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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 26, 2009/ Phalgun 7, 1930 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM INDONESIA

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On behalf of the hon. Members of the House and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Agung Laksono, Speaker of the House of the Representatives of the Indonesian Parliament and other Members of Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Wednesday, 25th February, 2009. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to His Excellency the President, the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Indonesia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you for tolerating me for so long!

11.01 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of three of our former colleagues, Prof. (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi, Shri Ajitsinh Dabhi and Shri Devendra Bahadur Roy.

Professor (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi, was a member of the Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing the Ballia Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar.

Professor (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi was a Member of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

An educationist by profession, Prof. (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi served as Principal R.B.S. College, Begusarai and as Lecturer at Co-operative College, Begusarai. She was instrumental in the establishment of a number of schools and colleges in the Begusarai district.

A committed social and political worker, Professor (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi was Vice-Chairman, Zila Parishad, Begusarai from 1974 to 1977. She worked for the welfare of weaker sections of the society particularly women.

Professor (Smt.) Chandra Bhanu Devi passed away on 6 September, 2008 at Patna at the age of 61.

Shri Ajitsinh Dabhi was a Member of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas from 1977 to 1989 representing the Anand Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat during the Sixth Lok Sabha and the Kaira Parliamentary Constituency of Gujarat during the Seventh and Eighth Lok Sabhas.

Earlier, Shri Dabhi was a Member of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly from 1972 to 1974.

Shri Dabhi was a Member of the Estimates Committee; Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions and the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit during the Seventh Lok Sabha. He was also a Member of Joint Committee on Offices of Profit during the Eighth Lok Sabha.

An advocate by profession, Shri Dabhi started his political career at the grass-root level. He was the Secretary, L.D. Arts College Students Union, Ahmedabad in 1947. He was a member of the Gujarat State Transport Authority from 1968 to 1970. Shri Dabhi also served as the Chairman, Kaira District Education Committee from 1976 to 1977.

Shri Dabhi took special interest in the cooperative movement and served as the Director of the Kaira District Co-operative Sales and Purchase Union, Nadiad and the Federation of Co-operative Stores Nadiad.

Shri Ajitsinh Dabhi passed away on 8 December, 2008 at Kheda, Gujarat at the age of 82.

Shri Devendra Bahadur Roy was a Member of the Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabhas from 1996 to 1999 representing the Sultanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Roy was a Member of the Committee on External Affairs during the Eleventh Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on External Affairs and Committee on Subordinate Legislation during the Twelfth Lok Sabha.

A civil servant and agriculturist, Shri Roy played a significant role in developmental activities of his constituency. A well-known social activist he fought for the rights of farmers and worked tirelessly for the service of the people.

Shri Devendra Bahadur Roy passed away on 24 January, 2009 at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 63.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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 stood in silence for a short while.

[Translation]

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We will listen to you after the Question Hour, then you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Sir, regarding reservation for Gurjars, the whole legislative assembly has passed the resolution and ...*(Interruptions)* The report has been sent to the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)* And no action was taken ...*(Interruptions)* For including the Rajasthani language in 8th Schedule, the Minister of State for Home Affairs given assurance on the floor of the House. After that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: O.K., Not right now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly request you to wait till the Question Hour is over. Now, we do not have time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do business.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kriplani, I will allow you first as soon as the Question Hour is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will call Shri Kriplani first.

...*(Interruptions)*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

Encroachments on Railway Land

*141. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large stretches of railway land are being encroached upon in various parts of the country including Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such encroachments have been causing serious operational and other problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(e) the measures taken by the Railways to remove such encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Railway Land measuring about 1042 hectares is under encroachments involving a total of 1.42 lac encroachments. Railway zone-wise details of encroachments on railway land as on 31.12.2008, are given below.

Railway Zones	Number of Encroachments	Area (In Hectare) of Railway Land under Encroachments
Central	27352	74
Eastern	9409	22
East Central	9222	19
East Coast	3279	30
Northern	31728	221
North Central	2529	50
North Eastern	2632	28
Northeast Frontier	11710	170
North Western	1032	19
Southern	9709	65
South Central	2728	26
South Eastern	7436	166
Southeast Central	10914	52
South Western	542	16
Western	10798	42
West Central	860	42
Total	141880	1042

(c) to (e) The encroachments are safety hazards not only to the trains and passengers but also to the encroachers. Many times the trains have to be slowed down due to

encroachments near tracks. Railway face problems in use of such encroached lands for developmental/expansion projects for their operational uses. Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from Railway land as per provisions of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and Railways Act, 1989.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: It is an admitted fact that huge swathes of railway lands have been encroached upon by the illegal occupants on both sides of railway lines. This fact has been admitted in the reply of the hon. Minister of Railways.

Some parts of Eastern Railway and large parts of Eastern Railway belongs to my State, West Bengal. Now-a-days in West Bengal a new trend has developed where some vested interests are objecting seriously to any kind of developmental work, any railway development work, State Government development work and the development works of the Government of India also. If the railways sincerely and seriously want to remove the illegal occupants from the railway lands, tremendous havoc will be created, which will lead to serious law and order problem in the State of West Bengal, which will affect the Eastern Railway and the South-Eastern Railway.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: In view of that position, whether railway authorities are considering awarding these illegal occupants adequate compensation so that the illegal occupants may be removed from the railway lines.

MR. SPEAKER: Compensation for illegal occupants! Then, others will come and sit there.

SHRI R. VELU: Regarding the first part of his question, total land available with the railways is about 4.32 lakh hectares, of which the encroachment is only about 1,043 hectares, which is less than 0.3 per cent. So, the point made by the hon. Member that large parts of land are being encroached upon may not be correct.

MR. SPEAKER: You will encourage them to come in other areas.

SHRI R. VELU: Secondly, you will be happy to know that in the Eastern Railway which he was talking about, in the course of these two years and nine months, out of 17,801 encroachments, we have evicted about 8,392 encroachments, which is nearly fifty per cent. And we have restored about 33 per cent of the land to the Railways. Your point is whether the people who have already illegally occupied can be given compensation or not. I would like to mention

here that giving housing or houses is not the responsibility of the Railways and it is the State Government's responsibility to give housing.

Secondly, if I go into the question of giving compensation, where is the money with the Railways? First of all, it is not correct because you are illegally occupying. So, where is the question of giving compensation to them? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have one answer that you would not pay compensation.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what about West Bengal? The hon. Member has referred about West Bengal.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I have mentioned only about West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he will have no courage to evict them in West Bengal.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, I come to your point. In West Bengal, they went to the High Court and the High Court said, 'no'. They went to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court said, 'no'. You have to find your own resources for rehabilitation of these people. It is only the State Government's responsibility. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: The same is the case in respect of hawkers. The hawkers are running their business by occupying the railway platforms and even the over footbridge also. They are very poor people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are mentioning about hawkers. I am sorry they do not come in here. It is because it is the last day I cannot allow anything and everything.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, hawkers are occupying the railway platforms. They are doing their business within the platform premises without any licence issued by the railway authorities. I would like to know whether the Railways are seriously considering to issue licences to these people for conducting their legal business.

SHRI R. VELU: The notice given for the question is relating to encroachments. As far as hawkers issue is concerned, we have to separately take it up.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You have said there that you will do it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: This is between you and me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We have seen that you people have done everything.

[English]

You are scratching each other's back and getting things done.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about the encroachment. The policy of the UPA Government is pro-poor. We have been using police forces to dispel poor migrants time to time who came from village and settle on railway land. It is the policy of our Government not to use brutal force to get back the encroached railway land for the purpose of development. We believe in possession and establishing contacts not the State Governments so that displaced landless people and be helped as all the poor people belong to us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the policy. What more do you want?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to the question and the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the land under encroachment in the Western Railway and the Western Central Railway is 42 hectares. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that in my city Bhuj, there are more than 100 hectares of land which remains unattended. It remains unattended. It gives invitation for encroachment to all. Many times, I have written to the Railway authorities. Similarly, the land in Gandhi Dham also is measuring more than 100 hectares. The hon. Minister has said that it is to the extent of .3 per cent. But the value of the land is more than Rs.300 crore. Many times, I have invited the attention of the Railway authorities. I have raised this issue in the Lok Sabha. Even then, no action is being taken. I would like to know whether the Railway authorities are going to take action to protect the land in Bhuj and Gandhi Dham or not. Otherwise, it will be encroached upon. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Please take your seat.

SHRI R. VELU: I quite appreciate the anguish of the hon. Member. In fact, wherever encroachments have been evicted, we are protecting the land by giving it for plantation

purpose or it is supervised by our own authorities by doing fencing, etc. The hon. Member has specifically mentioned about Bhuj and Gandhi Dham. That will be specially taken care of. The General Manager of the Railways is instructed to take care of it and see that has not been encroached upon further. We will ensure that it is very limited.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say the Minister that he has got many encroached lands vacated. There are certain unidentified places in our area which belong to railways. Farming is being done there and other works are also going on. They do not know that they have encroached the land. You have also given compensation for those lands. In our areas, Lakhanpur is a very important place. Lands have been encroached there, but encroachers do not know that those lands belong to railways. I would like to ask the Railway Minister whether he would identify the land of railways by fencing the Lakhanpur area.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: They know that is not their land, at least.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow one Party, one question. Mr. Rajendran, your Party has got ten names. I will decide.

SHRI R. VELU: The boundaries of the railway land have been earmarked. The land is being supervised. Stones are laid. Survey stones are laid. If at all any agriculturist or any plantation owner has encroached upon any land, he will definitely be evicted.

Secondly, one more thing is there. Wherever the land is being used for agriculture, etc. we have got a policy. Wherever vacant land is available, which is not useable for Government purpose or railway track, etc., that can be earmarked for long leasing under a Public-Private Partnership Model. Or, there may the long period of lease, etc. By this, we collect some amount. Like that, we do it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati C.S. Sujatha. I could not get the Women's Reservation Bill. At least, let me have the satisfaction of women Members taking part in it.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, one thing. About 36 acres of vacant land is there at Cheriyanad near the Chenganoor Railway Station which is in a prime area. It can be utilized for any kind of productive venture. I would like to know

whether the Government will consider the land to set up a Rail Neer Factory or an IRCTC Hotel.

SHRI R. VELU: We have already enacted and also formed a Railway Land Development Authority. Under that Authority, we have now identified the land which can be given for commercial purpose which can be of joint venture or leasing purpose, etc. Accordingly, we have identified about 1200 acres. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Velu knows everything about the Railways like our Health Minister.

SHRI R. VELU: About 1200 acres have already been identified. We have already leased it out for three projects — one is in Delhi, another is in Visakhapatnam and the third one is in Gwalior. Your point is about 36 acres of land. If anybody wants to come forth saying that this may be given for a particular purpose, he can apply to the Land Development Authority. The Authority will examine whether it can be given for that purpose. If it is workable and a viable project, perhaps, we will consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, if you raise your hand one more time, I will cut out your name.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving priority to lady Members of this House.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish some more are there.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether there is any policy followed by the Ministry to give permission for jatropa cultivation, that is bio-diesel plant cultivation, in the vacant lands near the railway line because it will not only help in avoiding encroachment of the railway land but it will also help in the production of bio-diesel in the country.

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, this is a good question put by the hon. lady Member. In fact, the policy of the Railways is to encourage jatropa cultivation. In the process, we have to have bio-diesel produced to have substitution for our diesel import. In fact, our diesel bill is very high and it is about Rs. 5,000 crore per year. We have got two bio-diesel units in the Southern Region. As far as the hon. Member's question is concerned, whoever comes forward to use that land which is not for the purpose of railway development, we will definitely earmark it for the purpose of jatropa cultivation.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to Lalujee that he spoke about the slums existing

along the railway tracks and not to take repressive measure to evict them. This is a very good assurance given by you, I want to appeal that those who sent us to Lok Sabha in 2004, the slums dwellers who hooted us, were authorized. Therefore, all slums of 2004 be declared authorized because what will happen we do not know. Today is the last day. If you authorize them all, you will certainly become the Minister of Railways next time and I would also become something. Therefore, you should announce it today. Don't be scared, we are with you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Who will reply?

SHRI R. VELU: Sir, the hon. Member comes from Mumbai. For Mumbai, we have got a special package and under the Mumbai Urban Transport Project, a resettlement and rehabilitation programme has been envisaged under the World Bank assistance in which Railways is also participating.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants a general announcement for his victory!

SHRI R. VELU: We have already done something for Mumbai and towards this Rs. 400 crore has already been spent in which the Railways has spent Rs. 200 crore. We have already rehabilitated about 15,000 people there. But we cannot make a general announcement. Otherwise, everybody will come into the Railway land.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything for retiring Members?

Q. 142 - Shri Chandrakant Khaire - Not present

Q. 143 - Shri Suresh Angadi

Upgradation of Refineries

*143. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector oil companies propose to upgrade their refineries and to equip themselves in processing high sulphur crude oil to cut their import bill;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the gain likely to be accrued through such measures; and

(d) the extent to which the benefits will be passed on to the public in particular?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In view of dependence of around 80% on the imported crude, the Public Sector Oil Companies are progressively increasing processing of High Sulphur crude oil, which is available at a lower price as compared to low Sulphur crude. Apart from the Refineries designed for indigenous low-Sulphur crude oil processing, namely, the North Eastern Refineries (Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon & Numaligarh), Barauni (part) and Gujarat (part) Refineries of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Nagapattinam of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, most of the other Refineries are equipped to process High Sulphur crude oil.

The Public Sector Oil Companies are regularly undertaking Refinery Upgradation Projects in terms of installation of high severity Fluidised Catalytic Converter, Delayed Coker Unit, Coker Hydrotreater Unit, etc. to optimize high-Sulphur crude oil processing based on economics and product demand. Moreover, Fuel Quality Upgradation Projects are presently being executed at the Refineries of the Public Sector Oil Companies to meet the stringent environmental norms. The High Sulphur Crude processing capability is expected to go up after the commissioning of these projects.

(c) and (d) To meet the stringent fuel quality specifications/ environmental norms, the processing of high sulphur crude oil requires extraction of extra sulphur from the product streams through various processes. Though this increases the cost of processing high sulphur crude oil by the refineries as compared to the low sulphur crude oil, it results in availability of better quality of fuel, causing lower pollution, to the public.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, oil refineries are to process the crude oil to supply quality fuel as well as to meet the demand. They are playing a vital role in the economic development of the country. For that purpose, oil refineries are to be upgraded and augmented from time to time. The capacity addition in oil refineries remains static since last few years and as per the statement given by the hon. Minister there is no upgradation in oil refineries. In this regard, I would like to know whether any action plan is formulated for expansion, upgradation of oil refineries and particularly with regard to Mangalore Refinery in Karnataka, whether there is any upgradation plan. If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

Sir, my next question is this.

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait. You will get another chance.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Sir, oil refining is one such area where we are totally self-sufficient. Among the 20 refineries that we have, we are refining more than 175 million tonnes of oil.

The hon. Member asked about upgrading the existing crude. Several refineries have added new equipment and the crude is being refined as per the new equipment installed. I would like to inform the House that not only the crude is refined but material worth more than Rs. 1.07,000 crore is exported.

If you buy crude with high sulphur content, you save about seven to eight dollars. Our refineries have also fallen in line now that they refine crude and also import it with high sulphur content to save the money.

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is planning to reduce the oil prices further in the wake of sliding crude prices in the international market. If so, the details thereof!

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not related to the original question. You may please take your seat.

[English]

SHRI SURESH ANGADI: I would like to know which are the oil refineries presently upgrading fuel quality from the projects and by when the projects would be commissioned. All these four years, no upgradation has taken place.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a 'Question Hour' and not a 'Behas Hour'. Yes, which are the refineries they are upgrading?

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, during 9th Five Year Plan, about increasing the capacity of refinery Indian Oil Corporation Limited Haldia, Indian Oil Corporation Limited Panipat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a long list, send it to him.

[Translation]

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Sir, the list is very long. During 11th Five Year Plan, there is a possible increase of 91.99 million tonne.

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: Thank you Sir. As you all know that a good quantity of sulphur is recoverable from high sulphur crude being processed in oil refineries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Indian refineries are recovering sulphur and if so, whether the sulphur so produced matches in quality with the imported sulphur.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you done any exercise?

[Translation]

What is the quality of sulphur?

[English]

What are you doing with that?

SHRI MULRI DEORA: Sir, the three big refineries are coming up now. I would like to give their names. They are Bhatinda, Paradip and Bina Refineries each containing with 956 million tonnes. They are all installed in such a manner that all these equipment and technical facilities are available to take care of the sulphur content.

MR. SPEAKER: What about the quality of sulphur?

