem and other promotional steps. PCPIR proposal in respect of

Vishakhapatnam, AP and Dahej, Gujarat has been cleared by High Powered Committee. Proposal of Haldia, West Bengal is being put up to High Powered Committee. For this funds are being used from Chemical Promotion Development Scheme. The revival of Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) is still under consideration of Group of Ministers. The commercial production of new cephalosporin project of HAL would commence in January, 2009. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (BCPL) has started implementation of its sanctioned rehabilitation plan. BCPL has also recruited 18 professionals of different fields like Production, Finance, Marketing, Quality Control, etc. BCPL is ensuring that goods being produced are against orders and not on anticipation of orders so as to avoid accumulation of unnecessary inventory. The final decision with regard to delinking of Kamataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (KAPL) from Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. (HAL) is likely to be taken soon. Both Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL) and M/s. Medicare have submitted their Plans for revival of Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd (ODCL) to the High Court of Orissa who have entrusted the Plans to the Liquidator for evaluation. High Court of Orissa has since reserved its Judgement and is awaited.

12.06<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

- (iv) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 31st Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel pertaining to the Ministry of Coal\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 31st Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of Direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin - Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

The 31st Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 16.4.2008. Action taken statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 25.7.2008.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT - 10045/2008.

[Shri Santosh Bagrodia]

There are 9 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like Fund utilization under the Plan Outlay, Illegal Mining, Setting up of Coal Regulator.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07 hrs.

- (v) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 183rd and 191st Reports of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-08 and 2008-09, respectively), pertaining to the Department of Atomic Energy\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay the following Statements:

The Department had received the 183rd report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment and Forests (Rajya Sabha) on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 176th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2007-08). The report had been forwarded to the concerned authorities in the Department for implementation.

The Department had received the 191st Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests (Rajya Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to DAE in February-March, 2008. Action Taken Report on the recommendations of the Committee was furnished by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) *vide* Note No. 1/2(2)/2008-Budget/169 dated 22.07.2008 to Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10046/2008.

With your permission, I would like to lay a copy of the same on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

12.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

- (vi) (a) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 27th Report of Standing Committee on Labour on "Sickness/Closure of Textile Mills", pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles\***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay the Statement in pursuance of Direction 73(A) of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated September 1, 2004, on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-Seventh Report of Standing Committee on Labour on "Sickness/Closure of Textile Mills" of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour presented its Twenty-Seventh Report to the Lok Sabha on 17th April, 2008. The Report contains 9 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the sickness/closure of public and private textile mills under the Ministry of Textiles. The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in August, 2008. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

- (b) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 29th Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2008-09), pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles\***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay this Statement in pursuance of Direction 73(A) of the

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10047/2008.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10048/2008.

hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha published in Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part-II, dated September 01, 2004, on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-Ninth Report of Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Textiles.

The Standing Committee on Labour examined and presented its Twenty-Ninth Report to the Lok Sabha on 22nd April, 2008. The Report contains 14 recommendations. The recommendations of the Committee focus mainly on the Demands for Grants for (2008-09) of the Ministry of Textiles....*(Interruptions)* The recommendations contained in the report have been examined in the Ministry of Textiles, and a statement on the action taken/proposed to be taken on these recommendations was submitted to the Standing Committee on Labour in July, 2008. The Ministry of Textiles is committed to implement the recommendations of the Committee in their true spirit.

I also lay herewith the status of implementation of these recommendations on the Table of the House.

12.08<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

- (vii) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 86th Report of Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2008-09) pertaining to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry\***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): With your permission, I beg to make a Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Eighty-Sixth Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce on the direction of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 389 (New Direction 73-A) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Commerce examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion for the year 2008-09 and presented their Eighty-Sixth Report in this regard to the Rajya Sabha on 16th April, 2008 and the same was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16th April, 2008. The Report contains forty-four recommendations.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT-10049/2008.

All the forty-four recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion. The action as recommended by the Committee has either already been taken or has been initiated. The status of implementation of these recommendations is given in the Annexure.

With your leave, I would beg to lay on the Table of the House the Statement.

12.09 hrs.

**GOVERNMENT BILL—Introduced**

**Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956...*(Interruption)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Chief Minister of Congress...*(Interruption)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed to call Shri Santosh Gangwar. I will call him.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. When he raised the issue, you were not present. You have even not heard what have been said. Now please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed to call him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are routine matters, you know that.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, is it a routine matter?

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not said that it is his routine matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.12.2008.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that what we are doing now is a routine matter.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Harin Pathak, don't put words into my mouth.

[Translation]

This is not a debate, this is introduction of Bill.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for opposing the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956."

You may make a brief submission.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I oppose the introduction of the Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008. The Life Insurance Corporation of India is functioning successfully for the last 51 years. In its 51 years of existence, the Government of India never thought to increase the Government equity from Rs. 5 crore. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

...(Interruptions)\*

12.13 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Government of India has received thousands of crores as dividend from the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Moreover, the LIC has invested more than Rs. Two lakh crore for the

development of infrastructure, industrial development and other activities in the country. Today, after 51 years of its existence, the Government of India has decided to increase the Government equity from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 100 crore. There is some ill motive behind this decision. What is the rationale behind increasing the equity? In the other House, they are introducing a Bill to increase the Foreign Direct Investment in LIC from 26 per cent to 49 per cent, together with a decision to increase the Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. Both these Bills are inter-related. This is nothing but a step towards privatisation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. This is unconstitutional and that is why I am opposing the introduction of this Bill. So, we strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what is happening.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1 p.m.

12.15 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirteen of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### GOVERNMENT BILLS—INTRODUCED—contd.

(I) Life Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2008—Contd.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, this is very disgraceful. Recently we have passed an resolution against terrorism. ... (Interruptions)

13.01 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ratilal Kalidas Varma and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

\*Not recorded.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, are you pressing?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are pressing for a division at the time of introduction of the Bill. We do not want that this Bill be introduced. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956."

Mr. Acharia, do you want a division?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Yes, Sir.... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There has to be a division; you go to your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Lobbies be cleared— (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action; record their names.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956."

*The Lok Sabha divided:*

13.01 hrs.

Division No. 1

**Ayes**

Aaron Rashid, Shri J.M.

Agarwal, Dr. Dharendra

Ahmad, Dr. Shakeel

Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar

Athawale, Shri Ramdas

\*Athithan, Shri Dhanuskodi R.

Baalu, Shri T.R.

\*Baba', Shri K.C. Singh

Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar

Barku, Shri Shingada Damodar

\*Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh

Botcha, Shrimati Jhansi Lakshmi

Chaliha, Shri Kirip

Chander Kumar, Prof.

Chaudhary, Dr. Tushar A.

Chinta Mohan, Dr.

Chitthan, Shri N.S.V.

Chowdhury, Shri Adhir

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Dikshit, Shri Sandeep

Elangovan, Shri E.V.K.S.