SHRI MURLI DEORA: That is what I said that when you import crude oil, you import heavy oil. They call it *meetha tel*. That costs about seven to eight dollars less. Every refinery is installing this equipment so that they can import heavy crude oil with more than 0.5 sulphur content so that they can save about seven to eight dollars in import.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the Government side, it has been reported that as far as increasing the capacity of any refinery is concerned, it has reached the saturation point. Our country has to import large quantity of crude oil. In Jaisalmer and Barmer basin of Rajasthan good quality crude oil has been found and it is being explored also, but that is being sent to Gujarat. Whether the Union Government has got any scheme to establish a new refinery in Rajasthan to increase the refining capacity in the country and to earn foreign exchange and if so the time by which it is likely to be established.

MR. SPEAKER: That too in his constituency!

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, few days back, the Mundra, Jaipur, Delhi pipeline of Hindustan Petroleum was inaugurated. That has increased the capacity very much but Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has made this demand in a massive public meeting and you people have also made demand, regarding the established of refinery in Rajasthan. Its techno-physical survey is also being done and it will take some more time.

[English]

Safety Management System at Airports

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*144. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Safety Management System has since been implemented at various airports to mitigate the risk of accidents;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in implementation of the system?

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

Statement

(a) Establishment of Safety Management System (SMS) at airports is a requirement of the licensing process and accordingly the implementation of SMS has been initiated at various airports. Civil Aviation Requirement Section 4 Series B, Part I dated 31st July 2006 issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) stipulates that as part of safety management programme, the operator of a licenced aerodrome shall implement an SMS, which is acceptable to DGCA. The minimum requirements include identification of safety hazards, ensuring implementation of remedial actions necessary to maintain an acceptable level of safety providing continuous monitoring and regular assessment of the safety level achieved, and aiming to make continuous improvement in the overall level of safety.

(b) The implementation of SMS has been initiated at New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin airports.

(c) The SMS at an airport can be implemented only in a phased manner. Normally it takes about two years time to fully implement SMS at an aerodrome as various issues are required to be addressed during the implementation process.

[Translation]

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of rules have been made for the security of the airport Safety Management System of the international standard. I think these rules are not being followed properly, which have increased the security risk for the airports. I am aware that there is a proposal for constituting Traffic Security Board despite the existence of International Airports Safety Management System and perhaps Ministry has sent the proposal to the hon'ble Minister. Despite all these, international rules are not being followed properly and a talk of constituting a new Traffic Board is also under way.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister what the Government is doing to save the airports from security risks?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the hon'ble Member is talking about the security of airports. I would like to say that today Safety Management System is being implemented for the airports according to the guidelines, norms of International Civil Aviation Organisation, IQA. We have fully implemented it at all the major airports like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and we are trying to extend it progressively at other airports. I would like to make it clear that we are working under the guidelines of International Civil Aviation Organisation, and wherever we find any lacuna, we will try to do the needful.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present a large number of private sector companies have entered the airport sector. It has made it very crowded. In this situation, the number of ground staff working at the airports is much less or is not sufficient in the comparison to the quantity of work load.

I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether with a view to ensure security there, efforts are being made to make an-increase in the working team of ground staff and train them, so that cent percent security can be ensured?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking for more staff.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that at any airport the staff will be deployed as per the requirement. So far as entry or exit of any person or security of the staff working there is concerned, no one can enter the airport premises unless he gets security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs. As I have stated earlier regarding new guidelines, earlier licensing system was not there at our airports and now DGCA has started licensing system; for every airport. There is a guideline for licensing and licence can't be issued unless every requirement is fulfilled. Security is also a part of it and we are trying to be more vigilant keeping in view the situation now-a-days.

[English]

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Sir, it has been proved that India has a soft target for terror and safety in the world. After the recent hijack attempt aboard Indigo's Delhi bound flight exposed the lack of preparedness safety and security agencies responsible to deal with the situation. During the high level review, it has been found that the phones in control room were not working; the officers concerned were not even aware of the procedure to be followed during such emergency situation; and the most shocking detail was that a few officials were not even aware of the location of the control room.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has made any action plan to maintain and

check readiness and special training for pilots, cabin crews as well as ground staff to handle emergency situations and streamline the situation, making information/sharing process among various concerned agencies by setting up of Standard Operation Procedures.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, most of his supplementary does not relate to this main Question. However, I will ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Like me, please be charitable on the last day of this Lok Sabha Session.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Exactly, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): It is not charitable; you have to come again. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not for me, it is for the Hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Today is the last day for the present 14th Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: This incident which the hon. Member has pointed out is being investigated and inquired into in absolute detail. However, there was no such major incident which took place. Of course, it was reported, and as a measure of extra precaution everything was put in place. But, 'yes' always an incident like this brings out certain more initiatives which need to be taken by the Government. At the highest level - at the Home Ministry level and at the Cabinet Secretary level - many meetings have been initiated and reviews have been taken. I can assure the hon. Members that as far as security was concerned, at least on this particular aircraft, there was no security lapse. You have asked about what remedial actions can be taken in such exigencies. I can tell you that a lot of things were done on that day, which I cannot, for security reasons, share everything with the House. But the fact is that there has been a lot of learning also from these kinds of incidents. We are putting all the procedures in place. For the information of the House, there was no security lapse on that particular flight.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has been parleying with the Space Authority of India for setting up one project under the name 'Gagan' and for providing seamless navigational facilities and traffic management. What is the present status of the project 'Gagan'?

Secondly, I would request the hon. Minister to exercise his authority so that British Airways should not be allowed departure from Kolkata.

MR. SPEAKER: As a selfish man, I have allowed it.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, the first part of his supplementary is a very important question. In fact, I am happy that at least on the last day of this Session, the hon. Member has raised a very important question. Sir, this is something which has been on the drawing board for many years. It is true that in association with ISRO and with the Department of Space, the Airports Authority of India is going to launch a satellite, and the project's name is Gagan.

This satellite navigation system will bring India at par with navigation systems in the United States and Europe, and probably we will be only the fourth country in the world to initiate this major exercise. This will ensure, as he rightly pointed out, seamless traffic movement because a lot of our movement and what is being monitored is physical monitoring. Satellite-based navigation will allow more traffic in the Indian sky. As we all realize, already there is enough traffic but over the next 10 to 20 years, we will see much more growth in air traffic, which will ensure that there is more traffic flow. Safer traffic flow is equally important. This project is likely to be done. It is satellite, and it has to be launched into outer space. We are expecting that somewhere in the second half of 2010, this satellite will be launched. In the meantime, there are some efforts to take some transponders on lease also to initiate this as a pilot project.

But nonetheless, Gagan, as an ambitious project of the Airports Authority and the ISRO, will ensure more traffic and safer skies in our environment. We will also leapfrog India into one of the major aviation powers in the world.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: What about my question relating to Kolkata?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as far as Kolkata is concerned, yes, it is a commercial decision of airlines to operate to any cities. However, keeping the sentiments, especially of the Chair in mind, I will certainly do whatever I can, best to ensure that connectivity continues.

MR. SPEAKER: But you have to arrange for a free ticket for me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, it will always be my pleasure.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, before putting my Question, I

would like to express our sincere thanks to the hon. Minister for instituting a new aircraft in the New Delhi-Cochin-Trivandrum Airport, though after our agitation.

MR. SPEAKER: But from which date? I have to go there soon. It is very troublesome.

Yes, please put your Question, now.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: The Safety Management System at various airports is at stake. Recently, the accompanying Aircraft of our President of India had slightly escaped from a mishap. From the Press reports, it is learnt that sometimes, such accidents take place due to human errors that too due to the overworking of the ATC staff at various airports.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the posts of the ATCO etc., are currently filled or not. If not, what are the measures taken by the Ministry to fill up these posts?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, as regards the first part of his Question about the flight and the new aircraft, as you remember, in this House, our colleague Varkalaji had been very agitated. Just the opposite to his age, he wanted the younger aircraft to be flying in the Indian skies... (Interruptions) So, we had to keep his age in mind and the age of the aircraft in mind. So, we balanced it properly. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: That would be more dangerous.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: No, Sir. No aircraft can be of his vintage, otherwise, there may be problems. ... (Interruptions)

But it was a very entertaining Session that day, and with your guidance, we also took note of that.

MR. SPEAKER: He has agitated all through his life.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: And, I am also one of his targets and victims. It is okay.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: But anyway, Sir, his agitation has brought some cheer to the other people. Why not?

MR. SPEAKER: Kerala is supposed to be the special target now with some intentions, I think.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, about the other part of his Question was about the ATC and certain incident involving

hon. Rashtrapatiji's helicopter's entourage. Well, it is being investigated. It would not be right for me at this stage without a proper investigation to give any details. But yes, certainly, we have taken note of it very seriously. An incident was avoided. Certainly, at some stage, it has to be established. There is human error. Now, who is responsible, I cannot give details because there is no report with me. Therefore, it is also premature for anybody to rely on Media reports, somebody quoting and saying that: "This side could be at fault or that side could be at fault." The ATC in Mumbai was with the Civilian side. There was an incident in Assam also, which was, I think, highly exaggerated in the Media. But yes, even if it was an incident, it was in ATC and the Defence side was involved. That was the Defence ATC. Yes, we are working closely.

In fact, one of the issues, which our Ministry has undertaken is to bring flexi airspace management, better coordination between Air Force ATC and the Civilian ATC. Certainly, we will take all remedial measures.

As far as ATCOs are concerned, their recruitment, unfortunately, had stopped in 1999 for some reasons.

In 2004, again we had started the recruitment. We have recruited a sizeable number of ATCs in the last few years. That process continues. Some people join and probably leave for better jobs elsewhere. But when you appoint, recruit an ATCO, it is also a mandatory process. You have to train him first at the Allahabad College of ours, put him in smaller airfields and then give him progressively more strenuous work. But nonetheless the point is well taken. The Government is seized of the matter. The Airports Authority is on an on-going ATCO recruitment and training drive.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you know that one day we were traveling in Jet Airways? We were going to land on an Air China plane. Just in time we were saved.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that a number of incidents have taken place during the last few days. A helicopter of Her Excellency President was at the runway and another was on the same runway for take-off. Both were at the same runway, one was landing and the other was to take-off. Once it also happened that two aircraft were to land simultaneously. You have named Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin airports. Which have been equipped with SMS I would like to ask whether these incidents have taken place before the implementation of SMS or after.

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: SMS is not only about one issue. It is a total one. When we are talking of licensing of an airport and bringing in safety management system, it is not particularly only restricted to one aspect. Again, we have to understand this. Certainly, one or two incidents, which I said, are serious and we need to be careful, vigilant and take corrective action. That is not an issue at all. We agree with that.

But about the other part—this is again important for everybody to know—every airport is a busy airport now in India, especially the big cities. One plane will be landing on a runway where another plane will have taken off just a minute or so before the other plane. It is an on-going cyclical process. Now, sometimes when some plane lands, it goes a little further and it does not exit at the right place. It goes further. So, it takes more runway time. In case of some planes, before they take off, at the last minute the pilot may detect some issue. He may take off a little longer than what the anticipated time. In such events, the incoming plane is asked to abort the landing and it takes off. It does not mean at every time that there is a likelihood of a mishap as sometimes it gets reported. It is a process which the ATCO, the pilots—everybody is well aware of. Also, that every incident does not mean that it will lead to a disaster.

There is another thing also. Sir, I will mention it since I have your attention. Every aircraft flying in the Indian sky has a TCAS, Traffic Collision Avoidance System. Every pilot, who is flying, on his radar knows what planes are flying in his vicinity, at what altitude and in which direction. If God forbid a situation comes where due to any error, two planes are on a collision course, both will get a warning signal emanating in the cockpit and pilots of both the planes get commands as to what to do. These are computerized lock-in secure systems available on every aircraft. Therefore, pilots can take corrective action. So, please let us not sometimes get carried away by exaggerated reports which lead to as if an accident is waiting to happen every single day.

Setting up of New Fertilizer Units

*145. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish new units/plants for the production of chemicals fertilizers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to set up any plant with external assistance to meet the shortage of fertilizers in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further steps proposed to promote indigenous production of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):
(a) to (e): A Statement is laid down on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) The setting up of the fertilizer units in the country is entirely based on the commercial decision of the investors. Further, under the existing policies for fertilizer sector, the investors from abroad are also free to invest in India towards setting up of new fertilizer units. In view of the increasing demand - production gap in the country, there is a need for additional production capacities in the country. To encourage setting up of new units especially in the urea sector, the Government has on 4th September, 2008, announced a new investment policy for the urea sector. The policy is based on the inter-national benchmark of Import Parity Price and is expected to attract investments in the urea sector subject to availability of gas. The policy aims at creation of additional production capacity through revamp, expansion and revival of existing urea units in the country and new green field projects in this sector.

The Government has on 30th October, 2008 also decided to revive the Barauni unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Chemicals Ltd. (HFCL) through a brownfield project to be set up by Urvark Videsh Ltd., a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) promoted by M/s National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), M/s Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) and M/s KRIBHCO. Further, an Empowered Committee of Secretaries have been set up to look into various options for revival of each of the closed units of HFCL and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL). The Government has also decided "in principle" to consider waiver of outstanding loans and interest on these companies subject to finalisation of a fully tied-up proposal for revival of each of the closed units.

In phosphatic sector, the subsidy regime is based on Import Parity Price of DAP and is expected to encourage indigenous production of phosphatic fertilizer. Further, since indigenous production of phosphatic fertilizer is largely dependent on imported raw materials and intermediates, the Government has been encouraging fertilizer industry to actively pursue joint ventures abroad in order to secure future supplies of fertilizer inputs and finished fertilizers.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that farmers are not getting supply of fertilizers on time for the last few years. You know it and you have accepted it that

farmers have to buy fertilizers at high rates from black market. This year i.e. in the year 2008 farmers have suffered financial losses due to not getting fertilizers for Kharif. You have not announced any concrete plan to provide adequate quantity of fertilizers to the farmers on time, which we had demanded. Whether you are going to set up new units? A number of units in the public sector are lying closed? I would like to know the reasons for it. To what extent the closure of these units have affected production? Are you going to do something in this regard?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has asked two questions. Firstly he wants to know about availability. So far as availability is concerned, I had informed this House that we supply according to the demands made by the State Governments, but we also look at sale figures. Earlier, the practice was that we provided the supply to the states and ask for certificates from the State Governments about the quantity of fertilizers sold which resulted in delays and at times there were instances of malpractice. Then we decided that we will see it on computer and deliver the quantity accordingly. We give it on that basis and normally mostly 90 percent of fertilizers are procured by the agencies of the State Government and they distribute it to the co-operatives etc. We deliver it to the State Governments and then it is the job of the State Government as to how it makes distribution. Our duty is to supply them as per their demand. At times, the stock remains with the co-operatives and at times with the dealers. They do not disclose it, they hoard it and farmers do not get it on time. At times, it is smuggled to Nepal via some areas of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. It is so because we sell urea to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 4,830 per ton while the price of urea in Nepal is Rs. 22,000 per tonne. We purchase DAP at the rate of Rs. 52,000 per ton and give it to our farmers at Rs. 9,300 per ton. If they sell it in Nepal, they get Rs. 52,000. So we have informed the State Governments also in this regard.

The second part of his question is, the names of the fertilizers plants, closed in 2002-2003 when the NDA Government was in power, they had closed down three plants of HFCL and five plants of Fertilizer Corporation of India due to Naptha. HFCL had closed down its three plants in Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia. Similarly FCI had closed down its five plants in Ramagumdam, Gorakhpur, Sindri, Talcher and Korba. On 30th October, Government decided to reopen all these plants and each plant will produce one million i.e. ten lac tonnes fertilizer in order to meet the shortage of fertilizers in the country.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister that while replying to the unstarred question number 386 dated 19 February, he had mentioned that, Tata consultancy Service has submitted a report to the Indian

Fertilizer Confederation wherein it has been stated that the farmers are not getting the benefits of the subsidy extended by the Government. Therefore it has been recommended that the smart cards should be provided to the farmers in order to provide them benefits of the subsidy. Whether the Government is thinking on that line?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Since long a debate was on to provide the benefits of direct subsidy to the farmers. Ultimately we all belong to the Socialist Party. I became MLA in 1969. At that time we used to put forward two demands, first to provide ownership of the factories to the farmers and second to provide direct subsidy to the farmers. Members of CPI and Left have the same demand but we have given a serious thought to it and once I invited Shri Basudev Acharya along with Shri Guptaji. At present we provide subsidy to the companies but for this first of all the company need to go there and distribute the fertilizers, thereafter we provide subsidy to them. If we provide direct subsidy to the farmers then farmers first have to purchase the fertilizers from the market and as I have said that he will have to purchase the urea at the rate of rupees twenty two thousand per ton and DAP at the rate of rupees fifty two thousand per ton from the company. Thereafter he will submit the bill for subsidy reimbursement to the BDO.

Second point, you have made about the smart cards. Till today Voter Identity Cards have not been issued to all the persons. How can you imagine that a poor man who requires two to four kg urea will be able to keep a smart card safe. Presently even a landless labourer can go and purchase a petty amount of urea say two kg. but in that condition he will have to produce the certificate of land. In addition to that it involves number of bureaucratic formalities. Therefore, we have not taken any decision in this regard. Hence we invite Hon'ble Member to put forward his views and if he succeeds in convincing us that there is some policy under which extending direct subsidy will be beneficial to the farmers then definitely we are ready to think over it. But so far what we have found that existing subsidy plans are more beneficial to the farmers in comparison of direct subsidy to the farmers.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has already admitted that the closed fertilizer units will be opened up. Earlier, the decision was taken by the Central Government that Barauni will be opened up, but in the meantime the Gas Authority of India and Reliance Company tied up to open a gas pipeline from Godavari and Cauvery basins. Is the Minister confident that gas pipeline will be available to the Eastern sector so that Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation of India (HFCI) at Durgapur will be opened up?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Petroleum Minister is sitting here, I am very thankful to him. We required 41 MMS CMD Gas for the existing plants but today we have 29 plants only and if we also add the closed down plants with the existing plants then we will require 95 MMS CMD Gas. I must congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for constituting a Committee of Group of Ministers and the matter related to gas was raised in this Committee. Thereafter, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has put all the gas run fertilizer plants on priority. He also announced that the gas requirement of the above plants will be fulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that a MOU is going to be signed with GAIL at 12.30 PM today. This will end the problem of gas and all units that are lying closed will become operational by year 2011-12.

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Recently, a number of fertilizer manufacturing units like MFL in Chennai and SPIC in Tuticorin are not producing to their full capacity. Does the Government have any proposal to increase the existing units to bring down the demand-production gap of fertilizers in the country?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Madras Fertilizer Ltd. is concerned, this is a Naptha based plant. This is our one of the oldest plant. Namroop plant has been discussed in the Cabinet. Presently we are running this plant. Though, MFL and Namroop plants are running in loss yet Union Government is running them. Recently the price of Naptha has come down. As this is a Naptha based plant, therefore, I would like to say that it would be brought under the recently announced new pricing policy. In spite of incurring losses, the Government will keep running them and the MFL will not be closed down.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fertilizer factory in Ramagundam was closed long back. It was situated in the backward Telangana region, and we have been fighting for the reopening of this factory for so many years. Will the Government reopen the factory as early as possible? We want to know this from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the plants closed as on 30 October, 2008, decision has been taken to reopen the Ramagundam Plant. Likewise there is Haldia plant also, but it will be reopened only as a joint venture.

And the plants at Gorakhpur; Sindri, Talcher, Korba, Durgupur and Barauni also fall in the some category. As far as Ramagumdun plant is concerned, the Chief Minister has written a letter wherein he has expressed his desire to run the Ramagumdun plant. They are doing the value assessment which will be completed by 15th March. First, this matter will be referred to the Empowered Committee and after completing all the formalities it will be referred to the Cabinet. For procedural requirement a Secretary level Committee has been constituted wherein a decision has been taken to appoint the Secretary as consultant.

12.00 hrs.

The consultant will prepare various models of the same and will present it for advice whether it should go for joint venture or some other mode of operation. Thereafter, consultant is making an assessment of property from Germany and the same is likely to be completed by the end of March. HFC and FCI will decide about the modalities to invite expression of interest and those selected will be eligible for bidding. After finalizing the bill it will referred to the BIFR and subsequently it will be passed by the Cabinet.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. The Question Hour is over. I would have loved to continue.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me that opportunity. I have now become the person to put the last Supplementary in the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

MR. SPEAKER: You may have the first Supplementary in the next Lok Sabha. Now you are not angry with me.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: You should contest and become Speaker again. Then I will have that opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: I have to transform myself..

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Surveillance Checks by DGCA

*142. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has recently found various lapses during surprise surveillance checks conducted at airports across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the lapses brought to the notice of DGCA;

(c) whether responsibilities have been fixed for such lapses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the further steps taken by the Government to ensure that the relevant orders/guidelines are properly adhered to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted inspection of aerodromes only as part of process for licensing the aerodrome used for scheduled air transport services in the country in order to ascertain compliance with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards before certifying the aerodromes used for international scheduled air transport services.

The observations made during the inspections related generally to the operational facilities. Since the inspections were carried out as part of the licensing process, observations made during the inspection were forwarded to aerodrome operator for taking necessary corrective actions, before issuing aerodrome license.

Once the aerodrome license is issued, the aerodrome operator is required to take prior approval of DGCA for making any changes in the aerodrome operational facilities, which will ensure that guidelines issued by DGCA are properly adhered to by the aerodrome operators.

Passenger Safety

*146. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the number of cases of burglary, looting and other crimes against passengers in various long distance trains;

(b) if so, the number of such instances reported during the last one year, zone-wise including Southern zone; and

(c) the efforts made by the Railways to check such incidents and ensure passengers fearfree journey in trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is marginal increase in the instances of offences against travelling passengers in trains including in long distance trains reported and registered over Indian Railways during the year 2008 in comparison to the year 2007.

(b) During the year 2008, total 7,946 instances of crime including Burglary were reported in trains over Indian

Railways as against 7860 cases during the year 2007. Out of which, 396 cases were reported over Southern Zone i.e. in the states of Kerala and Tamilnadu during the year 2008 as against 287 cases reported during the year 2007. Comparative statement showing the cases on various heads of crime reported in trains over Indian Railways (State-wise) during the year 2007 and 2008 is given in the enclosed statement. The cases of passenger offences are reported to, registered and investigated by the Government Railway Police, which functions under the control of State Governments concerned.

(c) Although the Policing on Railways is the duty of State Police through Government Railway Police, however, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways and to ensure that the State Police (Government Railway Police) get more time to handle heinous offences such as Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Rape etc. including Sabotage and Train Wrecking, under the provisions of Indian Penal Code, the Railways Act and other laws of the land.

The following preventive measures are being taken for the security of passengers:-

1. Important crime prone mail / express trains are being escorted by RPF in coordination with GRP.
2. After the amendment in RPF Act and Railway Act, 1257 trains are escorted by RPF daily on an average by deploying 3904 RPF personnel. In addition, about 2329 trains are escorted by Government Railway Police daily on an average by deploying 4560 personnel. 710 important Railway stations have been provided

with about 3898 RPF staff for access control duty daily.

3. The train escorting parties are being briefed to remain extra vigilant in trains at the affected stations / sections.
4. Necessary announcements are frequently being made through Public Awareness System and use of loud hailers at the general coaches of the trains and during line bandobast to desist passengers for purchasing / accepting eatables from unauthorized hawkers and unknown persons while travelling by train or at the platform.
5. During the year 2008, RPF have detected 844 cases of Indian Penal Code (IPC) offences and arrested 655 criminals and forwarded them to concerned GRP for further legal action. In addition, during the year 2008, 13.85 lakhs persons have also been arrested and prosecuted by Railway Protection Force under the provisions of the Railways Act with a view to keep trains and passenger area at Railway stations free of anti-social elements
6. Regular coordination meetings are being conducted with State Police and Government Railway Police to discuss crime trends and formulate effective strategies to contain crimes.
7. Ladies' compartments of sub-urban trains are normally being escorted by GRP. Special Squads comprising women TTEs and women RPF personnel are deployed in vulnerable sub-urban sections, especially during the non-peak hours when likelihood of commission of crime against women is more.
8. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers travelling in ladies compartments and the offenders detected are prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act.

Statement

The number of cases of crime that is murder, dacoity, robbery, theft of passengers belonging and other crimes reported in trains over Indian Railways during the years, 2007 and 2008

State	Year	Murder	Dacoity	Robbery/ Loot	Drugging	Burglary Theft of Passengers' belongings	Other IPC Crimes	Total Cog. Crimes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	2007	2	1	7	35	307	33	385
	2008	2	-	3	16	370	28	419
Assam	2007		11	9	29	46	17	112
	2008	1	6	5	13	60	22	107

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	2007	5	17	29	14	709	134	908
	2008	7	20	20	32	699	102	880
Chhattisgarh	2007	-	-	1	3	132	22	158
	2008	-	-	1	6	161	16	184
Delhi	2007	-	-	-	3	164	110	277
	2008	-	-	1	-	178	31	210
Gujarat	2007	2	7	13	46	519	1	588
	2008	1	2	2	41	504	7	557
Haryana	2007	1	-	1	-	68	41	111
	2008	-	1	7	1	96	108	213
Jharkhand	2007	-	18	5	7	110	1	141
	2008	3	16	13	4	84	15	135
Karnataka	2007	-	4	11	45	314	-	374
	2008	-	2	15	8	203	3	231
Kerala	2007	-	-	4	8	100	19	131
	2008	-	-	1	1	107	27	136
Madhya Pradesh	2007	4	1	6	53	779	61	904
	2008	1	4	6	43	811	51	916
Maharashtra	2007	3	8	30	72	1381	54	1548
	2008	3	12	29	60	1805	86	1795
Orissa	2007	-	3	5	19	153	13	193
	2008	1	1	4	15	133	12	166
Punjab	2007	-	-	-	-	4	1	5
	2008	-	1	1	-	12	03	17
Rajasthan	2007	1	1	-	19	333	72	426
	2008	-	-	2	25	202	32	261
Tamil Nadu	2007	1	-	1	2	81	71	156
	2008	1	-	7	8	179	65	260
Uttaranchal	2007	-	-	-	-	9	1	10
	2008	1	-	1	-	34	2	38
Uttar Pradesh	2007	12	11	10	29	587	217	856
	2008	1	11	14	18	493	161	698

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
West	2007	1	7	9	139	359	37	552
Bengal	2008	4	1	8	175	499	34	721
Others	2007	-	-	-	-	24	1	25
(Goa, J&K, HP & UT)	2008	-	-	-	-	2	0	2
Total	2007	32	89	141	523	6179	896	7860
	2008	26	77	140	466	6432	805	7946

Airport User Development Fee

*147. SHRI K.S. RAO:

SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given clearance to all the private airport developers to levy a development fee from the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Law had earlier opined that no fresh imposition of levy is permissible beyond the terms of agreement initially signed with the successful bidder;

(d) if so, the reasons for reversing this position and its impact on airfares;

(e) whether the Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) has sought the Government's permission to impose a user Development levy on all outbound air travellers to offset its projected losses; and

(f) if so, the details of the financial implications from levy of such fees from the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (f) At present, there are five airports namely Cochin International Airport (CIA) at Cochin, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) at Shamshabad, Bangalore International Airport (BIAL) at Devenahalli, CSI Airport at Mumbai and IGI Airport at Delhi, being operated by private operators/Joint Venture Companies (JVCs). Out of these, three airport i.e. CIA at Cochin, RGIA at Shamshabad and BIA at Devenahalli are new greenfield airports. For construction, operation, maintenance and management of RGIA and BIA, Government of India (GoI) have entered into a Concession Agreement with the respective joint venture companies namely Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL).

As per Article 10.2 and Schedule 6 of Concession Agreement the joint venture companies i.e. BIAL & HIAL are

allowed to charge User Development Fee (UDF) to meet the revenue gap, if any, with prior approval of the GoI subject to such charge being consistent with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) policies. For the RGIA, GoI have approved, on an adhoc basis, levy of UDF @ Rs.1000/- (inclusive of all taxes) per embarking international passenger from the date of the opening of the airport and @ Rs.375 (inclusive of all taxes) per embarking domestic passenger w. e. f. 22.08.2008. For BIA, GoI have approved, on an adhoc basis, levy of UDF @ Rs.1070/- (inclusive of all taxes) per embarking international passenger from the opening date of the airport and @ Rs.260/- (inclusive of all taxes) per embarking domestic passenger with effect from 16.01.2009. These levies have been made under Rule 89 of the Aircraft Rules 1937.

IGI Airport, New Delhi & CSI Airport at Mumbai have been restructured through joint venture route and leased to the Joint Venture Company M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd (DIAL) & Mumbai International Airport Private Limited (MIAPL) under Section 12A of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) Act 1994 and to this effect Airports Authority of India (AAI) has, inter-alia, entered into Operation, Management and Development Agreement (OMDA) with the Joint Venture Companies (JVCs) and handed over airports operations to the JVCs w.e.f. 03.05.2006.

For IGI Airport, New Delhi DIAL has prepared a Master Plan for modernisation of the airport to world class standards, well in time for Commonwealth Games 2010. The Master Plan is under implementation at the presently estimated cost of Rs.8975 crores. Keeping in view the paramount importance of completing the project in time for the Commonwealth Games, the Government have, in terms of Section 22A of the AAI Act 1994, approved, purely on an adhoc basis, the levy of Development Fee @ Rs.1300/- per departing international passenger and @ Rs.200/- per departing domestic passenger with effect from 01.03.2009, for a period of 36 months, to bridge the funding gap of Rs.1827 crores. The levy is subject to review after six months.

Funds collected through the levy can be utilised only for the construction of such aeronautical assets which will be transferred by DIAL to AAI upon completion of lease period. In this process, the Ministry of Law & Justice has been appropriately consulted.

[Translation]

Freight Classification

*148. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the norms/criteria laid down for freight-classification under the goods transport system;
- (b) whether the Railways have recently made further changes in the categorisation of different commodities for determining the applicable rates;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the manner in which Railways ensure transparency in the decision making process in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) The norms/criteria laid down for freight classification under the goods transport system are cost of service and value of service, which inter-alia includes what the traffic can bear taking into account railway's competitiveness and elasticity of demand.

(b) and (c) There has been no change in categorisation of different commodities as given in Goods Tariff. However, the classification of cement, coal, iron-ore for domestic consumption, foodgrains, flours & pulses and chemical manures has been changed in last six months.

(d) Since change in freight classification have financial implications, these proposals cannot be disclosed during the decision making process. Decisions are taken as per powers delegated under the Railways Act, 1989 after approval by the competent authority.

[English]

Empowerment of the Physically Challenged Persons

*149. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Commissioners under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 have been appointed in all the States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of complaints received by the Commissioners in the States during each of the last three years and the total number of complaints disposed of to help the beneficiaries during the said period, State-wise;

(d) the broad nature of the complaints received; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure effective empowerment of the physically challenged persons?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Full time State Commissioners have been appointed by 16 States, while 19 States/Union Territories have given additional charge of Commissioner to officers substantively holding other posts. State/Union Territory wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Under Section 65 of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, Annual Reports of State Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities are laid by concerned State Governments in State legislatures. Work of these Commissioners is not monitored by the Central Government.

(e) The following steps have been taken towards effective empowerment of persons with disabilities:

- (i) Enactment of three legislations, viz.
 - a. Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992
 - b. Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995
 - c. National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability Act, 1999
- (ii) Adoption of a National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, in February, 2006
- (iii) Implementation of the following Central Sector Schemes
 - a. **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**-under which NGOs are given assistance for providing a wide range of rehabilitation services to children and persons with disability
 - b. **Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/ Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP)**-

under which assistive aids and appliances are provided to needy persons with disabilities, and corrective surgeries are carried out free of charge or at concessional rates.

- c. **Scheme for Implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act**- under which a range of projects implemented by various agencies for research and development, creation of a barrier free environment, etc. are supported.
- d. **Scheme of Providing Incentives to Employers in the Private Sector for Providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities** (introduced from 1.4.2008)- under which payment of the employer's EPF and ESI contribution for the first three years, for each person with disability employed in a private sector establishment with a monthly wage of upto Rs. 25,000, is borne by the Central Government.
- e. Provision of loans at concessional rates to persons with disability for self-employment, by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, and
- f. Vocational training through 20 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Statement

List of States which have appointed full-time State Commissioners for persons with disabilities

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Assam
3. Bihar
4. Chhattisgarh
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Jharkhand
8. Karnataka
9. Kerala
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Meghalaya
13. Punjab
14. Rajasthan
15. Tamil Nadu
16. West Bengal

List of States/UTs which have appointed officers substantively holding other posts as Commissioner for persons with disabilities

States

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Goa
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Jammu and Kashmir
5. Manipur
6. Mizoram
7. Nagaland
8. Orissa
9. Sikkim
10. Tripura
11. Uttarakhand
12. Uttar Pradesh

Union Territories

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
2. Chandigarh
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4. Daman and Diu
5. Delhi
6. Lakshadweep
7. Puducherry

Development of Eco-Tourism

*150. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of central financial assistance released to each State Government/Union Territory administration for development of Eco-tourism during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects for which these funds were provided alongwith the funds actually spent by the State Governments/UTs on these projects; and

(c) the further steps being taken by the Union Government for the growth of Eco-tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of Tourism projects including Eco-tourism is

primarily the responsibility of State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations concerned. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for development of tourism including Eco-tourism under the Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations & Circuits Scheme of the Ministry, on the basis of proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. The list of projects sanctioned for development of Eco-tourism in the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

Implementation of the projects is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The

Ministry, however, monitors the progress through review meetings with State Governments /Union Territory Administrations officials and site visits from time to time. The first instalment of fund is released when the project is sanctioned. The subsequent instalment is released only on receipt of utilization certificate for previous instalment.