Engtl, Shri Biren Singh

Fanthome, Shri Francis

Gadakh, Shri Tukaram Gangadhar

Ghuran Ram, Shri

\*Gill, Shri Atma Singh

Gogoi, Shri Dip

Gowda, Shrimati Tejasvini

Handique, Shri B.K.

\*Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh

Hossain, Shri Abdul Mannan

\*Hussain, Shri Anwar

Jagadeesan, Shrimati Subbulakshmi

\*Jai Prakash, Shri

\*Jayaprada, Shrimati

Kader, Mohideen, Prof. K.M.

Kalmadi, Shri Suresh

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Kaur, Shrimati Preneet

Kharventhan, Shri S.K.

Krishna, Shri Vijoy

Krishnaswamy, Shri A.

Kumar, Shrimati Meira

Kumari Selja

\*Voted through slip

\*Voted through slip

Kyndiah, Shri P.R.  
 Lalu Prasad, Shri  
 \*Madam, Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai  
 Mcleod, Ms. Ingrid  
 Meena, Shri Namo Narain  
 Mehta, Shri Alok Kumar  
 Meinya, Dr. Thokchom  
 Mishra, Dr. Rajesh  
 Mistry, Shri Madhusudan  
 Mukherjee, Shri Pranab  
 Muniyappa, Shri K.H.  
 Mutterwar, Shri Vilas  
 Nikhil Kumar, Shri  
 Oraon, Dr. Rameshwar  
 Pallani Shamy, Shri K.C.  
 Patel, Shri Dinsha  
 Patel, Shri Jivabhai A.  
 Patil, Shri Balasaheb Vikhe  
 Patil, Shri Laxmanrao  
 Patil, Shri Pratik P.  
 Pingle, Shri Devidas  
 \*Ponnuswamy, Shri E.  
 Prasad, Shri Harikewal  
 Purandeswari, Shrimati D.  
 Raja, Shri A.  
 Rajagopal, Shri L.  
 \*Raju, Shri M.M. Pallam  
 Ramakrishna, Shri Badiga  
 Rana, Shri Gurjeet Singh  
 Rana, Shri Rabinder Kumar  
 Rani, Shrimati K.  
 Rao, Shri D. Vittal  
 Rao, Shri K.S.  
 Rathwa, Shri Naranbhai

\*Reddy, Shri A. Indra Karan  
 Reddy, Shri K.J.S.P  
 Reddy, Shri M. Raja Mohan  
 Reddy, Shri M. Sreenivasulu  
 Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana  
 Reddy, Shri S.P.Y.  
 Regupathy, Shri S.  
 Saijan Kumar, Shri  
 \*Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed  
 Sardinha, Shri Francisco Cosme  
 Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar  
 Selvi, Shrimati V. Radhika  
 Shakya, Shri Raghuraj Singh  
 Shandil, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram  
 \*Sharma, Dr. Arvind  
 Shivanna, Shri M.  
 Singh, Chaudhary Bijendra  
 Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Prasad  
 Singh, Rao Inderjit  
 Singh, Shri Chandra Bhushan  
 Singh, Shri Ganesh Prasad  
 Singh, Shri Manvendra  
 Singh, Shri Rewati Raman  
 Singh, Shrimati Kanti  
 Sugavanam, Shri E.G.  
 \*Sukabaidya, Shri Lalit Mohan  
 Suman, Shri Ramji Lal  
 \*Sumbrui, Shri Bagun  
 Suryawanshi, Shri Narsingrao H.  
 Thangkabalu, Shri K.V.  
 \*Thummar, Shri V.K.  
 Tytler, Shri Jagdish  
 Vallabhaneni, Shri Balashowry  
 \*Velu, Shri R.

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\*Voted through slip

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\*Voted through slip

Venkatapathy, Shri K.  
 Verma, Shrimati Usha  
 Vijayan Shri A.K.S.  
 Vundavalli, Shri Aruna Kumar  
 Yadav, Dr. Karan, Singh  
 Yadav, Shri Anirudh Prasad *Alias* Sadhu  
 Yadav, Shri Chandra Pal Singh  
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad  
 Yadav, Shri Giridhari  
 Yadav, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan  
 Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal  
 Yaskhi, Shri Madhu Goud

**NOES**

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb  
 Acharya, Shri Prasanna  
 Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.  
 Appadurai, Shri M.  
 Barman, Prof. Basudeb  
 Barman, Shri Ranen  
 Basu, Shri Anil  
 Bauri, Shrimati Suemita  
 Bellarmin, Shri A.V.  
 \*Chakraborty, Dr. Sujan  
 Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh  
 Chandrappan, Shri C.K.  
 Chatterjee, Shri Santasri  
 Dasgupta, Shri Gurudas  
 George, Shri K. Francis  
 Hussain, Shri Anwar  
 \*Jena, Shri Mohan  
 Karunakaran, Shri P.  
 Krishnadas, Shri N.N.  
 Krishnan, Dr. C.  
 Lahiri, Shri Samik  
 Mahtab, Shri B.  
 Manoj, Dr. K.S.

\*Voted through slip

Mediyam, Dr. Babu Rao  
 Mohan, Shri P.  
 Mollah, Shri Hannan  
 Mondal, Shri Abu Ayes  
 Murmu, Shri Rupchand  
 \*Nayak, Shrimati, Archana  
 Pal, Shri Rupchand  
 Panda, Shri Prabodh  
 \*Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar  
 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala  
 Rajendran, Shri P.  
 Salim, Md.  
 Satheedevi, Shrimati P.  
 Satpathy, Shri Tathagata  
 Seth, Shri Lakshman  
 \*Singh, Shri Sugrib  
 Sippiparai, Shri Ravichandran  
 Sujatha, Shrimati C.S.  
 Sumbrui, Shri Bagun  
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran  
 \*Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore  
 Veerendra Kumar, Shri M.P.

MR. SPEAKER: Subject to correction<sup>o</sup>, the result of the Division is:

Ayes:	106
Noes:	39

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

\*Voted through slip.

oAYES 106+S/Shri R. Velu, M.M. Pallam Raju, K.C. Singh, L.M. Sukabaidya, Anwar Hussain, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam, Dhanuskodi R. Athithan, Bagun Sumbrui, Avtar Singh Bhadana, Jai Prakash, Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi, Dr. Arvind Sharma, S/Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, V.K. Thummar, Atma Singh Gill, E. Ponnuswamy, Shrimati Jayaprada, and Shri A. Indra Karan Reddy  
 NOES 39+ Dr. Sujan Chakraborty, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani, Shrimati Archana Nayak, Shri Sugrib Singh and Shri Mohan Jena.

\*\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

13.06 hrs.

**GOVERNMENT BILLS—INTRODUCED—**  
*contd.*

**(II) National Highways Authority of India  
(Amendment) Bill, 2008\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

**(III) High Court and Supreme Court Judges  
(Salaries and Conditions of Service)  
Amendment Bill, 2008\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Services) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958."