The Ministry of Tourism promotes all tourism products of the country including eco-tourism through collaterals/print/ electronic and internet media under the "Incredible India" campaign. Information is also disseminated through the website www.incredibleindia.org and India tourism offices in the country and abroad.

Statement

*Central Financial Assistance provided to State Governments/UT Administrations
in last three years till date for development of Eco-tourism*

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Development of Laknavaran Lake as Eco-tourism destination in Warangal Distt.	2006-07	468.63	337.90
Arunachal Pradesh	2.	Development of Dolma Park at Lumla	2008-09	170.00	136.00
	3.	Development of Tourism Infrastructure near Pakhui Wild life Sanctuary at Seijosa, East Kameng Distt.	2007-08	336.51	269.21
Assam	4.	Eco-tourism development at Kokrajhar	2005-06	460.00	368.00
	5.	Circuit development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga	2005-06	781.00	624.80
	6.	Development of Eco-tourism at Haflong	2007-08	63.47	50.77
Haryana	7.	Development of Eco-tourism in Kalesar	2007-08	319.00	255.20
	8.	Development of Eco-tourism in Morni-Pinjoire Hills and Sultanpur National Park	2007-08	329.00	263.20
Himachal Pradesh	9.	Development of Eco-tourism in Himachal Pradesh	2007-08	368.22	294.57
	10.	Tourism Development & Environment Preservation Scheme	2007-08	25.91	5.19
Karnataka	11.	Development of Wilderness Tourism Circuit	2006-07	226.88	204.20
	12.	IT Infrastructure for Eco-tourism by M/s.Jungle Lodges and Resorts	2005-06	53.29	26.64
Kerala	13.	Development of Elephant Park at Punnathur Kotta, Guruvaur, Distt. Thrissur	2005-06	349.50	279.80

1	2	3	4	5	6
	14.	Development of Ranipuram as Eco-tourism Destination	2006-07	357.01	285.60
	15.	Malabar Mangrove Eco-tourism Circuit in Malapupura, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasargode Districts	2008-09	349.36	279.49
Manipur	16.	Development of Eco-tourism Park at Imphal	2006-07	345.29	172.64
Madhya Pradesh	17.	Development of Panna as Tourist Destination	2006-07	421.66	337.00
Nagaland	18.	Integrated Development of Mon as Eco-Adventure & Culture destination	2008-09	452.76	362.20
Orissa	19.	Development of Eco-tourism at Bhitarkanika	2006-07	383.22	191.61
	20.	Development of Simlipal, Distt. Maurbhanj	2006-07	297.12	237.70
Sikkim	21.	Construction of Indian Himalayan Centre for Adventure and Eco-Tourism at Chemchi	2007-08	389.54	311.63
Uttarakhand	22.	Development of rural tourism (Eco-tourism) in Devriyatal at Village Sari, District Rudraprayag	2005-06	45.14	36.00
	23.	Development of Corbett National Park as a Tourist Circuit	2007-08	602.00	481.60
Uttar Pradesh	24.	Destination Development in Dudhwa National Park	2005-06	312.60	250.08
	25.	Development of Katerniaghat Park Wildlife Sanctuary in Distt Baharaich	2005-06	105.00	84.00
West Bengal	26.	Development of Eco-tourism circuit in and around Jhargram, Distt. Paschim Mednipur	2007-08	666.55	533.24

[*Translatic.n*]

Delay in Completion of Railway Projects

*151. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether execution of several ongoing railway projects are getting delayed resulting in huge cost overrun;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for the delay in their execution, Zone-wise;

(c) the details of funds spent so far on the said projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the execution of these projects to check any further cost escalation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Railways have a huge throwforward of ongoing projects, under new lines, gauge conversions, doublings,

railway electrifications and metropolitan transport projects, with limited availability of resources, as a result of which the projects take long time in completion. The targets for the projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the projects get completed in phases. Some of the projects where targets had been fixed and projects would have completed in full but have been delayed are given Zone-wise in the enclosed Statement alongwith reasons for delay and the revised targets. The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance, failure of contracts, adverse law and order conditions and other market forces affecting the progress. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standard of construction & technology, scope of work, inflation, etc. With the present availability of funds and the large throwforward, it is not possible to fix and maintain many targets.

(d) Some of the steps taken to expedite implementation of ongoing projects are:-

- (i) The availability of funds for the projects have increased considerably over the last few years due to provision of funds through internal generation, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Governments and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through extra budgetary resources.
- (ii) The contract conditions have been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management.
- (iii) Empowerment of field units with delegation of powers.
- (iv) Pursuing the security issues and land acquisition with the State Governments and also environment issues upto the level of Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (v) State Governments have been requested to regularly review the projects and sort out the pending issues.

Statement

S. No.	Railway Zone	Year of inclusion in Budget	Name of the Project	Length (in Km)	Cost Actual Exp.		Targets fixed earlier / revised	Remarks & Reasons for delay
					08-09	Mar' 08		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
New Lines								
1	Central	2000-01	Puntamba-Shirdi	17.8	79.77	55.48	2007-08/2008-09	Delay due to non acquisition of land. Delay is also due to failure of contractors and increase in royalty charges by the State Govt. Work has since been completed.
2	East Coast	1996-97	Haridaspur-Paradeep	82	735.1	98.28	2008-09/2011-12	Due to delay in land acquisition and local resistance where land has been acquired for want of adquate compensation.
3	East Central	1997-98	Ara-Sasaram	98	241.6	182.72	2007-08/2008-09	Sasaram-Piro completed Delay due to failure of contracts, land acquisition and adverse law & order conditions.
4	East Central	1998-99	Koderma-Ranchi	202	1099.2	363.37	2008-09/2011-12	Delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance. Adverse law & order conditions due to MCC activities. Failure of contractors.
5	East Central	2001-02	Koderma-Tilaiya	65	418.17	33.03	2008-09/2011-12	Delay in land acquisition and forestry clearance which is still awaited.
6	East	1997-98	Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi	64.5	232.15	134.89	2006-07/2010-11	Delay in land acquisition. Delay is also due to severe floods, failure of contractors and Central change in scope of work based on recent floods. Constraints of funds.
7	Eastern	1998-99	Deogarh-Dumka	72.25	340.54	195.11	2008-09/2009-10	Work delayed due to forest clearance and delay in removal of electric lines by State Govt.
8	North Central	1997-98	Guna-Etawah	344	540	393.59	2008-09/2010-11	Guna-Bhind completed and commissioned. Bhind-Etawa delayed due to acquisition of land in wild life sanctuary area for which revision petition has been filed in Supreme Court. The contracts got terminated due to abnormal increase in rice of steel.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	Northeast Frontier	1996-97	Kumarghat-Agartala	109	879.99	813.02	2006-07/2008-09	Slow progress of tunnels. The line has already been completed.
10	South Central	2006-07	Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu	19.1	65.96	6.16	2007-08/2009-10	Delay due to change of alignment as per suggestion of beneficiaries and delay in land acquisition.
11	South Western	1995-96	Kottur-Harihar via Harpanhalli	65	206.81	82.83	2008-09/2009-10	Delay due to late land acquisition and termination of contracts.
Gauge Conversion								
1	Central	1993-94	Miraj-Latur	374	706.77	433.58	2008-09/2009-10	Latur-Khurduwadi-Pandarpur completed and commissioned. Delay in land acquisition by State Govt., fund constraints and failure of contractors.
2	East Coast	1997-98	Naupada-Gunupur	90	112.02	116.51	2008-09/2009-10	45 km will be completed during 2008-09. Delay due to extremist activities due to which works have slowed down. Constraints of resources.
3	East	1997-98	Jayanagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiaganj	268	393.55	241	2008-09/2009-10	Jaynagar-Darbhanga-Sitamarhi commissioned. There is delay due to delay in Central finalisation of tender, slow progress and floods. Constraints of funds.
4	East Central	1996-97	Mansi-Saharsa & Saharsa-Dauram Madhepura-Purnia	142	257.01	146.6	2008-09/2009-10	Mansi-Saharsa commissioned. Affected due to flood.
5	North Eastern	2003-04	Aunrihar-Jaunpur	50.6	102.13	24.19	2008-09/2009-10	Heavy and longer duration rainfall have affected the work very badly. Slow progress
6	Northeast Frontier	1997-98	New Jalpaiguri-Siliguri-New Bongaigaon - Branch lines.	419.48	960.48	855.24	2008-09/2009-10	New Jalpaiguri-New Bongaigaon and Alipurduar-Bamanhat commissioned. Fakiragram-Dubri is only balance. Delay due to slow progress affected by adverse law and order condition.
7	Northeast Frontier	1996-97	Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam and Badarpur-Kumarghat	367	1676	1180	March 09/March 2012	The progress of project is adversely affected due to militant activities and extortion threats. There are large number of tunnels and viaducts with limited resourceful contractors.
8	North Western	2005-06	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	294.97	718.27	413.54	2008-09/2009/10	Delay is due to slow progress of works by the contractors.
9	North	1991-92	Bhikdi-Samdari (Viramgam-Jodhpur)	223	479	207.05	March'08/Dec'09	Delay due to late finalisation of contract and slow progress. There is delay in Western acquisition of land in certain stretches where the progress is nil.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	North Western	1997-98	Sriganganagar- Sarupsar	116	168.8	7.21	2008-09/2009-10	Slow progress and shortage of sleepers.
11	South Central	1997-98	Dharmavaram-Pakala	227	294.99	165.52	2008-09/2009-10	Pakala-Madanapalli (82 km) completed. Delay due to slow progress of works and delay in availability of PSC sleepers.
12	Southern	1998-99	Thanjavur-Villupuram	192	356.88	369.39	2007-08/June'09	Thanjavur-Myaladuturai-Sarkazi completed. Work hampered due to heavy floods during Nov-Dec, 2008 and large number of bridges involved.
13	Southern	2000-01	Villupuram-Katpadi	161	276.94	196	2008-09/2009-10	Katpadi-Vellore (10 km) completed. Slow performance by contractors.
14	South Western	1992-93	Shimoga-Talguppa (Bangalore-Hubli- Bishu-Shimoga)	630	679.41	469.96	2008-09/2009-10	Slow progress and shortage of sleepers.
15	Western	1994-95	Rajkot-Veraval, Wansjalia to Jetalsar with new line from Veraval to Somnath	281	377.79	297.4	2008-09/2009-10	Rajkot-Veraval-Somnath completed and commissioned. Wansjalia-Jetalsar has been given lower priority due to delay in arrangement of sleepers.
Doubling								
1	East Coast	1999-2000	Rajatgarh-Barang	29.32	240	125.39	2008-09/2009-10	The delay is on account of poor performance by the contractor and problems relating to rehabilitation and land acquisition.
2	East Coast	2003-04	Khurda-Barang 3rd line	32	207	67.97	2008-09/2009-10	The delay is on account of poor performance by the contractor and problems relating to rehabilitation and land acquisition.
3	East Coast	2002-03	Sambalpur-Rengali	22.7	81.31	70.07	2007-08/2008-09	Termination of earthwork and bridge contracts. Resistance from local public.
4	East Central	2005-06	Begusarai-Khagaria	40.23	105.57	27.73	2008-09/2009-10	Delay is due to failure of contractors.
5	East Central	2005-06	Kursela-Semapur	27.78	552	27.42	2007-08/2009-10	Delay due to slow progress due to floods.
6	East Central	2005-06	Thanabihpur-Kursela	34.2	45	32.88	2007-08/2008-09	Delay due to slow progress due to floods.
7	Eastern	2000-01	Barasat-Hasanabad doubling with electrification Ph-I (Barasat-Sondalia)	12.12	23.65	9.77	2008-09/2009-10	Delay due to land acquisition which is yet to be completed. Delay also caused by contract failure and abnormally heavy rain.
8	Eastern	2003-04	Barharwa-Tinpahar	16.49	41.13	21.44	2007-08/2008-09	Baharwa-Bakhudi (7.72 km) completed. Delay due to cutting of trees, land dispute with land owners, delay in shifting of cables and electric poles and slow progress by contractors.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	Eastern	2000-01	Baruipur-Lakshmikantpur Ph-I (Baruipur-Dakshni Barasat)	17	31.82	29.06	2007-08/2008-09	Baruipur-Dhapdhapi (7 km) completed. Delay occurred due to non availability of catenary and contact wire.
10	Eastern	2000-01	Habra-Chandpara	22.25	40.88	35.77	2008-09/2009-10	Habra-Machlandpur (9.2 km) commissioned. Delay in project due to abnormally heavy rain and increase in cement and steel cost.
11	Eastern	2000-01	Tarakeshwar-Sheoraphulli Ph-I (Sheoraphulli -Naiikul)	17.76	48.79	66.41	2007-08/2009-10	Sheoraphulu-Singur (11.5 km) commissioned. Delay due to public agitation regarding land acquisition at Singur and heavy rains.
12	North Central	2005-06	Bhimsen-Juhi	13.82	22.3	25.32	2007-08/2008-09	Work completed in Oct., 2008. Delay was due to slow progress.
13	North Central	2005-06	Palwal-Bhuteshwar 3rd line	81	330	56.86	2008-09/2009-10	Delayed due to slow progress of work.
14	North Eastern	2005-06	Babhnan-Mankapur patch doubling	30.15	71.46	98.72	2007-08/2008-09	The work affected due to delay in cutting of trees and non completion of major bridge.
15	North Eastern	2005-06	Ekma-Jiradei patch doubling	43.6	89.83	83.88	2007-08/2008-09	Ekma-Pachrukhi-Siwan commissioned. Work in only balance section of Siwan-Jiradei in advance stage. Delay in blanketing due to abnormal rainfall in the area.
16	North Eastern	2006-07	Ghagharaghat-Chowkaghat	5.63	91.56	6.15	2007-08/2009-10	Work delayed due to failure of tender of main work of girders which is being reinvited.
17	North Eastern	2006-07	Gorakhpur-Baitalpur	37.93	39.18	38.97	2007-08/2009-10	Gorakhpur-Kushmbi (10 km) completed. There has been delay due to cutting of trees by State Govt. and heavy rainfall.
18	North Eastern	1997-98	Gorakhpur-Sahjanwa	17.3	88.62	58.08	2007-08/2009-10	Gorakhpur-Domingarh (6 km) commissioned. Delay due to freezing/de-freezing of Domingarh- Sahjanwa. The fabrication of girders is taking considerable time. The abnormal increase in price of steel and non-availability of standard steel sections has affected the work.
19	Northern	2000-01	Amroha-Kankather	31	90.4	72.8	2007-08/2008-09	Delay due to slow progress.
20	Northern	1997-98	Jalandhar-Pathankot-Jammu Tawi	203	707.04	610.02	2007-08/09-10	143 km commissioned. Delay due to failure of contractors and stays granted by hon'ble High Court of J&K. These have since been vacated and contracts finalised.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21	Northern	1998-99	New Delhi-Tilak Bridge 5th and 6th	2.65	53.14	37.07	2004-05/2009-10	Progress is slow due to precautions required to be taken due to running railway lines and road traffic.
22	Northern	2003-04	Sahibabad-Anand Vihar - 3rd & 4th	4	49.57	10	2007-08/2008-09	Delay due to late award of contract and slow progress.
23	North Western	2005-06	Jaipur-Dausa	61.28	148.38	12.69	2008-08/2009-10	Delay in supply of sleepers.
24	North Western	2004-05	Jaipur-Phulera	54.75	94.91	72.71	2007-08/2008-09	Work completed in Oct 08 and commissioned. Delay as North Western Railway wanted to defer this work in view of isolation of MG loco shed at Phulera.
25	South East Central	1997-98	Bilaspur-Urkura	105	273	177.08	2008-09/2009-10	Delay in finalisation of tender according to ADB guidelines and slow progress due to poor mobilisation. The work involve major yard works on this busy electrified route which is taking considerable time
26	South Eastern	2000-01	Tikiapara-Santragachi IV line	5.6	47	16.4	2006-07/2009-10	Delay has been due to failure of contractors and shifting of large number of encroachments including sensitive, religious edifices.
27	Southern	1999-2000	Attipattu-Korukkupettai	18	71	65.43	2006-07/2009-10	Slow progress due to RDSO recommendation to do earthwork in layers as it is a marshy land.
28	Southern	2003-04	Cheppad-Kayankulam	7.76	37.48	18.18	2007-08/2008-09	Work repeatedly hampered due to stopping of quarrying of earthwork by Kerala State Revenue Deptt, land acquisition and poor response in contracts.
29	Southern	2001-02	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti	17.37	85.24	61.46	2006-07/2008-09	Work is nearing completion. There has been delay in handing over of land and removal of pipeline by the local authorities.
30	Southern	2003-04	Mavelikara-Chengannur	12.3	80.25	38.86	2007-08/2008-09	Delay in project due to land acquisition. Work also affected due to frequent stopping of earth quarrying by State Revenue deptt. Progress affected due to heavy rains.
31	Southern	1988-99	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line	41.89	124	117.8	2007-08/2008-09	The progress was affected due to delay in land acquisition, un-usual prolonged and heavy rains, abnormal price increase and non-availability of OPC cement and re-inforcement steel and adverse law and order problems.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
32	Southern	2003-04	Mavelikara-Kayankulam	7.89	37.22	19.87	2006-07/2008-09	Delay due to land acquisition and certain portions have recently been handed over.
Metropolitan Transport Project								
1	Central	1996-97	Belapur-Seawood-Uran electrified double line	27	495.44	103.88	2001-02/Not fixed	It is a joint project of Govt. of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways being executed by CIDCO on behalf of State Govt. Slow progress has been due to paucity of funds on part of State Govt. State Govt. is contemplating change of alignment. As such work has been suspended till a final view is taken by the State Government.
2	Eastern	1999-00	Extension of design and construction of MRTS from Toliganj to Garia	8.5	1032.76	750.52	2008-09/09-10	There have been slow progress on part of Govt. of West Bengal in removal of encroachments and land acquisition.
Railway Electrification								
1	Northern	1992-93	Ambala-Moradabad	274	256.37	256.63	March '08/ June'09	The work on section Saharanpur-Moradabad was initially frozen due to operational consideration and defrozen in Nov. 1998 and execution taken over in hand thereafter. Electrification of Ambala-Saharanpur-Agwanpur (259 RKM) has been completed and Agwanpur-Moradabad (15RKM) is targetted for completion by March'09 after re-modelling of Moradabad yard.
2	South Central	1991-92	Renigunta-Guntakal	308	182.55	57.02	March, 09/ March'10	The work was initially frozen due to operational considerations and defrozen in Nov/98 Renigunta-Nandalur section has been completed and Nandalur-Guntakal section (222 RKM) has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL). The target for Nandalur-Guntakal section (with patch doubling of 132 RKM) is March'10.
3	South Eastern, East Coast	1996-97	Kharagpur/Nimpura-Bhubaneswar incl. Talcher-Cuttack-Paradeep	540	406.51	406.24	March, 08 / Dec '08 (Completed)	Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar main line & Talcher-Rajatgarh-Barang completed in November, 05. Electrification of Cuttack-Paradeep had to be short closed due to signalling modification and doubling of the section. Cuttack-Paradeep energised in 2007-08 and

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
								CRS inspection conducted in July 2008. With this 100% of the original work sanctioned has been completed. Further, Jakhapura-Daitari (34 RKMs) sanctioned as Material Modification to the original project. Jakhapura-Tomka (24 RKMs) commissioned in July 08 with OHE height of 7.45 metres which is the highest OHE installed anywhere in the world. This would facilitate double stack container operations under electrified territory with electric locomotives. Tomka-Daitari has also been commissioned in Aug. '08. Hence, completion done before Dec'08.
4	Southern	2000-01	Ernakulam-Trivandrum	320	255.54	191.75	Main line completed in December -06. OTHER TARGETS Trivandrum-Kanyakumari - Sept'09 Trichur-Guruvayur Mar '09	The work originally sanctioned for Ernakulam-Trivandrum and completed in December '06. Further work covering electrification of Trivandrum-Kanyakumari and Trichur-Guruvayur sanctioned as material modification in February '07 and likely to be completed by September '09. Original sanctioned work of 320 RKMs has been completed. In the 109 RKMs sanctioned as Material Modification, work is in progress. Trichur-Guruvayur has been energised on 25 Kv.
5	South Western	2004-05	Bangalore-Chennasandra loop via Yeshwanthpur and Yellahanka-Baiyappannahalli loop via Hebbal	46	28.3	26.23	March 08 / June '09	OHE contract for Bangalore loop was awarded to M/s ECE on 9.3.06. Due to slow progress of work by M/s ECE, the contract has been terminated and part of the balance works are in progress departmentally and for balance work Risk & Cost tender has been floated. Section-wise details are as follows: (i) Chennasandra-Yelahanka: Section commissioned. (ii) Banaswadi-Yeshwantpur: Section commissioned. (iii) Bangalore-Yeshwantpur, Yeshwantpur-Yelahanka. Yeshwantpur-Chibanapur: Re-tender by CORE, Tender Opened on 14.01 .09. Tender under Finalization.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6	South Central	2005-06	Karepalli-Bhadrachalam-Manuguru	88	57.54	40.43	March 08 / Feb'09.	Section energised.
7	Eastern	2005-06	Andal - Pandabeswar	20	41.16	23.45	March 08 / March'09	Electric work completed and Section energised on 29.08.08 at 2.2 kV. Signalling work assigned to Eastern Railway is in progress. Revised target is March' 09

Note: The above list do not include the projects where part targets have been fixed and project is not getting fully completed.

[English]

Integrated Security Plan at Railway Stations

*152. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are preparing an integrated security plan for selected railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on this project;

(d) the names of the railway stations selected for implementation of the said plan; and

(e) the other measures taken by the Railways to provide foolproof security at the vulnerable stations?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Railways have approved installation of an Integrated Security System at all the Railway Stations of four Metro cities viz Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai

(Under BOOT model) and 140 other vulnerable / sensitive stations (under outright purchase model) of Indian Railways, This system consists of following four broad areas:-

1. Internet Protocol based CCTV System.
2. Access control.
3. Personal and baggage screening system.
4. Explosive detection and disposal system.

Guidelines & technical specifications of equipment have been circulated to the General Managers of Indian Railways for implementing the project.

So far, proposals with estimated cost of Rs. 391 crore (approximately), approved by the General managers concerned for installation of the system over 84 railway stations, have been received from 11 Zonal Railways for inclusion in Works Programme 2009-10.

(d) The following stations have been selected for implementation of the integrated security system under Out Right purchase model:-

Sl.No.	Zonal Railways	Name of Railway Station
1	2	3
1	Central Railway	Pune, Nagpur, Nasik Road, Bhusawal, Manmad, Akola, Jalgaon, Chalisgaon, Badnera, Murtijapur, Miraj
2	Eastern	Malda Town, Asansol, Barddaman, Barasat, Sonarpur, Durgapur
3	East Central	Patna, Dhanbad, Mughalsarai, Rajendra Nagar, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur, Raxaul, Gaya, Barkakhana, Daltonganj, Darbhanga, Danapur, Narkatiyaganj
4	East Coast	Bhubaneswar, Vishakhapatnam, Puri, Cuttack,
5	Northern	Jammutawi, Ludhiana, Ambala, Udampur Jalandhar, Lucknow, Varanasi, Faizabad, Saharanpur, Haridwar, Amritsar, Srinagar, Badgam, Anantnag, Patiala, Bathinda, Kalka, Chandigarh, Ayodhya, Moradabad, Bareilly, Chakkibank, Brijbehera, Panijgam, Awantipora, Kakapore, Pampore, Rajwanshar

1	2	3
6	North Eastern	Lucknow Jn., Chhapra, Gorakhpur
7	North Central	Allahabad, Kanpur Central, Mathura, Agra Cantt, Jhansi, Aligarh, Khurja, Agra Fort, Gwalior
8	North East Frontier	Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Dimapur, Lumding, Siliguri, Dibrugarh, New Tinsukia, Kokrajhar, Mariani, Simalguri, Jorhat Town, Furkating, Diphu, Mai Bong, Kishanganj, Katihar
9	North Western	Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner
10	Southern	Coimbatore, Trivandrum, Ernakulam, Madurai, Tiruchchirappalli, Kozhikkode (Calicut), Mangalore
11	South Eastern	Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Ranchi, Midnapur, Rourkela, Chakradharpur, Jharsuguda, Adra, Purulia, Muri, Bokaro
12	South East Central	Raipur, Bilaspur, Gondia
13	South Central	Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijaywada, Kazipet
14	South Western	Bangalore City, Mysore, Yashwantpur, Dharamavaran
15	Western	Sabarmati, Dwarka, Vadodara, Godhra, Surat, Ujjain, Ahmedabad
16	West Central	Bhopal, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Bina, Kota

The following railway stations have been selected for implementation of the Integrated Security System under Built Operate Own Transfer, (BOOT) model

Sl.No.	City	Railway	Name of Railway Station
1	Delhi	Northern Railway	New Delhi, Delhi, Hazrat, Nizamuddin, Delhi Sarai Rohilla Delhi Shahdara, Suburban Stations of Delhi
2	Mumbai	Western Railway & Railway Central	Suburban Stations of Mumbai of Central & Western Railway along with main stations of Mumbai.
3	Kolkata	Eastern Railway	Metro Railway Stations, Dum, Dum, Sealdah, Howrah, Suburban Stations of Kolkata
4	Chennai	Southern Railway	Chennai Central, Chennai Egmore, Suburban Stations of Chennai

(e) On the recommendations of the Norms Committee, Rs. 60.76 crore has been sanctioned for procurement of modern security equipment to strengthen the Railway Protection Force (RPF). Rs. 14.26 crore has

been allocated for procurement of vehicles for RPF to improve mobility of the Force. The Force is also being equipped with modern automatic weapons like AK-47 Rifles, INSAS 5.56 Rifles, Pistol Auto 9mm A1 etc. These measures will improve security at the vulnerable railway stations.

Discrepancy in Investment by Oil PSUs

*153. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has adversely commented upon the public sector oil companies for using large amounts of public money being spent to diversify and grow individual capacities in areas of no strategic significances to them;

(b) if so, the details of such companies and the kind of discrepancies in the investments noticed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) During finalization of Annual Plan proposals of public sector oil companies, the Planning Commission had, inter-alia, observed that, except for OVL and OIL which remain largely focused on their core competencies, all other public sector oil companies are seeking both upstream & downstream investments.

(c) Public sector oil companies formulate their investment plans in accordance with the XI Five Year Plan priorities, as approved by the Planning Commission for the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector, keeping also in view their long term corporate goals. Though public sector oil companies do not receive any budgetary support from the Government and investment decisions are taken by their Board of Directors under the delegated Navaratna/Miniratna powers, Government monitors the implementation of their projects on a regular basis.

Promotion of Tourism

*154. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of promotional activities undertaken by the Government during the current year to showcase India's tourism potential abroad;

(b) the countries elected for this purpose;

(c) the new features being highlighted during this exercise; and

(d) the measures taken to expand tourism infrastructure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India, through the Indiatourism offices overseas has undertaken a series of promotional activities in all important and potential tourist generating markets overseas, to showcase India's tourism potential and its varied tourism products. The promotional activities include advertising, participation in travel fairs and exhibitions, organising seminars, India Evenings and road shows, organizing and supporting Indian food and cultural festivals, publication of brochures, offering joint advertising and brochure support and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry. Media campaigns have been launched in the print, online, electronic and outdoor media to highlight the tourist attractions of the country including culture, heritage, adventure, wildlife, wellness, etc.

In addition, a "Visit India 2009" Scheme has also been announced by the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with all stakeholders including airlines, hotels, tour operators, State Governments for incentivising travel to India during the period April to December 2009. Promotional and marketing activities have already been undertaken in source markets to popularize the Scheme.

(d) Development of tourism infrastructure is the responsibility of the State Governments / Union Territories. The Ministry of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Governments / Union Territories for the development and promotion of tourism and upgradation of tourist infrastructure at tourism destinations and circuits, on the basis of specific proposals received from them, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority, under the following schemes:

- (i) Product / Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
- (ii) Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
- (iii) Computerization and Information Technology
- (iv) Fairs, Festivals & Events
- (v) Rural Tourism - Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers

Losses in Small and Medium sponge Iron Units

*155. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of sponge iron has come down drastically in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and medium sponge iron units are running into severe losses in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of these units?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Retail market prices of sponge iron on month-wise basis is given in the enclosed Statement. The price of sponge iron in February 2009 is 10.81% lower than that of February 2008.

(c) and (d) The global economic crisis has resulted in the downturn in the domestic steel industry including the sponge iron sector. As per the Sponge Iron Manufacturers Association (SIMA), sponge iron units are having difficulty, due to slowdown in demand of sponge iron, since October 2008.

(e) Government has taken the following measures in helping the steel industry, including sponge iron sector, in overcoming the situation arising out of global financial crisis. These are

- (i) Export Duty on steel items has been withdrawn w.e.f. 31.10.2008.
- (ii) DEPB on steel items restored w.e.f. 14.11.2008.
- (iii) Import Duty on iron and non-alloy steel items re-imposed at 5%, w.e.f. 18.11.2008.
- (iv) 'Hot Rolled Coil' brought into restricted category of import w.e.f. 21.11.2008.
- (v) Excise Duty (CENVAT) on steel items reduced from 14% to 10% w.e.f. 07.12.2008.
- (vi) Countervailing duty (CVD) on TMT bars and structurals reintroduced w.e.f. 02.01.2009.
- (vii) Excise Duty (CENVAT) on steel items further reduced from 10% to 8% on 24.02.2009.

S. No.	Month	Price (Rs/tonne)
1	January 2008	18500
2	February 2008	18900
3	March 2008	26300
4	April 2008	25900
5	May 2008	24000
6	June 2008	28247
7	July 2008	28247
8	August 2008	31471
9	September 2008	25500
10	October 2008	24400
11	November 2008	15700
12	December 2008	16700
13	January 2009	17107
14	February 2009	16500

(Retail price as in Mumbai market)

Revival Package for HMT Limited

*156. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether most of the units of the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) are suffering losses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive revival package for the loss making units of HMT; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Five HMT Group of companies are making losses and one Company, HMT International Ltd. is earning profit. The details of loss making companies are given as under:-

Details of Performances/Loss in respect of HMT group of companies for the year 2007-08

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl.No.	Company/ Subsidiary	Production	Sales	Profit Before Tax
1.	HMT Limited	177.72	168.38	-45.97
2.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.*	233.69	232.67	-39.93
3.	HMT Watches Limited	18.99	17.61	-146.80
4.	HMT Chinar Watches Limited	2.00	1.67	-49.02
5.	HMT Bearings Limited	13.55	13.09	-18.44

* Includes Praga Tools Limited

(c) and (d) Revival plans have already been approved by the Government in respect of HMT Machine Tools Limited, HMT Bearings Limited and Praga Tools Limited (which now stands merged with HMT Machine Tools Limited). The revival packages are at various stages of implementation. With regards to the HMT Chinar Watches Limited, it has been decided to offer it to the Government of J&K for a possible takeover as per the recommendations of the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises. (BRPSE).

[Translation]

Old Age Homes

*157. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

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

- (a) the norms/guidelines laid down for construction/maintenance of old age homes in the country;

(b) the number of old age homes opened in the country including Maharashtra during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details and the number of people residing in each of these homes, location-wise;

(d) the amount of funds released to the implementing agencies for setting up these homes during the said period;

(e) whether any new proposals for opening such homes are pending with the Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Grant-in-aid for the maintenance of old age homes run by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) is given under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP). Under this

Scheme, financial assistance is provided upto 90% of the admissible recurring cost to suitable NGOs.

In the 11th Plan, there is a provision of Rs.60 crore for giving assistance for construction of old age homes for indigent Senior Citizens. Details of the scheme are being finalized.