*The motion was adopted.*

\*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 22.10.2008.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I introduce\* the Bill.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 26, Shri Jairam Ramesh: Not present.

13.08 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid.

**(I) Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' Award on  
Dr. M. Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of  
Tamil Nadu**

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is a great Tamil Scholar, Poet, Writer, Social Reformer and one of the senior most leaders of this country. He was born on 3rd June 1924 in a small village viz., Thirukuvalai in the erstwhile Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu. He started his political career at the age of 18 and got elected to Tamil Nadu Assembly in the year 1957 for the first time. Till date, he is continuing as a Member and became Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in 2006 for the fifth term. He has completed 50 years as a member in the Legislative Assembly. He was the first Chief Minister who enacted a law recognizing inter-caste marriage. During 1989 first time in the Indian history, 'free electricity to farmers' scheme was also introduced by him and the law pertaining to equal share to unmarried girl was also implemented by him. For the welfare of pregnant women 'Muthulakshmi Reddiyar Scheme', for marriage of poor girls 'Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Scheme' were also introduced by him. To render health facilities to rural poor, he has introduced successfully - 'Varumun Kappom Scheme' throughout Tamil Nadu and lakhs of people were benefited. For helping farmers, he has introduced 'Uzhavar Sandhai' (Farmers' Market) in all taluks. He has announced debt relief for the farmers, implemented subsidized rice Scheme for poor at Re 1/per Kilogram, free TV sets for all poor households in the State. He is frontrunner for the reservation to SCs/STs and OBCs in the field of education and employment.

\*Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

•Treated as laid on the Table.

On considering all the social services rendered by him, I urge upon the Union Government to honour him with 'Bharat Ratna'.

**(ii) Need for proper fencing of forest areas in Karnataka with a view to keep the wild elephants off the human habitations**

SHRIMATI TEJASVINI GOWDA (Kanakapura): My state Karnataka is home to 25% of the Indian elephant population. Districts like Bangalore Rural, Ramnagar, Mysore, Chamarajnagar and Coorg share 80% of the State's elephant population.

The large part of forest land has been illegally encroached. State has 43,356,390 sq. km. of forest land. But 65,585,65 hectare land has been encroached. Due to human encroachment into the forest land which is the home of the wild elephants, the elephants are entering in the Agriculture fields and destroying the crops of the poor farmers in search of food. Hundreds of people have lost their lives. Crops worth lakhs of rupees were lost which has become worrying factor for the Government to deal with. Also, many elephants died due to electrocution. It is the right time to act to save the precious wild elephants as well as farmers from them. Same is the situation in the North Eastern States also. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to release the funds required by State Government to ensure proper fencing of the Forest area as well as to give the compensation for the damaged crops of the poor farmer.

**(iii) Need to declare Dhubri-Haldia *via* Bangladesh Water Way as International Water Way and release the fund for construction of Dhubri Port**

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN (Dhubri): 'Sadia-Dhubri Brahmaputra Water Way route has been declared as National Water Way No. II. Works for night navigation has been completed and dredging of river bed is in progress. On experimental basis perhaps, ships are running to Haldia (Kolkata) through Bangladesh from Assam.

There is a proposal for constructing a port at New-Ghat Dhubri. An estimate for Rs. 200 Crores has been sanctioned. The District administration has identified land for it. As the money has not been released by the Central Government the work progress is nil.

Dhubri-Haldia *via* Bangladesh route is un-doubtedly an international route. As such, for operational purpose it should be notified as International Water Way.

I urge upon the Government kindly to notify this route as International Water-Way and release the sanctioned fund immediately for construction of Dhubri Port.

**(iv) Need to man the unmanned railway crossings in the Southern Railway**

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Railways have endeavoured in a big way in providing facilities to the common man in the country. It has covered almost all parts of the country. However, certain areas still remain unattended. It is estimated that at present railways have more than 25000 unmanned level crossing in the country including more than 1899 unmanned crossings in Southern Railways. Recently, there has been a spurt in number of accidents at such crossings. In view of this, there is an urgent need to man unmanned crossings in the country particularly in Southern region on priority basis.

I request the Union Government to devise programme for manning of unmanned railways crossings in the country.

**(v) Need to expedite the four-laning of N.H.-34 in West Bengal**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): National Highway No. 34 is considered the life line for the vast part of West Bengal. For the last few years, it has become a nightmare for the common people as everyday congestion, traffic snarls and fatal accidents have become the order of the day. The situation has come to such a state that travelers prefer the trains instead of road transport for comfort, safety and saving of time.

It has been learnt that the construction of National Highway No. 34 for the purpose of four lane highway was conferred upon National Highway Authority of India.

It is also known that D.P.R. for the expansion of the highway has been submitted to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. But the Construction work is yet to be started for the reasons best known to the authority.

While we are talking about infrastructure development and as I know there is no dearth of funds then why the delay persists. People of West Bengal are getting restive and are agitated to see the poor performance of N.H.A.I. in the construction and expansion activities *vis-a-vis* N.H.-34.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

I, therefore, urge the Government to expedite the work on N.H.-34 and relieve the people of West Bengal from years of suffering.

**(vi) Need to expedite the setting up of Doordarshan Kendra at Aurangabad in Bihar**

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Undivided Bihar had three Doordarshan Kendras at Muzaffarpur in North Bihar, Patna in Central Bihar and at Ranchi in South Bihar. After its bifurcation and Ranchi going away to the newly created State of Jharkhand, Bihar was left with just two DD Kendras. These would have been okay had a need not been felt even during days of undivided Bihar for another DD Kendra. The CEO, Prasar Bharati was requested during his visit to Aurangabad, my constituency in Bihar, last year to set up the third Doordarshan Kendra at Aurangabad. He had assured us that he will examine the suggestion. We have since learnt that a detailed technical and audience survey by the Prasar Bharati has supported the need for a third DD Kendra in Bihar and that Aurangabad was eminently suited for it. A Prasar Bharati official had, in fact, visited Aurangabad and, after scouting for a suitable location for the Kendra, selected a site. The District Magistrate, Aurangabad had recommended to the Bihar Government that it be allotted to the Prasar Bharati for the Kendra. This was many months ago. By now the entire process should have been over but it is still to be referred to the Planning Commission for its mandatory clearance.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is requested to please refer this proposal immediately to the Commission so that it is cleared without further delay and the follow up action to set up the Kendra can be taken.

**(vii) Need to provide special package for the development of desert regions in Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, the fourteen districts in Rajasthan State including my Lok Sabha Constituency, Jodhpur are desert regions. These districts are most backward districts. Central Government provide special concessions to hilly districts but any special provision has not been made for desert districts. These districts are becoming backward day by day in absence of any special facilities. These districts are deprived of industrial, educational and other basic infrastructural facilities. In desert districts there is drought

almost all over the year and a special package is urgently required. Farmer, labourers, all are in debt. There is condition of starvation prevailing everywhere Jodhpur, Barmer and Jaisalmer are border districts. Such level of poverty there is dangerous for national security. The main occupation here is cattle breeding and due to drought it also has been badly affected.