(b) to (d) State-wise details of old age homes for which assistance was provided under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons for the first time, during last three years (2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08), is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) and (f) New proposals under the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons, are considered on the recommendations of the State Governments. State-wise details of proposals of old age homes recommended during 2008-09 by State Governments as per the IPOP scheme (as revised w.e.f 1.4.2008), which are pending, are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

S.No	State/District where assistance has been provided for an OAH for the first time in last 3 years	Name of the grantee NGO	(Amount in lakhs) Grant in aid released during			No. of beneficiaries for whom grant sanctioned
			2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1	West Godavari	Shri Sachidananda Venkateswara Avd. Varuddha, West Godawari			2.13	25
2	Adilabad	Social Action for Integrated Development Society (SAIDS) Adilabad			1.11	25
Assam						
3	Darang	Dhula Regional Physically Handicapped Dev. Association, Distt. Darrang	0.00	1.30	2.85	25
4	Darrang	North Hirapara Women and Child Dev. Society, Darrang Distt. Assam	0.65		5.47	25
5	Guwahati	Mahila Mandali, Distt. Guwahati	0.00	1.65	2.76	25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	Golaghat	Pragati Social Development Organization	0.00	0.87	2.71	25
7	Karimganj	Karimganj Saptha Barna Welfare Organisation, Karimganj			1.11	25
Bihar						
8	Kaimur	Atharahgawan Kushwaha Kalyan Parishad, Distt Kaimur Bihar	0.00		2.76	25
Haryana						
9	Biwani	Akhil Bhartiya Nav Yuvak, Kala Sangam, Bhiwani, Haryana		1.34		25
10	Faridabad	Association for Welfare of Handicapped, Faridabad, Haryana	1.66		1.34	25
Himachal Pradesh						
11	Lahaul Spiti	Tabo Ancient Monastery, The Institute of Studies in Buddhist Philosophy, Lahaul Spiti	2.03			25
12		Kanchen Duggal Memorial Old Age Handicapped Society, H.P.		1.80		25
13	Mandi	The Suket Senior Citizens Home (International) Trust, Mandi, H.P.	2.03			25
Karnataka						
14	Bellary	Poornima Manila Mandali	0.00	0.88		25
15	Shimoga	Sri Kalikamba Association Chitradurga, Shimoga Distt.		1.34	4.1	25
Punjab						
16	Gurdaspur	Isha Handicapped Welfare Society, Gurdaspur, Punjab	1.74		3.42	25
17	Amritsar	All India Salai Kadai Kender Society, Gurdaspur, Punjab	1.11			25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	Faridkot	Indian Red Cross Society, Faridkot			1.79	25
	Tamil Nadu					
19	Vellore	Indian Red Cross Society	0.00	1.29		25
20	Nilgiri	SARAS Trust, Ooty, Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu	0.87	2.76	2.25	25
21	Ramnagar	Society for Rural and Urban Women's Renaissance Activities (SRUWRA), Ramnagar Distt.			1.34	25
22	Chennai	Fatima Trust, Chennai			1.11	25
	Maharashtra					
23	Bhandra	Om Hari Prabhudeshya Shikshan Sansthan	0.00	1.00	-	25
24	Dhule	Shri Mahila Balkalyan and Apang Vikas Mandal Dhule	0.00	1.80	2.65	25
25	Deopur	Lok Bhagini Seva Mandal, Deopur, Maharashtra	1.97			25
26	Jalgaon,	Shri Kristna Mahia Bal Kalyan Avam Purnvasam Vikas Mandal	2.03		2.6	25
27	Nanded	Gramin Janseva Shikhsan Sansthan, Nagdone			1.72	25
28	Akola	Shri Chhatrapati Shivajil Education & Awakaning Welfare Society, Akola			1.11	25
29	Bhandara	Kusumtai Bahuuddeshiya Vidya Prasarak Mandal, Jamb, Bhandara			0.84	25
	Orissa					
30	Bhadrak	Archarya Integral Edn. And Development Society	0.00	1.10		25
31	Bhadrak	Prayas	0.00	1.34		25
32	Rayagada	Shakti Organisation, Distt. Rayagada, Orissa	1.34		6.11	25
33	Sundergarh	Association for Voluntary Action, Puri, Orissa	0.88			25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34	Balador	Shri Madan Mohan Jew Priti Ashram, Balador, Orissa	0.87			25
35	Jajpur	Laxminarayan Harijan and Adibasi Backward Dev. Society, Jajpur, Orissa (Laxminarayan Sewa Pratisthan)	3.92		1.4	25
Uttar Pradesh						
36	Bijnour	Pratap Gramodya Sewa Sansthan	0.00	0.88	2.66	25
37	JP Nagar	Navada Gramodyog Vikas Samiti	0.00	0.88	2.41	25
38	Sonebhadra	Dwaba Kalyan Samiti, Vill Telia, P.O. Tela, Diss. Allahabad, U.P.	0.00	1.34	2.76	25
39	Sonebhadra	Parakh, Tharbilar Pindi, Karchana, Allahabad, Vill & P.O. Salkhan, Distt. Sonebhadra, U.P.	0.00	1.34		25
40	Lucknow	Manav Awam Seva Sansthan, Lucknow			0.82	25
West Bengal						
41	Kolkata	Scottlane Poverty Eridication Centre, Kolkata			0.79	25

Statement-II*[English]*

S.No.	States	No. of pending proposals of Old Age Homes, received from the State Govts., as per the revised IPOP scheme, effective from 1.4.2008
1.	Assam	10
2.	Madhya Pradesh	10
3.	Maharashtra	06
4.	Nagaland	06
5.	Orissa	06
6.	Rajasthan	24
7.	Tamil Nadu	04
8.	Uttarakhand	04
9.	West Bengal	01
Total		71

Promotion of Branded Fuels

*158. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR:
SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

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

(a) whether oil companies are incurring huge
expenditure on advertisements for promoting branded-fuels
only;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years;

(c) whether the same companies are claiming huge
losses in the sale of oil;

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

(e) whether complaints have been received about
petrol pumps in certain parts of the country not keeping stock
of normal petrol and promoting the customers to switch to
branded fuels;

- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
 (g) the action taken against the erring dealers?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the Public Sector namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have been incurring expenditure for creating awareness and promoting branded fuels through advertisements in mass media. The details of the expenditure incurred on advertisements promoting branded fuels by the OMCs during the last three years, i.e. 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are Rs. 55.09 crore, Rs. 82.77 crore and Rs. 90.12 crore respectively.

(c) OMCs declared a combined loss of Rs 11,094 crores during the period April to December, 2008 and their financial position continues to be difficult. The under-recoveries on the sale of four sensitive petroleum products viz. High Speed Diesel, Motor Spirit, Public Distribution System Superior Kerosene Oil and Domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas are projected to be Rs 103,908 crores during the current financial year.

(d) The branded fuel reduces carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon emissions considerably, improves engine performance and also improves fuel economy. Branded fuel substantially reduces the deposits on intake valve in the engine, leading to lower maintenance cost and better drivability and pick-up and giving the advertisement for sale of branded fuel is a normal business activity for promoting the business.

(e) to (g) OMCs have not stopped supply of ordinary petrol and diesel forcing the consumers to buy much costlier premium brands of fuel. OMCs have also reported that they ensure the availability of both ordinary and branded variants of petrol and diesel at Retail Outlets (ROs) in the country at all times. OMCs are supplying ordinary and premium brands of petrol and diesel to the Retail Outlet Dealers as per their indents. The purchase of premium fuels is as per the consumer's choice between ordinary petrol and diesel and premium fuels.

Mega Pipeline Project by HPCL

*159. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has planned commissioning of a mega

pipeline project linking Mundra in Gujarat with Delhi to boost marketing operations in the northern region;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and
 (d) the manner in which the project when commissioned would improve availability of petroleum products in the region?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The product pipeline project linking Mundra in Gujarat with Bahadurgarh near Delhi has already been commissioned and is operational since May, 2007. Mundra Delhi pipeline is a 1054 Kms long, 18"/16" dia. pipeline with Tapoff locations at Palanpur, Ajmer, Jaipur, Rewari & end terminal at Bahadurgarh near Delhi. The pipeline has been designed to carry 5.0 MMTPA product in Phase-I including 1.16 MMTPA capacity for other prospective users under common carrier concept. The approved final cost of the project is Rs.1757 crore.

(d) This pipeline assures continuous availability of petroleum products such as petrol, diesel, and kerosene in the State of Gujarat (part), Rajasthan, Haryana and National Capital Region. Even in case of exigencies including Refinery shutdowns in this region, supply of these petroleum products is assured through this pipeline.

Revised Rescue Package for Air India

160. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal to provide a revised rescue package for Air India is under consideration;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the circumstances which have necessitated such a proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has submitted proposal for equity induction of Rs.1231 crores and a proposal for providing of soft loan of Rs.2750 crores.

(c) The Airline industry globally, including Indian Airline industry is passing through one of the most critical periods in its history. The factors which have impacted their financial position are:-

- (i) Steep increase in fuel prices from April, 2008 to September, 2008;
- (ii) Decline in traffic on account of global recession;
- (iii) Decline in yield and profitability due to stiff competition;
- (iv) Appreciation of the Dollar vis-a-vis the Rupee;
- (v) Steep increase in the borrowing costs due to liquidity crunch among all banks.
- (vi) The total aircraft acquisition programme of NACIL is of approx. Rs.44,000 crores. It is necessary to ensure that the equity base of the company is adequate to support the capital requirement by ensuring a better debt-equity ratio.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion

805. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent any proposal/ request for gauge conversion;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and
- (c) the action taken by the Railways on these proposals so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) The gauge conversion of meter gauge/narrow gauge lines in Andhra Pradesh has already been taken up. No work is remaining to be sanctioned.

[English]

Gauge conversion work between Mayiladuthurai-Villupuram

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

- (a) whether the gauge conversion work between Mayiladuthurai-Villupuram is progressing at a very slow pace;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the execution of this Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The project was initially

targeted for completion in February, 2008. However, the project has been delayed and is now targeted for completion in July, 2009.

(b) The reasons for the delay are as under:-

- (i) Unusual rains from July, 2007 to January, 2008 as against the normal monsoon season of October to December.
- (ii) Abnormal price increase and non-availability of Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC).
- (iii) Abnormal price increase and less availability of reinforcement steel.
- (iv) Acute law and order problem in the section including theft of cables and reinforcement rods.
- (v) Frequent obstructions by villagers for movement of heavy machinery through the village.

(c) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) has already commissioned the section between Mayiladuthurai to Sirakaji. The balance work is at advanced stage and the project is likely to be completed by July, 2009. Tight supervision is being maintained by CPM/Chennai on the contractor and monitoring of the project at the highest level is being done on a regular basis so as to ensure that there are no further slippages.

Science Museums

807. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to open some new Science Museums in the Country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof state-wise and location-wise;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (d) the time by which these Science Museums will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Science Museums/Centers are set up in various States through The National Council of Science Museum, Kolkata, an autonomous organization under a plan scheme of the Ministry of Culture. The details of location, State, estimated expenditure and expected date of completion of upcoming Science Museums/Centers are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Details of upcoming Science Museums/Centers as under:-*

Sl.No.	Name of the up coming Science Museums/Centers	Location	State	Estimated Expenditure (in crores)		Total (in crores)	Expected Date of completion
				Expenditure shared by Govt. of India	Expenditure shared by State Govt.		
1.	Sub-Regional Science Centre, Solapur	Solapur	Maharashtra	1.30	1.30	2.60	March, 2009
2.	Regional Science Centre, Ranchi	Ranchi	Jharkhand	3.25	3.25	6.50	November 2009
3.	Regional Science Centre, Raipur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	3.25	3.25	6.50	November 2009
4.	Regional Science Centre, Dharwad	Dharwad	Karnataka	4.25	4.25	8.50	March, 2011
5.	Regional Science Centre, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Tamil Nadu	4.25	4.25	8.50	June, 2011
6.	Regional Science Centre, Pilikula, Mangalore	Pilikula, Mangalore	Karnataka	4.25	4.25	8.50	October, 2011
7.	Regional Science Centre, Jaipur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	4.25	4.25	8.50	October, 2011
8.	Science Centre, PCMC, Pune	Pune	Maharashtra	4.25	4.25	8.50	December 2011
9.	Sub Regional Science Centre, Jorhat	Jorhat	Assam	1.30	1.30	2.60	April 2011

Transportation of Sugar

808. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of sugar transported by the Railways from Karad railway station on Pune-Miraj section of Central Railway during the last three years;

(b) the revenue thus generated from sugar transportation in this route during the said period;

(c) whether the Railways have received requests to provide better infrastructural facility at this station to facilitate loading/unloading of sugar during rainy season; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details of sugar transported from Karad railway station during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Rakes	Wagons (8-wheeler)	Tonnes
2005-06	18	634	39313
2006-07	56	2092	129879
2007-08	103	4109	258611
2008-09 (up to January 2009)	51	2073	131110

(b) The freight collected for transportation of sugar from Karad during the said period is as follows:

Year	Freight (in Lakh)
2005-06	Rs. 458.87
2006-07	Rs. 1192.86
2007-08	Rs. 1546.46
2008-09 (up to January 2009)	Rs. 1543.40

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Covered shed of 60 meters is available on goods shed platform of Karad station. Proposal for providing 160 meters covered shed on goods shed and 310 meters goods platform with covered shed on line No. 4 is being considered.

Construction of Museums

809. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides assistance to the State Governments for construction of new museums under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years and the current year, State wise;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted any action plan to the Union Government in the current financial year for the protected monuments and new museums in Junagarh district;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Culture implements a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the "Setting Up, Promotion & Strengthening of Regional and Local Museums", under which financial assistance is given for setting up of new museums and upgradation/modernization of existing Museums.

(c) The Plan allocation under the scheme is as under:

Year	(Rupees in lakhs)	
	Allocation	Expenditure
2005-06	460.53	460.01
2006-07	1200.00	1197.02
2007-08	700.00	700.00

Allocation under the scheme for current year is Rs. 1275.00 lakhs

(d) No Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Financial Package to Small Scale Pharma Units

810. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the small and medium Pharma enterprises require more than Rs. 10 crores each to upgrade themselves to Schedule M as per estimates compiled by the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research recently;

(b) if so, the details of grants and incentives that are available to small scale Pharma units in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken for resurgence of Pharmaceutical Sector as a major export oriented unit in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K.HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) has not compiled the estimates of Rs. 10 crore required for Upgradation of the SMEs to Schedule M. However, as per the information available with the Department, the Upgradation to Schedule 'M' by a small and medium Pharma enterprise normally requires a sum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to Rs. 2.00 crore depending upon the capital cost and the size of the unit. Department of Pharmaceuticals is also in the process of finalization of Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme (PTUAS).

(c) The Government of India is constantly monitoring the Export in Pharma Sector and taking all the possible measures as well as providing support through Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council.

Oil Reserves in Madhya Pradesh

811. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has identified certain locations in Madhya Pradesh where oil and natural gas are likely to be struck; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Currently, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is holding two Petroleum Exploration

Licenses in the State of Madhya Pradesh viz. Damoh-Jabera-Katni (in Vindhya Basin) and Rampur-Pachmarhi-Anhoni (in Satpura Basin). Based on available Geophysical and Geological (G&G) data, ONGC has identified two exploratory locations viz., Jabera-2 (target depth: 5200 meter) in Damoh District and Jhirna-1 (target depth: 4550 meter) in Hoshangabad District for drilling in the State of Madhya Pradesh for undertaking exploration activities for oil and gas. Presently, drilling activity at both these locations is underway.

Airport at Jaharsuguda

812. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to develop the Jharsuguda airport in Orissa for schedule flight operation;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal;

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(d) the time by which the work on this airport is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) In accordance with the recommendations of Feasibility Study submitted by M/s. RITES, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has planned for development of Jharsuguda airport initially for ATR type of aircraft operations. The initiation of development works is inter-alia, subject to provision of required additional land of 815 acres by the State Government of Orissa, free of cost under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed with AAI as per the Master Plan and draft MOU submitted by AAI to the State Government on 13th September, 2007 and firm commitment of any airline operator to commence scheduled flights through this airport.

The budget provision has been made by AAI for Rs. 1.82 crores in RE 2008-09 and Rs. 2.19 crores in BE 2009-10. Further provision of fund, is subject to initiation of work as stated above.

Financial Assistance to INTACH

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

(a) whether the Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH) has sought central assistance for preservation of National Heritage in the current fiscal year;

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

(c) whether any postage stamps were issued on the occasion of Silver Jubilee Celebration of INTACH held recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) INTACH has requested for grant-in-aid of Rs 50 lakhs for carrying out a wide array of activities relating to heritage documentation, creation of awareness and promotion of preservation. INTACH has also sought Rs 10.00 Lakhs for activities relating to Silver Jubilee Celebrations. INTACH has been requested to furnish a report-cum-utilization certificate in respect of grant-in-aid given in 2007-08 in order to process the current requests as per terms and conditions laid down for grant-in-aid.

(c) and (d) As per information received from INTACH, the following postage stamps were released during the Silver Jubilee celebrations;

(i) Jaisalmer Fort, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

(ii) St. Anne's Church, Goa

(ii) Qila Mubarak, Patiala, Punjab

(iv) Mangyu Monastery, Ladakh, J&K

[Translation]

Solar Energy Equipments

814. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to bring in use solar energy equipments in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of installation of these equipments under West-Central Railway zone, Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Railways are exploring harnessing solar energy use for electrification of the manned level crossing, stand by supply to Administrative buildings, use of solar energy for water heating purpose in Railway running rooms, rest house, Training institutes, canteens and hospitals.