Sir, I would like to request the Government of India to provide special package to help the desert districts of Rajasthan State so that these districts can make progress.

**(viii) Need to reduce the number of Government Holidays**

[English]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): There are so many holidays in the country. People face lot of problems when the Government offices are closed for days together due to holidays. I request the Government to reduce the number of holidays so as to increase the working days and working hours.

**(ix) Need to enact a law making military service compulsory for the youth in the country**

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA (Rajkot): Considering the serial terrorist attacks all over the country, it is now high time to sensitize the public at large and youth in particular for self defence and internal security. It is requested to make military training compulsory for all youth irrespective of age, sex, caste, creed, after graduation or on attaining the maturity for 1 year at least. It will boost up the national spirit also along with primary defence and self confidence in youth. NCC does not serve the purpose and, it is not the alternative. The provision for compulsory military-training may, therefore, be made through an Act as early as possible.

**(x) Need to set up a Commando and Police Training School in Himachal Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and bordering State. Its one part touches the border of terrorism affected Jammu-Kashmir and other part touches the border of Tibet. Comparatively larger number of youths are recruited from Himachal Pradesh in the defence forces of the country. That is why, despite being a comparatively

smaller state, the number of youths sacrificing their lives while defending the country is largest from this state. Whether it was the Indo-China war, or the two previous wars with Pakistan or the latest, the third one i.e. the Kargil War.

Sir, the Ministry of Home Affairs is contemplating to set up Commando Police Training Schools across the country. Keeping in view the patriotism and sacrifices of the youths of Himachal Pradesh. I request hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs to set up at least one Commando and Police Training School in Himachal Pradesh.

- (xi) **Need to release funds for reconstruction work in flood-affected areas of Kalahandi & Naupada districts in Orissa**

*[English]*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Unprecedented floods during the Monsoon of 2008 has created havoc and thousands of acres of valuable agricultural land has become inundated due to the floods in Tel, Udanti, Ret, Utei and Hati rivers in Kalahandi District and Sunder and Udanti rivers in Naupada District of Orissa.

So, I urge upon the Government to allocate necessary funds from the Flood Management Fund so as to mitigate the problems being faced by the people in the flood-hit areas for building strong Embankments and Spurs.

Already a plan for Rs. 600 crores has been made for building embankments in Kalahandi under Western Irrigation Circle Orissa.

I, therefore, request the Ministry of Water Resources to release funds to the Government of Orissa for the above project at the earliest.

- (xii) **Need to fulfill the demands of All India Regional Rural Banks Employees Association**

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): The All India Regional Rural Bank (RRB) Employees Association will sit in a Dhama at New Delhi on 22 December, 2008 to press for their following demands:

- (1) Creation of National Rural Bank;
- (2) Formation of Negotiating Forum;
- (3) Representation of workers and officers in the Board of Management of the respective RRB;

- (4) Ensure proper manpower with recruitment promotion and RRB branch expansion at each Block/Taluka/Distt. Head Quarters of the country; and

- (5) Implementation of High Court order on regularization of "Messenger" service from the date of joining.

They have been agitating on the issues/demands for a long time and it is high time that the Ministry of Finance responds to their demands in the larger interest of our rural economy.

- (xiii) **Need to implement the recommendations of National Agriculture Commission and bring down the interest rate on all agricultural loans to four percent**

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The agrarian sector in the country has been facing serious crisis for a long time. Many suggestions have been proposed to rejuvenate the sector and mitigate the problems faced by the farming community. The National Agriculture Commission had recommended 4% flat interest rate for all the agricultural loans. But the Government did not accept and implement the recommendation. Now the Parliamentary Standing Committee also suggested the acceptance of the recommendation of the Commission reducing the interest rate on agricultural loans to 4%. It is necessary for the rejuvenation of the agrarian sector.

I, therefore, urge upon the government to accept the recommendation and bring down the interest rate to 4% on all agricultural loans.

- (xiv) **Need to construct a bridge on railway crossing at Bharwari in Chail Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency Chail in district Koshambi has three main railway crossings namely Manauri, Bharwari Sirathu. The often closed gates at those crossings result in long traffic jams stretching for hours. An amount of Rs.6 crore was allocated from Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna in 2004 for constructing a bridge at Bharwari (Rohi), which is being spend on other heads instead of construction of the bridge by the local administration. It needs to be stopped forthwith and funds be allocated to the Ministry

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

of Railways and local government so that the accidents occurring there daily may be checked.

**(xv) Need to increase the frequency of Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express (Train No.2447-2448) between Delhi and Bundelkhand and start a train service between Mahoba and Khajuraho**

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, UP): Sir, accepting the demand put forth by me and the people of my constituency under the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railway) 2007-2008 on 23-08-2007 to run Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti Express, 2447-2448, connecting Bundelkhand area to Delhi, daily, hon'ble Minister of Railways had announced in the House that Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti running from Hajrat Nizamuddin to Manikpur would run five days a week. An announcement to this effect was also made that if the occupancy remains good during this period then its frequency will be increased to seven days a week from the next railway budget and a link express from Mahoba to Khajuraho was announced to be introduced in the previous Rail Budget. There is resentment among the people of this region as both the above demands have not yet been fulfilled.

I request through this House that the frequency of Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti train be increased to five days a week and instructions be issued to start link express from Mahoba to Khajuraho immediately.

**(xvi) Need to expedite the completion of Nun river project in Bihar**

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, 'Nun River Project' at river Nun in Samastipur, the land of Jannayak Karpuri Thakur has been left incomplete. This river was not included in the list of rivers of this district till recently. When, on seeing the scourge of blood caused by this river, the attention of administration was drawn towards it, then it was included in the list of rivers. The Jananayak had started this Project which was left incomplete after his demise. It is essential as also in keeping with the people's wish to complete this project for that region.

Therefore, my demand is to complete this project at the earliest.

**(xvii) Need to safeguard the interests of Tamilians in Sri Lanka**

*[English]*

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM (Krishnagiri): Sir, the Tamils of Sri Lanka are the people of Indian Origin. Their ancestors went from Southern India to Sri Lanka during the 19th and 20th century. They are mainly concentrated in the northern province and have been instrumental in the development of Sri Lankan economy. Most of them are Hindus besides a minority of Christians and Muslims. They have also been given Sri Lankan citizenship.

However, the ethnic crisis started in Sri Lanka for the past many decades is still continuing in which several thousands of Tamil people lost their lives and were rendered homeless. Over the years they are coming to India as refugees and it has also resulted in forced disappearance of thousands of others. Moreover, there are also incidents of killing of Indian fishermen on the sea by the Sri Lanka's defence establishment.