(c) Status of equipment using solar energy in West Central Railway is as under:

- i) Solar water heater - 42 nos.
 ii) Solar distilled water plant - 03 nos.
 ii) Electrification of level crossing (LC)
 Gates by solar lighting system - 128 nos.
 iv) Electrification of Station
 with solar lighting system - 04 nos.

[English]

**Conversion of Naupada-Gunupur
Railway Line**

815. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated for gauge conversion of Naupada to Gunupur railway line during last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the gauge conversion work on Naupada to Gunupur has been started;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the expenditure incurred on the said project so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to link Gunupur railway station with Therubali railway station with broad gauge line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The expenditures incurred on Naupada-Gunupur gauge conversion project during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and during the current year are Rs. 7.42 crore, Rs. 26.04 crore, Rs. 51.22 crore and Rs. 12.09 crore (provisional) respectively. Budget outlay provided for the project during the year 2008-09 is Rs. 37.54 crore as per the Revised Estimates.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Earthwork, bridgework, ballasting and track-linking are in progress. Up-to-date physical progress of the work is 80.83%. Total expenditure incurred on this project so far is approximately Rs. 125.24 crore (provisional).

(d) As per bankability study conducted for extension of Naupada-Gunupur line up to Theruvai, the proposed extension has been found non-bankable.

Public Library

816. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of libraries run by the Government across the country including Delhi;

(b) the annual expenses incurred on such libraries during the current year;

(c) whether the Government is considering to modernize Delhi Public Library including the Chandni Chowk Branch; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The following Libraries are run by the Government across the country including Delhi:

Subordinate Library:

1. National Library, Kolkata
2. Central Reference Library, Kolkata

Autonomous Library:

3. Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata
4. Delhi Public Library, New Delhi
5. Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna
6. Rampur Raza Library, Rampur

State Libraries (50:50 share State and Central Govt):

7. State Central Library, Mumbai
8. Connemara Public Library, Chennai
9. TMSSM Library, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

Administrative Library (Ministry of Culture):

10. Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi

(b) On the above mentioned libraries the total Annual expenditure w.e.f. 1.4.2008 to 15.2.2009:

Plan	Non-Plan
Rs.33.48 Crore	Rs.29.12 Crore

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Govt. of India has initiated action for modernization of Delhi Public Library including its branches at Chandni Chowk, Sarojini Nagar and Patel Nagar by providing the following new services:

1. Free Public Internet Access with 10 terminals for readers use.
2. Free Computerized lending of CD/DVD to members.

3. New collection of books, games, toys, computers etc. in Children Section.
4. Online catalogues.
5. Repair and renovation of the library building with modern facilities.
6. Computerized registration of library Members.

Chiria Iron Ore Mines

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

(a) whether the claim of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) over the leaseholds on China iron ore mines is in dispute with the Government of Jharkhand which is affecting the expansion of SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to resolve the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of the six leases in Chiria mines, three leases are under dispute namely, Ajitaburu, Sukri-Latur and Tatiburu. The other three leases namely, Budhaburu (McIellan), Dhobil and Ankua are under deemed extension. The delay in renewal of iron ore leases is affecting the development of a mechanized mine at Chiria. Moreover, after the current expansion of SAIL is completed, it will be difficult to meet the enhanced requirement of iron ore of SAIL's plants, particularly Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) and IISCO Steel Plant (ISP), without access to the Chiria deposits.

(c) Both the Ministry of Steel and SAIL have been making sustained efforts in the past three years to resolve the dispute amicably with the Government of Jharkhand. A number of meetings have been convened during which officials from the Ministry of Steel, Government of Jharkhand and SAIL have been present. The Union Minister of Steel has discussed this issue with the Chief Minister of Jharkhand on 24.9.2008 and 23.10.2008 and written requests have also been made to the Government of Jharkhand. However, this issue has not yet been resolved.

Gandhi Research Centre and Museum

818. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Assam has submitted any proposal to develop Gandhi Research Centre and Museum at Guwahati, as a tourist centre;

(b) if so, the status of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to develop this centre into a tourist centre?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes.

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Project proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head. A proposal for the development of Guwahati including a component for development of Gandhi Mandap was submitted by the State Government. However, the project proposal was not as per the guidelines and hence was not sanctioned.

In the current financial year, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2107.61 lakh to Government of Assam for various tourism infrastructure projects.

Transgender Population

819. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the Societal isolation experienced by a section of society known as "Transgender";

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to examine the details of the complexities that arise with regard to their education, jobs etc. consequent to their biological condition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the mechanism to be evolved to deal with the problems faced by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to examine the details of complexities arising out of their biological condition.

[Translation]

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Plants abroad

820. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals to set up petro-chemical plants abroad;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Government is likely to grant permission to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No Sir,

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Rehabilitation of Physically Challenged Children

821. SHRI HEMANT KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any scheme for rehabilitation of physically challenged children/physically challenged youth who were not so by birth is under consideration of the Government;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to open schools for disabled children in every district;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard particularly in respect of Betul (M.P.); and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme, grant-in-aid is provided to voluntary agencies to deliver various types of

rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities including physically challenged youth and children, who are not disabled by birth. The activities supported under this scheme include special schools, vocational training centres, community based rehabilitation programmes etc. Special schools are supported based on the recommendations of the State/Union Territory Governments.

No special school is being supported in Betul (MP) at present.

[English]

Exploitation of Gas from KG Basin

822. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

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

- (a) the time by which production from D6 Block of KG basin is likely to start;
- (b) the quantum of gas likely to be exploited per day from D6 Block of KG basin;
- (c) the names of agencies/parties to whom the gas is likely to be sold and supplied from this Block of KG Basin;
- (d) the rates at which the gas is likely to be sold to different parties; and
- (e) the reasons for fixing different price for public and private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) As per the latest review of KG-D6 D1 and D3 gas field development in Block KG-DWN-98/3, the operator envisages initial start up and commissioning for production in March 2009 with supply to customers starting from April 2009.

(b) Initial production of gas will be in the range of 10-15 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), which is expected to reach 40 MMSCMD by July 2009 and be ramped to a level of 80 MMSCMD in 2010.

(c) It has been decided that, out of the first 40 MMSCMD to be produced from the KG-D6 field, supply would be made to the existing gas-based urea plants so as to enable full capacity utilization, upto 3 MMSCMD to existing gas-based LPG plants, upto 18 MMSCMD to Power Plants lying idle/under-utilized and likely to be commissioned during 2008-09 and existing liquid fuel plants which could switch to natural gas and upto 5 MMSCMD to City Gas

Distribution Projects for domestic and transport sectors. No agreements have been signed between the contractor and offtakers as yet.

(d) and (e) The sale of gas will be made at a uniform price, based on the formula approved by the Government, having upper limit of US \$ 4.2 per Million British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) to all the parties including Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) of the State or Central Government.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants

823. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 903 on 23 October, 2008 and state:

(a) whether the Inter-Ministerial Group have since submitted its report on the setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in taking a final decision on the setting up of such plants;

(d) whether many State Governments have agreed for the setting up of these plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy of the Government, there is no limit regarding the capacity of setting up a steel plant in the country. As a

matter of fact, some of the proposed steel units such as Posco India Limited, Arcelor Mittal Limited and JSW Steel Limited have proposed capacity in the range of 10-12 million tonnes per annum. However, certain issues raised by Hon'ble Shri C. Ramchandriah, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Dhram Pal Sabharwal, MP, Rajya Sabha in their letters, are still under consideration and may be taken up for discussion in the next Inter Ministerial Group meeting.

(c) As per New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been de-licensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement. However, Public Sector units such as Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) are already expanding their existing production capacities. SAIL is expanding its crude steel production capacity from existing 12.84 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) to 24.84 mtpa and RINL is expanding its capacity from 2.9 mtpa to 6.3 mtpa.

(d) and (e) Already 222 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed by various State Governments for setting up steel units in their respective States for total capacity of 275.698 million tonnes. Some of the large capacity steel units being set up in various States are:

S.No.	Company	Project / State	Existing capacity	Proposed capacity
1	2	3	4	5
i	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jameshpur, Jharkhand	5.0	10.0
		Kalinganagar, Orissa		6.0
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh		5.5
		Saraikela, Jharkhand		12.0
ii	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	4.6	8.5
		Paradeep, Orissa		6.0
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh		3.0
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand		6.0
iii	JSW Steel Ltd.	Vijayanagar, Karnataka	3.8	10.0
		Salboni, West Bengal		10.0
		Nimidih, Jharkhand		10.0

1	2	3	4	5
iv	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	3.0	6.0
		Angul, Orissa		12.5
		Patratu, Jharkhand		6.0
v	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi, Maharashtra	3.0	5.0
		Jharkhand		2.8
vi	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa		12.00
Vii	Arcelor Mittal India Ltd.	Keonjhar, Orissa		12.00
		Jharkhand		12.00

Chartered Train

824. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering & Tourism Corporation has taken decision to introduce Chartered Train services;

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

(c) the routes on which such facilities are likely to be provided; and

(d) the time by which such facilities are likely to be provided?

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

(b) to (d) This facility is extended on the request of tourists as per their required class, date of travel and routes across Indian Railways network.

[Translation]

Aircraft Accidents

825. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an aircraft carrying some VIPs apart from other passengers nearly crashed into another aircraft at New Delhi Airport after it was cleared to land by the air Traffic Control as reported in the Dainik Jagran dated 19 January, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of air accidents/incidents that took

place in the country during the last three years and in the current year;

(d) the total amount of losses suffered in these incidents till date; and

(e) the further steps taken by the Government to prevent such accidents/incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On 18.01.2009, Jet Airways flight 913 was asked to go around by the Controller because runway was not vacated by previously landed China Air aircraft CES 563. Jet Air 819 was 6 miles from the touchdown when China Air aircraft landed. The distance between two aircraft was sufficient. The landed China Air aircraft took more time in vacating the runways so the Air Traffic Controller asked the Jet Air aircraft on final to make a go around/missed approach as the runway was not clear.

(c) The number of air accidents/serious incidents that took place in the country during the last three years i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and current year till date are 21,14,11 and 4 respectively.

(d) No such assessment is made.

(e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements making it mandatory from January, 2003 the installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aeroplanes, which enables the pilots to have a position picture of all aircraft in his vicinity their reference height and distance from his aircraft. It also guides the pilot to take evasive action, whenever any aircraft comes in proximity to his aircraft, to avoid conflict. Mono-pulse Secondary Surveillance radars have since been installed at major airports in the country to provide altitude information to the Air Traffic Controllers thereby enabling

improved air traffic management and surveillance. Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW) system has also been provided. Air Traffic Management service is also being modernised to include air traffic conflict warning in the system. Non RVSM aircraft have been restricted to flying in RVSM airspace (above 29,000 feet). Flexible use of airspace to reduce traffic congestion in the airspace has been implemented. Further, based on the investigations carried out on all the reported air proximity incidents, the following additional measures have also been taken:-

- (i) Regular proficiency checks for Air Traffic Controllers and pilots;
- (ii) Specific co-ordination procedures for transfer of traffic from one unit to the other, which are reviewed periodically; and
- (iii) Whenever required, Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are given corrective training.
- (iv) Standard operating procedure/co-ordination procedure, whenever required are modified/changed or established based on the investigation.

Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi Broad Gauge Railway Line

826. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have issued orders for final Location Survey of Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Bairi broad gauge railway project;
- (b) if so, the time by which the survey is targeted to be completed and the work on this project will be started; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to declare this broad gauge railway line as a National Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The Final Location Survey for Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri new line work has already been taken up and has been completed for the first 20 Km. length. The final location survey is targeted to be completed by September, 2009. The land acquisition papers have also been processed.

(c) As per extant guidelines, Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri new line project does not qualify to be declared as a "National Project".

Foreign Airlines on Domestic Routes

827. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to allow foreign airlines to provide services on domestic routes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of foreign airlines which have submitted proposals in this regard so far; and
- (d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government and the loss likely to be caused to the domestic airlines as a result thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rail Coach Factories

828. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to set up new Rail Coach Factories in certain States including Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Railways to implement these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A new Rail Coach Factory is being set up at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh at an anticipated cost of Rs. 1685 crores. The land for the factory is being acquired.

An announcement was made by Hon'ble Minister of Railways in Parliament during presentation of Railway Budget 2008-09 for setting up a new coach factory in Kerala. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) is under consideration of Ministry of Railways in this regard. After finalization of DPR necessary approval of Planning Commission and Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs will be sought.

There is no proposal to set up a coach factory in Gujarat.

[English]

Development of Majuli Island

829. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has not sanctioned any further amount since 2003 for the development of the

Majuli Island in Assam as a heritage and Eco-Tourism destination;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is planning to provide any special package to the Government of Assam for further development of the Island to attract more tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under following schemes.

1. Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/ Circuits
2. Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Information Technology
4. Fairs/Festival and Events

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India had sanctioned a project-Development of Heritage & Ecotourism Resort at Majuli for Rs. 382.25 lakh to the Government of Assam in the year 2002-03.

In the current financial year, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2107.61 lakh to Government of Assam for various tourism infrastructure projects.

Garib Rath Express

830. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to start Garib Rath Express from Visakhapatnam which is presently running from Anakapalli; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) 2739/2740 Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad Garib Rath Express, with stoppage at Anakapalle, has already been introduced from October 2008.

[Translation]

Review of Tatkal Ticket System

831. SHRI V.K. THJMMAR:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the tatkal ticket system the passenger do not have the option for cancellation of tickets and claim refund on that count;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to review the Tatkal Ticket System in order to protect financial interest of the passengers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A flat refund of 25% of total fare charged on the ticket, excluding Tatkal charges is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal ticket, which are presented for cancellation upto 24 hours before the schedule departure of the train. Thereafter, no refund is granted on cancellation of confirmed Tatkal tickets. However, full refund of fare and Tatkal Charges is granted on the tickets booked under Tatkal Scheme in the following circumstances:-

- (i) If the train is delayed by more than 3 hours at the journey originating point of the passenger & not the boarding point if the passenger's journey originating point and boarding point are different;
- (ii) If the train is to run on a diverted route and the passenger is not willing to travel;
- (iii) If the train is to run on diverted route and boarding station or the destination station or both the stations are not on the diverted route;
- (iv) In case of non-attachment of coach in which Tatkal Accommodation has been earmarked and the passenger has not been provided accommodation in the same class;
- (v) If the party has been accommodated in lower class and does not want to travel. In case the party travels in lower class, the passenger will be given refund of difference of fare and also the difference of Tatkal charges, if any;

In case of wait list/partially confirmed Tatkal tickets, refund rules of normal tickets are applicable.

(d) Does not arise.

Provision of Basic Facilities

832. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sadulpur, Churu and Ratangarh railway stations in Rajasthan under the North-Western Railway lack basic facilities;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways to make available basic amenities in these stations?

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

(b) and (c) All Minimum Essential Amenities (MEA) have already been provided as per norms at Sadulpur, Churu and Ratangarh railway stations. Further augmentation of passenger amenities commensurate with increase in passenger traffic/earnings is an on-going process and is undertaken through Annual Works Programme depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities.

[English]

Road Over Bridges

833. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) sanctioned in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total number of ROBs where works are in progress under the Southern Railway;

(c) whether the progress of work on ROB at Alhani in Trissur under Southern Railway is very slow;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the work on this project?

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

Year	Works Sanctioned
2006-07	= 104
2007-08	= 98
2008-09	= 139

(b) At present physical construction work at 26 ROBs on Southern Railway is in progress.

(c) No, Sir. Work on Railway portion of ROB at Athani in Thrissur has progressed upto 80% and on approaches portion it is 74%. Work is targeted for completion by 31.03.09.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Doubling of Mankapura to Basti Railway Section

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

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for doubling of rail section between Mankapur-Basti-Gorakhpur-Deoria in North-Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is targeted to be completed;

(c) the reasons for delay;

(d) whether entire amount of funds has been released for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether electrification work of the aforesaid railway line from Barabanki to Chapra via Gorakhpur is also proposed to be carried out under the same rail section; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the same is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The details of doubling projects between Mankapur-Deoria and their target date for completion are as under:

S. No.	Section	Target date for completion
1.	Mankapur-Babhnan	31.03.2009
2.	Babhnan-Domingarh	2009-10
3.	Domingarh -Gorakhpur Cantt.	Completed
4.	Gorakhpur Cantt.-Kusmhi	31.03.2009
5.	Kusmhi-Siwan	2009-10

(c) The delay in completion of the projects is on account of steep rise in steel and cements prices, delay in

forestry clearance including cutting of trees, no response to the tenders and heavy & extended monsoon during 2008-09.

(d) and (e) Funds for the projects are allocated year to year as per requirements.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The electrification work of Barabanki to Chapra via Gorakhpur is in progress and likely to be completed by March, 2012.