These incidents are rampant since past few months. Keeping this in mind, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has intervened and called an all-party meeting to discuss the issue. Recently he met the Hon'ble Prime Minister and impressed upon him the need to pressurize the Sri Lankan Government to stop the attack on Tamils and to announce an immediate ceasefire in the island nation. He has also demanded that the External Affairs Minister may be sent to Sri Lanka to solve the issue.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to make sincere efforts to prevail upon the Sri Lankan Government to resolve the crisis permanently in the Island Nation and arrive at a long-lasting solution.

**(xviii) Need to bring Puducherry in the fold of Central Finance Commission or Finance Commission constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs**

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): The Finance Commission appointed by the Government of India as per the Constitutional provision render a valuable service in determining the allocation of Central financial resources to the States and Union Territory. One of the recommendations of the Finance Commission pertains to the devolution of Central Resources to the Local Bodies. According to the Constitution of India, the Finance

Commission recommends the quantum of financial assistance to the State Governments to be transmitted to their respective local bodies. The UTs are not entitled to get any assistance out of the recommendations of the Finance Commission. However, the Home Ministry, which is the administrative department of UTs in India has constituted a separate Finance Commission to decide about the amount of grants-in-aid to be apportioned to various UTs. But, this Finance Commission covers only UTs without legislatures. Consequently, the UT of Puducherry, which has a Legislature and which has village Panchayats and Commune Panchayats are not entitled to get local body assistance either from the Central Finance Commission or from Finance Commission Constituted by the Home Ministry. UT of Puducherry is the only territory in the country which is not entitled to receive local body finance from the Central kitty. This has imposed additional financial burden on the UT Administration which is already facing a financial crisis. Besides, Local Bodies of Puducherry are denied of their legitimate right of receiving a share from the Central Govt. This has afflicted the growth of local bodies in the UT of Puducherry. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to include the Union Territory of Puducherry either in the fold of recommendations of the Finance Commission or the Finance Commission constituted by the Home Ministry.

**(xix) Need to expedite the construction of a bridge over river Ganga connecting Sahibganj in Jharkhand with Manihari in Bihar**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU (Rajmahal): Sir, a detailed project report has been prepared and consultation services obtained for construction of a bridge over river Ganga between Sahibganj and Manihari in order to save social, cultural and economic heritage of Jharkhand and Bihar States. This project is most useful to the people. A delegation of hon'ble Members of Parliament has apprised the Union Government of the utility and importance of the said project and the Government had assured that the project will be completed within the current financial year but the progress in respect of the said project is not satisfactory.

The Union Government is, therefore, requested that necessary and effective steps should be taken to complete the said project on priority basis in the current financial year so as to provide the direct benefits of necessary and basic amenities to the people of two States.

**(xx) Need to provide reservation to women in Parliament**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, a bill to provide reservation to women was introduced in

Parliament in 2000 during NDA Government. But after a lapse of so many years, it has not been finalized till date. Therefore, I demand that 33 percent reservation which constituted 181 seats of the total 543 seats of Lok Sabha presently, should be given to women and these seats should be increased to 724.

If the seats of Lok Sabha are not increased by 2025, then men and women both of these 543 seats of Lok Sabha and if any party wants to field only women for these 181 seats, it can do so and a system should be evolved to elect two members from one constituency. A separate provision should also be made to reserve sixty one seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of these 181 Lok Sabha seats.

I, through you, request the Union Government to take appropriate steps to get the women Reservation Bill passed in the House at the earliest.

... (*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 22, Calling Attention: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): How can I speak? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

13.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen  
of the Clock.*

*[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]*

...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, we demand that Shri Antulay, the Minister should resign. ...(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: How many times should I repeat the same thing. Santosh Gangwar. You did not give an opportunity.

Now, Shri Jairam Ramesh to introduce the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Sir, I apologize sincerely for not being here when my name was earlier called...*(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Ashok Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the Floor near the Table.)*

...*(Interruptions)*

14.01½ hrs.

**GOVERNMENT BILLS—INTRODUCED—  
contd.**

- (iv) **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2008\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

14.02 hrs.

**DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS  
(RAILWAYS), 2008-09\***

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item Nos. 28 and 29.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Sir, Item No. 28 may please be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. I shall now put the Demand for Supplementary Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 to vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the supplementary sum not exceeding the amount shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2009, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 16."

*Demand for Supplementary Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Supplementary Grants to be submitted to the vote of the House.
1	2	3
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement <i>Other Expenditure</i> Capital	1701,00,00,000
	Total	1701,00,00,000

*The Motion was adopted.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.12.2008.

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: The Demand for Supplementary Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 is passed.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move.

14.03 hrs.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS IN NINTH REPORT OF  
RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE (2004)

*[English]*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move:

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paras 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 of the Ninth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2004), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th October, 2008."

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I introduce\*\* the Bill.

"That this House approves the recommendations contained in Paras 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55 and 56 of the Ninth Report of the Railway Convention Committee (2004), appointed to review the rate of dividend payable by the Railway Undertaking to General Revenues etc., which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 20th October, 2008."

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 31.

*The motion was adopted*

*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Resolution is adopted.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration".

14.03<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 5  
BILL, 2008\*

*[English]*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2008-09 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 30.

*The motion was adopted.*

\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 22.10.2008

\*\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Bill be passed"

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed"

*The motion was adopted.*

*[English]*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Where is Shri Basu Deb Acharia? He is to initiate the discussion under Rule 193.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia is not present.

Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. We will take up Item no. 32.

*...(Interruptions)*

14.05 hrs.

### GRAM NYAYALAYAS BILL, 2008\*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move\*\*:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass roots level for the purposes of providing access to justice to the citizens at their doorsteps and to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of social, economic or other disabilities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

*... (Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 40 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 40 were added to the Bill.*

*The First Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II Section 2, dated 22.10.2008.

\*\*Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. when we will take up the Discussion under Rule 193.

14.08 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till  
Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.00 hrs.

*(The Lok Sabha reassembled at Fifteen of the clock)*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Santosh Gangwarji, if you are given an opportunity to speak, then you would allow the House to run? What do you want to say?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, since when this session has started, I have not opposed anything. But there is something which has to be highlighted. After the occurrence of Mumbai incidents, our country has succeeded in telling the entire world that Pakistan is behind these incidents. This matter is continuously being investigated into and enquiries are being made from Kasab and information regarding this is continuously being given. Pakistan is taking action against the news agency which provided information about Kasab. Pakistan is against our every move but despite that, you just note the people who are running Government in Pakistan at present, there is conflict between them and other people over there. This may be due to political reasons but the people of treasury bench in our country are creating such conditions which are giving signal to the world that in reality the terrorists do not belong to Pakistan.. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Sir, the work of creating illusions is being done in the countries of the world and that too by the treasury bench, the heads of the treasury bench, by the responsible people. ... (*Interruptions*) The statement being given by the Hon'ble Minister and later on the statements in the newspapers are coming that he is proud of his statement. What for he is proud of? ... (*Interruptions*) The young men who sacrificed their lives. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to know whether hon'ble Antulayji wants to meet his self interest by the murder of Shri Karkareji? He wants to become leader of a society, a religion, a caste? ... (*Interruptions*) This is not a question of leadership. To which direction he wants to lead the country? ... (*Interruptions*) I want to say, through you, that the Government should pay attention to this and enquire into the truth thereof? ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we take up discussion under Rule 193 on increasing naxalite activities in the country. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you may speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the statement of Shri Basu Deb Acharia should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)<sup>o</sup>

15.02 hrs.

*(At this stage, Shri Kharabela Swain and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 33—Shri Sharad Pawar.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 34—Shri A. Raja.

<sup>o</sup>Not recorded.

15.03 hrs.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2006\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): Sir, I beg to move\*\*

"That the Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"The clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 4**

**Amendment of Section 2**

*Amendments made:*

Page 2, after line 35, insert—

'(A) after clause (h), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

'(ha) "communication device" means cell phones, personal digital assistance or combination of both or any other device used to communicate, send or transmit any text, video, audio or impage; (3)

Page 2, line 36, for '(A)', substitute "(AA)". (4)

Page 2, line 38, after "computer systems", insert "or communication device". (5)

Page 2, line 39, after "terrestrial line", insert "wire," (6)

Page 2, line 42, after "computers", insert "or communication device". (7)

Page 3, line 1, for following clause", substitute "following clauses". (8)

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\*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 22.10.08.

\*\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Page 3, after line 4, insert—

'(nb) "cyber security" means protecting information, equipment, devices, computer, computer resource, communication device and information stored therein from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification or destruction;'. (9)

Page 3, after line 10, insert—

'(DA) after clause (u), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

'(ua) "Indian Computer Emergency Response Team" means an agency established under sub-section (1) of section 70B;'. (10)

Page 3, lines 19 and 20 omit, "but does not include body corporate referred to in section 43A". (11)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 5 to 7 were added to the Bill.*

... *(Interruptions)*

**Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(I)**

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 12 to the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 7A****Insertion of new Section 7A***Amendment made:*

Page 4, after line 30, *insert* —

Insertion of new section 7A:

7A. After section 7 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:-

Audit of documents etc. maintained in electronic form:

"7A. Wherein any law for the time being in force, there is a provision for audit of documents, records or information, that provision shall also be applicable for audit of documents, records or information processed and maintained in the electronic form". (12)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 7A be added to the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*New clause 7A was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

**Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(I)**

SHRI A. RAJA : Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 13 to the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 13 to the Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 10A****Amendment of Section 17***Amendment made:*

Page 5, after line 7, *insert* -

Amendment of section 17:

'10A. In section 17 of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "and Assistant Controllers", the words "Assistant Controllers, other officers and employees" shall be substituted; and

(b) in sub-section (4), for the words "and Assistant Controllers", the words "Assistant Controllers, other officers and employees" shall be substituted.'. (13)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 10A be added to the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*New clause 10A was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 11 to 18 were added to the Bill.*

*... (Interruptions)*

**Clause 19****Amendment of Section 43***Amendments made:*

Page 5, for line 39, *substitute* -

"(a) in the marginal heading, for the word "Penalty", the words "Penalty and Compensation". (14)

Page 5, after line 40, *insert*—

"(aa) in clause (a), after the words "computer network", the words "or computer resource" shall be inserted;". (15)

Page 5, line 41, for "following clause", *substitute* "following clauses". (16)

Page 5, after line 43, *insert* -

"(j) steals, conceals, destroys or alters or causes any person to steal, conceal, destroy or alter any computer source code used for a computer resource with an intention to cause damage,

(c) for the portion beginning with the words "he shall be liable to pay damages" and ending with the words "person so affected" the following shall be substituted, namely :-

"he shall be liable to pay damages by way of compensation to the person so affected";

(d) in the *Explanation*, after clause (iv), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :-

(v) "computer source code" means the listing of programmes, computer commands, design and layout and programme analysis of computer resource in any form.".' (17)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 20

#### Insertion of new Section 43A

*Amendment made:*

Page 6, lines 7 and 8, *omit* "not exceeding five crore rupees,". (18)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

... *(Interruptions)*

#### Clause 21

#### Amendment of Section 46

*Amendment made:*

Page 6, for lines 24 to 26, *substitute* -

'21. In section 46 of the principal Act,-

(a) in sub-section (1), for the words "direction or order made thereunder", the words "direction or order

made thereunder which renders him liable to pay penalty or compensation," shall be substituted;

(b) after sub-section (1), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:-

"(1A). The adjudicating officer appointed under sub-section (1) shall exercise jurisdiction to adjudicate matters in which the claim for injury or damage does not exceed rupees five crore:

Provided that the jurisdiction in respect of the claim for injury or damage exceeding rupees five crore shall vest with the competent court.";

(c) in sub-section (5), after clause (b) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(c) shall be deemed to be a civil court for purposes of Order XXI of the Civil Procedure Code, 1908.".' (19)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 21, as amended was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 22 and 23 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 24

#### Substitution of new sections for Sections 49 to 52

*Amendments made:*

Page 6, after line 35, *insert* -

"Provided that the person appointed as the Presiding Officer of the Cyber Appellate Tribunal under the provisions of this Act immediately before the commencement of the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 shall be deemed to have been appointed as the Chairperson of the said Cyber Appellate Tribunal under the provisions of this Act as amended by the Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008". (20)

Page 6, Omit lines 45 and 46. (21)

Page 7, line 23, for "two years", substitute "one year". (22)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 25 to 28 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 29

#### Amendment of Section 61

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 30 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 30 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 31

#### Substitution of new sections for Sections 66 and 67

#### *Amendments made:*

Page 8, line 34, for "two years", substitute "three years". (23)

Page 8, line 43, for "content", substitute "information". (24)

Page 8, Line 44, for "content", substitute "information". (25)

Page 8, line 46, for "makes", substitute "by making". (26)

Page 8, after line 47, insert -

"(c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the

addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages.". (27)

Page 9, line 1, for "two years", substitute "three years". (28)

Page 9, for lines 3 to 5, substitute -

*'Explanation.-* For the purposes of this section, terms "electronic mail" and "electronic mail message" means a message or information created or transmitted or received on a computer, computer system, computer resource or communication device including attachments in text, image, audio, video and any other electronic record, which may be transmitted with the message.

*Punishment for dishonestly receiving stolen computer resource or communication device:*

66B. Whoever dishonestly receives or retains any stolen computer resource or communication device knowing or having reason to believe the same to be stolen computer resource or communication device, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to rupees one lakh or with both.

*Punishment for identity theft:*

66C. Whoever, fraudulently or dishonestly make use of the electronic signature, password or any other unique identification feature of any other person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to rupees one lakh.

66D. Whoever, by means of any communication device or computer resource cheats by personation, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to one lakh rupees.

*Punishment for cheating by personation by using computer resource:*

66E. Whoever, intentionally or knowingly captures, publishes or transmits the image of a private area of any person without his or her consent, under circumstances violating the privacy of that person, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine not exceeding two lakh rupees, or with both.

*Explanation.—*For the purposes of this section—

*Punishment for Violation of Privacy:*

(a) "transmit" means to electronically send a visual image with the intent that it be viewed by a person or persons;

(b) "capture", with respect to an image, means to videotape, photograph, film or record by any means;

(c) "private area" means the naked or undergarment clad genitals, pubic area, buttocks or female breast;

(d) "publishes" means reproduction in the printed or electronic form and making it available for public;

(e) "under circumstances violating privacy" means circumstances in which a person can have a reasonable expectation that—

- (i) he or she could disrobe in privacy, without being concerned that an image of his private area was being captured; or
- (ii) any part of his or her private area would not be visible to the public, regardless of whether that person is in a public or private place.

66F. (1) Whoever,-

(A) with intent to threaten the unity, integrity, security or sovereignty of India or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people by-

*Punishment for cyber terrorism:*

- (i) denying or cause the denial of access to any person authorised to access computer resource; or
- (ii) attempting to penetrate or access a computer resource without authorisation or exceeding authorised access; or
- (iii) introducing or causing to introduce any computer contaminant;

and by means of such conduct causes or is likely to cause death or injuries to persons or damage to or destruction of property or disrupts or knowing that it is likely to cause damage or disruption of supplies or services essential to the life of the community or adversely affect the critical information infrastructure specified under section 70, or

(B) knowingly or intentionally penetrates or accesses a computer resource without authorisation or exceeding authorised access, and by means of such conduct obtains

access to information, data or computer database that is restricted for reasons of the security of the State or foreign relations; or any restricted information, data or computer database, with reasons to believe that such information, data or computer database so obtained may be used to cause or likely to cause injury to the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence, or to the advantage of any foreign nation, group of individuals or otherwise,

commits the offence of cyber terrorism.

(2) Whoever commits or conspires to commit cyber terrorism shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to imprisonment for life'. (29)

Page 9, line 11, for "two years" substitute "three years" (30)

Page 9, for lines 22 to 28, substitute -

*Punishment to publishing or transmitting of material depicting children in sexually explicit act, etc. in electronic form:-*

'67B. Whoever,—

(a) publishes or transmits or causes to be published or transmitted material in any electronic form which depicts children engaged in sexually explicit act or conduct; or

(b) creates text or digital images, collects, seeks, browses, downloads, advertises, promotes, exchanges or distributes material in any electronic form depicting children in obscene or indecent or sexually explicit manner; or

(c) cultivates, entices or induces children to online relationship with one or more children for and on sexually explicit act or in a manner that may offend a reasonable adult on the computer resource; or

(d) facilitates abusing children online; or

(e) records in any electronic form own abuse or that of others pertaining to sexually explicit act with children, shall be punished on first conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees and in the event of second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years and also with fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees:

Provided that provisions of section 67, section 67A and this section does not extend to any book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, representation or figure in electronic form —

- (i) the publication of which is proved to be justified as being for the public good on the ground that such book, pamphlet, paper, writing, drawing, painting, representation or figure is in the interest of science, literature, art or learning or other objects of general concern; or
- (ii) which is kept or used for bonafide heritage or religious purposes.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section “children” means a person who has not completed the age of 18 years.

*Preservation and retention of information by intermediaries:*

67 C (1) Intermediary shall preserve and retain such information as may be specified for such duration and in such manner and format as the Central Government may prescribe.

(2) Any intermediary who intentionally or knowingly contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be punished with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and also be liable to fine. (31)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 31, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 32 was added to the Bill.*

### Clause 33

**Substitution of new sections for Section 69**

*Amendments made:*

Page 9, line 35, for “following section” substitute “following sections”. (32)

Page 9, for lines 37 to 50, substitute—

*Power to issue directions for interception or monitoring or decryption of any information through any computer resource:*

“69. (1) Where the Central Government or a State Government or any of its officer specially authorised by the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be, in this behalf may, if satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interest of the sovereignty or integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above or for investigation of any offence, it may subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), for reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct any agency of the appropriate Government to intercept, monitor or decrypt or cause to be intercepted or monitored or decrypted any information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource.

(2) The procedure and safeguards subject to which such interception or monitoring or decryption may be carried out, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The subscriber or intermediary or any person incharge of the computer resource shall, when called upon by any agency referred to in subsection (1), extend all facilities and technical assistance to—

(a) provide access to or secure access to the computer resource generating, transmitting, receiving or storing such information; or

(b) intercept, monitor, or decrypt the information, as the case may be; or

(c) provide information stored in computer resource.

(4) The subscriber or intermediary or any person who fails to assist the agency referred to in sub-section (3) shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

*Power to issue directions for blocking for public access of any information through any computer resource:*

69A. (1) Where the Central Government or any of its officer specially authorised by it in this behalf is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above, it may subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), for

reasons to be recorded in writing, by order, direct any agency of the Government or intermediary to block for access by the public or cause to be blocked for access by the public any information generated, transmitted, received, stored or hosted in any computer resource.

(2) The procedure and safeguards subject to which such blocking for access by the public may be carried out, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(3) The intermediary who fails to comply with the direction issued under sub-section (1) shall be punished with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and also be liable to fine.

**69B.** (1) The Central Government may, to enhance cyber security and for identification, analysis and prevention of intrusion or spread of computer contaminant in the country, by notification in the Official Gazette, authorise any agency of the Government to monitor and collect traffic data or information generated, transmitted, received or stored in any computer resource.

*Power to authorize to monitor and collected traffic data or information through any computer resource for cyber security:*

(2) The intermediary or any person in-charge of the computer resource shall, when called upon by the agency which has been authorised under subsection (1), provide technical assistance and extend all facilities to such agency to enable online access or to secure and provide online access to the computer resource generating, transmitting, receiving or storing such traffic data or information.

(3) The procedure and safeguards for monitoring and collecting traffic data or information, shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) Any intermediary who intentionally or knowingly contravenes the provisions of subsection (2) shall be punished with an imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and shall also be liable to fine.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section,—(i) “computer contaminant” shall have the meaning assigned to it in section 43;

(ii) “traffic data” means any data identifying or purporting to identify any person, computer system or computer network or location to or from which the communication is or may be transmitted and includes

communications origin, destination, route, time, date, size, duration or type of underlying service and any other information.’ (33)

Page 10, *omit* lines 1 to 5. (34)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 34 was added to the Bill.*

### **Clause 35**

#### **Insertion of new Section 70A**

*Amendments made:*

Page 10, line 19, for “following section” *substitute* “following sections”. (35)

Page 10, for lines 21 to 33, *substitute—*

*National Nodal Agency:*

“70A. (1). The Central Government may, by notification published in the Official Gazette, designate any organisation of the Government as the national nodal agency in respect of Critical Information Infrastructure Protection.

(2) The national nodal agency designated under subsection (1) shall be responsible for all measures including Research and Development relating to protection of Critical Information Infrastructure.

(3) The manner of performing functions and duties of the agency referred to in sub-section (1) shall be such as may be prescribed.

*Indian Computer Emergency Response team to serve as National Agency for incident response:*

70B. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint an agency of the Government to be called the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team.

(2) The Central Government shall provide the agency referred to in sub-section (1) with a Director General and such other officers and employees as may be prescribed.

(3) The salary and allowances and terms and conditions of the Director-General and other officers and employees shall be such as may be prescribed.

(4) The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team shall serve as the national agency for performing the following functions in the area of cyber security,-

- (a) collection, analysis and dissemination of information on cyber incidents;
- (b) forecast and alerts of cyber security incidents;
- (c) emergency measures for handling cyber security incidents;
- (d) coordination of cyber incidents response activities;
- (e) issue guidelines, advisories, vulnerability notes and whitepapers relating to information security practices, procedures, prevention, response and reporting of cyber incidents;
- (f) such other functions relating to cyber security as may be prescribed.

(5) The manner of performing functions and duties of the agency referred to in sub-section (1) shall be such as may be prescribed.

(6) For carrying out the provisions of sub-section (4), the agency referred to in sub-section (1) may call for information and give direction to the service providers, intermediaries, data centres, body corporate and any other person.

(7) Any service provider, intermediaries, data centres, body corporate or person who fails to provide the information called for or comply with the direction under sub-section (6), shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees or with both.

(8) No court shall take cognizance of any offence under this section, except on a complaint made by an officer authorised in this behalf by the agency referred to in sub-section (1).” (36)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 35, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 35, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

### Clause 36

#### Insertion of new Section 72A

*Amendment made:*

Page 10, line 42, for “two years”, substitute “Three years”. (37)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 36, as amended, stand part of the Bill. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 36, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

### Clause 37

#### Substitution of new sections for Sections 77 and 76

*Amendments made:*

Page 10, line 44, for “sections 77 and 78” substitute “section 77”. (38)

Page 11, for lines 4 to 12, substitute-

*Compounding of Offences:*

“77A. A court of competent jurisdiction may compound offences, other than offences for which the punishment for life or imprisonment for a term exceeding three years has been provided, under this Act:

Provided that the court shall not compound such offence where the accused is, by reason of his previous conviction, liable to either enhanced punishment or to a punishment of a different kind:

Provided further that the court shall not compound any offence where such offence affects the socio-economic conditions of the country or has been committed against a child below the age of 18 years or a woman.

(2) The person accused of an offence under this Act may file an application for compounding in the court in which offence is pending for trial and the provisions of section 265B and 265C of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 shall apply.

*Offences with three years imprisonment to be bailable:*

77B. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, the offence punishable

with imprisonment of three years and above shall be cognizable and the offence punishable with imprisonment of three years shall be bailable.". (39)

Page 11, *omit* lines 13 to 23. (40)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 37, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 37, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Motion Re: Suspension of Rule 80(I)**

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.41 to the Information Technology Amendment Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No.41 to the Information Technology Amendment Bill, 2006 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

*The motion was adopted.*

**New Clause 37A**

**Amendment of Section 78**

*Amendment made:*

Page 11, *after* line 23, *insert*, -

*Amendment in section 78:*

"37A. In section 78 of the principal Act, for the words 'Deputy Superintendent of Police' the word 'Inspector' shall be substituted.". (41)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 37A be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*New Clause 37A was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 38**

**Substitution of new chapters for Chapter XII**

*Amendments made:*

Page 11, line 28, *omit* "other". (42)

Page 11, line 31, *after* "available", *insert* "or hosted". (43)

Page 11, line 35, *after* "stored", *insert* "or hosted" (44)

Page 11, *after* line 39, *insert*-

"(c) the intermediary observes due diligence while discharging his duties under this Act and also observes such other guidelines as the Central Government may prescribe in this behalf". (45)

Page 11, line 41, *after* "abetted", *insert* "or aided or induced, whether by threats or promise or otherwise.". (46)

Page 12, *omit* lines 3 and 4. (47)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 39**

**Omission of Section 80**

*Amendment made:*

Page 12, *for* line 18, *substitute*-

*Amendment of Section 80:*

"39. In section 80 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), for the words "Deputy Superintendent of Police", the word "Inspector" shall be substituted." (48)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 40 to 43 were added to the Bill.*

**Clause 44****Amendment of Section 87***Amendments made:*

Page 13, after line 20, *insert*—

"(iiia) in clause (f), for the words "and Assistant Controllers", the words, "Assistant Controllers, other officers and employees" shall be substituted.' (49)

Page 13, after line 35, *insert*—

"(wa) the information, duration, manner and form of such information to be retained and preserved under section 67C;" (50)

Page 13, for lines 36 and 37, *substitute*—

"(x) the procedures and safeguards for interception, monitoring, or decryption under sub-section (2) of section 69;

(xa) the procedure and safeguards for blocking for access by the public under sub-section (2) of section 69A.

(xb) the procedure and safeguards for monitoring and collecting traffic data or information under sub-section (3) of section 69B;" (51)

Page 13, after line 39, *insert*—

"(ya) manner of performing functions and duties of the agency under sub-section (3) of section 70A;

(yb) the officers and employees under sub-section (2) of section 70B; (yc) salaries and allowances and terms and conditions of service of the Director-General and other officers and employees under sub-section (3) of section 70B;

(yd) the manner in which the functions and duties of agency shall be performed under sub-section (5) of section 70B; (52)

Page 13, lines 40 and 41, for "sub-section (4)", *substitute* "sub-section (2)". (53)

Page 13, for line 46 *substitute*—

"every rule made by it", the words "Every notification made by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 70A and every rule made by it". (54)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 44, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 44, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 45****Amendment of Section 90***Amendment made:*

Page 14, For lines 1 to 3, *substitute*—

*Amendment of Section 90:*

"45. In section 90 of the principal Act, in sub-section (2), clause (c) shall be omitted." (55)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 45, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 45, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 46 to 48 were added to the Bill.*

*...(Interruptions)*

**Clause 49**

**Amendment of Indian Penal code**

*Amendments made:*

Page 15, omit lines 20 to 32. (56)

Page 15, omit lines 35 to 45 (57)

Page 16, omit lines 1 to 13 (58)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 49, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 49, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 50 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 51**

**Amendment of code of criminal procedures**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 51 stand part of the Bill;"

*The motion was negated.*

**Clause 1**

**Short title and commencement**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 5 for, "2006" substitute "2008", (2)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

**Enacting Formula**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-seventh", substitute fifty-ninth". (1)

(Shri A. Raja)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. RAJA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.24 hrs.

**SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES)  
AMENDMENT BILL, 2008**

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 1100 A.M.

15.26 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 23, 2008/Pausa 2, 1930 (Saka).*

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## ANNEXURE I

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