[English]

Setting up of Wind Power Plants by ONGC

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) proposes to set up wind power plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of such units; and

(d) the amount of the power likely to be generated from each of such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has already set up a wind farm power project of 50 Mega Watt (MW) at Bhuj in Gujarat at a cost of Rs.307 crore. ONGC is examining feasibility of setting up more wind power farms, for which studies are being undertaken.

Road Over Bridges in Kerala

836. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing/sanctioned Road over bridges (ROBs) in Kerala which are not completed/started due to the non availability of funds from the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to expedite the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) All the works of ROBs (Road Over Bridges) sanctioned on cost sharing basis falling in Kerala State are at different stages of progress. However,

work is held up at 32 sites due to non-finalization of tenders / want of estimate / Land acquisition from State Government. In another 4 cases General Arrangement Drawing have to be approved by State Govt. and in 9 works alignment details are awaited from State Govt. No work is held up for want of funds from Railway's side.

Singal System in Petah

837. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for introduction of the Intermediate Block Signal System at Petah Station under Thiruvananthapuram Division of the Southern Railway;

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been cleared; and

(c) the operational advantages of this system alongwith its installation Cost?

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

(b) This proposal is under consideration on Southern Railway and yet to be cleared.

(c) By provision of this system, line capacity gets increased, and thus more trains can be run in the section. The estimated cost of proposed system is Rs. 99.64 lakhs.

Setting up of Institute of Drilling Technology in Gujarat

838. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of branches of Institute of Drilling Technology of Chandkheda, Vadodara and Jamnagar and Institute of Oil and Gas Production Technology at Mehsana, Surat and Jamnagar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Import of Gas

839. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to import more gas from Qatar and to set up a gas based petro-chemical plant by Indian firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of gas contracted for long-term import from different sources and efforts made by the Government to secure these sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) signed a contract with RasGas, Qatar in July 1999 for import of 7.5 million metric tonnes per annum (mmtpa) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) for a period of 25 years. As per the contract, supply of 5 mmtpa LNG commenced in 2004 and the supply of balance 2.5 mmtpa LNG is scheduled to commence in the last quarter of 2009.

For import of LNG for expanded capacity in Dahej and for planned Kochi terminal, PLL is in discussion with various suppliers/producers of LNG, including RasGas Qatar.

Indian Companies are interested in setting up a gas-based Petrochemical complex in Qatar. GAIL and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) have discussed the issue with Qatar Petroleum.

Apart from the above, a Sale-Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed on June 13, 2005 in Tehran for 5 mmtpa of LNG between the National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) and the Indian Consortium of GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) & Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL). The contract period was for 25 years, beginning from the last quarter of 2009. Simultaneously, the parties also signed a side letter to the LNG SPA on June 13, 2005, by which NIGEC had to obtain the approval of their parent company, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), for the SPA to become effective. NIGEC has not conveyed the approval of NIOC's Board till now. The matter is being pursued with Iranian authorities.

GAIL has been in discussion with various suppliers/producers to source LNG for Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL).

[Translation]

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

840. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant sanctioned to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library during the current year; and

(b) the amount of grant utilised so far indicating the details of heads under which the expenditure has been incurred?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) An amount of Rs.5,70,31,698/- under Non-Plan and Rs.2,79,99,718/- under Plan has been sanctioned to NMML in year 2008-09

(b) An amount of Rs.621.28 Lakh under Non-Plan and Rs.308.64 Lakh under Plan has been utilized till January 2009 by NMML. Details of the expenditure are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*Expenditure on Non-Plan upto January, 2009*

Heads	Amount
1	2
1. Award of Fellowship	5854268.00
2. Promotion of Research	545840.00
3. Development of Library	742018.00
4. Purchase of Computers	1829061.00
5. Library Books	5091602.00
6. Oral History Development	289869.00
7. Manuscript Division	1035402.00
8. Museum Development	3756478.00
9. Seminar & Lecture	825904.00
10. Publication's	9600.00
11. C.R.Project	323359.00
12. Reprography Service	482063.00
13. Nehru Plantarium	2600000.00
14. Replacement of A.C.Plant	6500000.00
15. Furniture and Equipment	164771.00
16. Computerization	623648.00
17. Exhibition & Museum Display	190438.00
Total	30864321.00

1	2
Unspent Balance of the year 2007-08	282.00
Grant received upto Jan.09	27999718.00
Total	28000000.00
Expenditure upto Jan.,09	30864321.00
Balance	(-)2864321.00

Expenditure on Non-Plan upto January, 2009.

Heads	Amount
1	2
1. Pay and Allowances	33590376.00
2. Overtime Allowance	104707.00
3. Tution Fees	21720.00
4. Loan's Advances	408500.00
5. CGHS/Medical Facilities	667202.00
6. T.A. to staff	45224.00
Contingency	10223.00
7. LTC to Staff	299271.00
8. TA to Non Officials	55582.00
9. Pension to Staff	6418223.00
10. Retirement Benefits/DCRG	7265148.00
11. Binding of Library Books	34663.00
12. Miscellaneous Expenses	392170.00
13. Repair of Furniture	13358.00
14. Repair of Reorography Equipment	208979.00
15. Liveries/Uniform	109005.00
16. Staff Car	515870.00
17. Entertainment	59221.00
18. Consumable Stores	121834.00
19. Telephone Expenses	545744.00
20. Postage Account	94247.00
21. Casual Labour Conveyance	69088.00
22. Stationery & Prining	320508.55
23. Seminar & Lectures	144138.00

1	2
24. Book/Key ring/purse etc. for sale counter	48060.00
25. Electricity & Water Charges	8501510.00
26. Audit Fees	36568.00
27. Jawahar Jyoti	1800.00
28. Upkeep of Building	58716.00
29. Air Conditioning	811390.00
30. Private Security Arrangement	622401.00
31. Private Conservancy Arrangement	463536.00
32. Advertising & Publicity	
33. Furniture & Equipments	59700.00
34. Honorarium	10000.00
Total	62128682.55

Unspent Balance of the year 2007-08	4768302.00
Grant received upto Jan.09	57031698.00
Total Grant	61800000.00
Less Expenditure	62128682.55
Balance	(-) 328682.55

*[English]***Air Incident at Mumbai Airport**

841. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major air accident was averted recently at Chattarpati Shivaji Airport at Mumbai by the alert Pilot when a Helicopter landed at the runway when the plane was about to take off;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been ordered in the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) On 09.02.2009

at 0917 IST Indian Airlines Airbus 321 departing flight IC-866 from Mumbai to Delhi rejected its take off and vacated the runway via rapid exit taxiway as one of the Indian Air Force Helicopter of Pratap formation landed on runway The accident was averted.

(c) and (d) A Joint Investigation Team (JIT) under the Chairmanship of Director General of Civil Aviation with representatives of Airport Authority of India and Indian Air Force as members, is investigating the incident. Further action depends on the recommendations made in the investigation report.

(e) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements making it mandatory from January, 2003 the installation of Airborne Collision Avoidance System (ACAS) on aeroplanes, which enables the pilots to have a position picture of all aircraft in his vicinity their reference height and distance from his aircraft, it also guides the pilot to take evasive action, whenever any aircraft comes in proximity to his aircraft, to avoid conflict. Mono - pulse Secondary Surveillance radars have since been installed at major airports in the country to provide altitude information to the Air Traffic Controllers thereby enabling improved air traffic management and surveillance. Minimum Safe Altitude Warning (MSAW) system has also been provided. Air Traffic Management service is also being modernised to include air traffic conflict warning in the system. Non RVSM aircraft have been restricted to flying in Reduced Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) airspace (above 29,000 feet). Flexible use of airspace to reduce traffic congestion in the airspace has been implemented. Further, based on the investigations carried out on all the reported air proximity incidents, the following additional measures have also been taken:-

- (i) Regular proficiency checks for Air Traffic Controllers and pilots;
- (ii) Specific co-ordination procedures for transfer of traffic from one unit to the other, which are reviewed periodically; and
- (iii) Whenever required, Air Traffic Control Officers (ATCOs) are given corrective training;
- (iv) Standard operating procedure/co- ordination procedure, whenever required are modified/changed or established based on the investigation.

Ticket Counter at Chanditala Railway Station

842. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no ticket counter at Chanditala Railway Station near Khanna Junction in Eastern Railway where stoppage for local train has been provided; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Railways to open a ticket counter at the aforesaid place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Two pair of trains are stopping at Khana Link Cabin (between Khana Junction and Galsi) only on operational grounds but this is not a station for selling tickets. The demand for opening a halt at Chanditala near Khana Link Cabin has been examined but prima facie not found operationally feasible.

Gauge conversion in Nanded Rail Division

843. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irregularities have been observed in the execution of works related to gauge conversion in Nanded rail division;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been conducted in the matter;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise

Appointment of Heads of Cultural Institutions

844. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute search-cum-selection Committees for appointment of heads of cultural institutions like Archaeological Survey of India, (ASI) National Museum, National Archives and Central Libraries which have been functioning without a head for years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the selection procedure devised for appointment of heads of Cultural Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In the absence of suitable candidates who are eligible to be promoted/

appointed to the posts of heads of some of the national cultural institutions as per existing recruitment rules, these posts are currently held by officers on "in-charge" or additional charge basis. These organizations are:

1. National Archives of India (in-charge arrangement)
2. National Museum (additional charge)
3. National Library (in-charge arrangement)
4. Anthropological Survey of India (in-charge arrangement)

In addition, the post of Director General, Archaeological Survey of India is currently held by an IAS Officer of the level of Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

(b) The process of revision of recruitment rules involves consultation with the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), followed by the approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) as required. With these processes having been completed, the final draft recruitment rules are being sent to Ministry of Law for vetting/concurrence before these are notified.

In granting its approval to the draft revised recruitment rules, Government has approved selection of eminent professionals through a "Search cum Selection Committee" on 'Contract Appointment' basis, as well as on Deputation (including short term contract) basis.

[Translation]

Closure of Printing Presses

845. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to close printing presses which were supplying printed tickets to the Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of printing presses closed by the Railways;

(d) whether any steps are being taken by the Railways for rehabilitation of those employees who have been rendered jobless; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

continue all the card ticket printing presses till such time the Computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) is installed.

If the demand of card tickets are less/reduced, than the smaller ticket printing presses will be merged with the major presses. Even after installation of Computerized Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS), the major ticket printing presses will continue.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Stoppage of Trains at Kota Junction

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

(a) the number of new trains announced in Rail Budgets having stoppage at Kota Junction and the number of such trains made operational during the last three years; and

(b) the time by which remaining trains are likely to run in this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 5 pairs of new trains have been announced in the last 3 Railway Budgets to run via Kota. 4 pairs of these trains have been introduced and have stoppage at Kota. The fifth train is yet to be introduced.

(b) The remaining train i.e. 5667/5668 Gandhidham-Kamakhya Express (weekly) is proposed to be introduced from 28.2.2009. This train is also proposed to have a stoppage at Kota.

[English]

Spice Tourism

847. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended any financial assistance to the Governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other States for promotion of Spice Tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps taken by the Government to promote Spice Tourism in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to the State Governments/UT Administrations for infrastructure

development including spice tourism under the Scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits, while community participation and the capacity building including skill up-gradation in such rural sites are being supported through Capacity Building for Service Providers Scheme of the Ministry and Government of India-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Endogenous Tourism Project. The projects are sanctioned on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments/UT Administrations, subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The list of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism for spice tourism as a part of rural tourism is enclosed as Statement.

Ministry of Tourism promotes and publicizes all tourism products including spice tourism through collaterals/print/electronic and internet media under the "Incredible India campaign". Information is also disseminated through the website and through India tourism offices in the country and abroad.

(Rs. in Lakh)

States	Sl. No.	Infrastructure Developments			Capacity Building			
		Name of the project	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned	Amount released	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
Kerala	1	Village Kalady, Distt. Ernakulam	2006-07	47.20	37.76	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	2	Village Anakkara, Distt. Idukki	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
Tamil Nadu	3	Village Kurangini, Distt. Then, Distt. Them,	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00
	4	Thadiyankudissai, Distt. Dindigul	2006-07	50.00	40.00	2005-06	20.00	16.00

Dividend paid by State-run Oil Companies

848. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of dividend paid by the State-run oil companies each year during the last three years;

(b) the details of difficulties and reasons cited by these companies for not paying dividend this year and its effect on Government revenues;

(c) the details of demands made by State-run oil companies to maintain their profitability and liquidity;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a burden-sharing mechanism and reconsider the guidelines to ensure planned capital expenditure for growth and minimize interest losses; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) The details of dividend paid to the Government by public sector oil companies during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz, IOCL, BPCL and HPCL have paid less dividend during 2008-09 as compared to previous year as they reported loss during the period April to December, 2008. However, other major public sector oil companies have paid higher dividend in the current year compared to last year.

(c) to (e) The public sector OMCs have requested for enhancement of their credit limits; sought Reserve Bank of India's Special Marketing Operations as a mechanism for timely and efficient liquidation of Oil Bonds; and compensation for their interest liability for 2008-09.

In view of the difficult financial position of the OMCs, the Government has recently approved a revised Burden Sharing Mechanism for 2008-09 under which the Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies will contribute Rs. 32,000 crore and the remaining under-recoveries would be compensated through issuance of Oil Bonds.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Name of Oil PSU	Amount of Dividend paid to the Government during the years		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
EIL	43.15	50.76	58.38
HPCL	155.78	207.69	51.92
IOCL	1772.45	1245.50	526.94
OIL	556.50	420.00	630.00
GAIL	484.94	290.98	581.92

1	2	3	4
ONGC	4968.65	4915.79	5074.37
BPCL	168.81	198.60	79.44
Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited	0.00	6.35	1.99
Total	8150.28	7335.65	7004.96

Export of Processed Food

849. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organisation of United Nations has submitted a report on 'Agro-Industrial Parks in India';

(b) if so, the salient features of the report;

(c) whether India is largely dependent on conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe or North America; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expand its processed food exports to other parts of the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, there is Agricultural and Food Engineering Working Document authored by Shri K. Lakshminarayana Rao, as available on website http://www.fao.org/Ag/ags/publications/docs/AGST_Working Documents/J7714e.pdf on the subject. It may be mentioned that the above mentioned document is not the part of the published report of FAO (UN) and designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The paper mentions that in spite of an abundant and varied production base and the substantial international demand that exists for many fresh and processed foods, the export performance is marginal. The issues are many but some prominent one are that farming communities are sometimes characterized by small numbers of produces dispersed over large areas. Moreover, the goods and materials are required to be transported over long distances to reach markets. Traditionally, a few processing industries will already be located in producing areas including rice mills, sugar mills and oil mills. The paper also mentions

over-dependence on a limited number of conventional markets in West Asia, Western Europe or North America catering mainly to ethnic populations; making these exports vulnerable to fluctuations in international trade.

(d) The Vision Document adopted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, inter alia, aims at increasing India's share in world food trade from 1.5% to 3% by the year 2015. In this regard, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has taken strategic initiatives in Food Processing Infrastructure which aims at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure/ value addition infrastructure, modernisation of abattoirs leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. To further strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.

Other strategic initiatives during 11th Plan include scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Preservation Infrastructure including Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere Stores, Value Added Centres, Packaging Centres and Irradiation facilities. Benefits of the Scheme will also be available to integrated projects of value addition / processing / preservation of horticulture, dairy, marine, and meat sector.

Internet Facility in the running trains

850. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways have decided to provide internet facility in the running trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of trains selected for said facility?

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

However, trials for provision of internet on following trains are underway:

(i) Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express.

Prices in Rs

(ii) Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express.

(Feb. 2009)

Based on the outcome of these trials, further decision in this regard will be taken.

(b) Does not arise.

Jan Aushadi Generic Drug Outlets

851. SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI RAMESH DUBE:

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

(a) the names of the unbranded drugs planned to be sold in the Jan Aushadi Generic drug outlets;

(b) the comparative difference in price and treatment cost of branded and Generic medicines as listed under essential list of 374 medicines;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of branded and unbranded drugs;

(d) whether the Generic outlets opened by the Government has failed to provide adequate supplies to the public;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government allows 22 per cent promotional expenses for branded medicines in the country while fixing maximum retail price of medicines against industry claim of 10 per cent promotional margin; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (e) In order to make available quality unbranded generic medicines at affordable rates, Government has launched Generic Drug Campaign by opening Jan Aushadi Generic Drug Stores. As per available information, Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) have prepared a list of 448 medicines to be sold at Jan Aushadi Generic Drug Stores (JAGDS). In addition, JAGDS would sell generic medicines as may be suggested by State Governments.

The "Jan Aushadi" initiative has made available quality drugs at affordable prices through dedicated stores selling generic medicines which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs. Some comparative prices are:

Name of Salt	Pack	Jan	Market
Aushadhi			
Tab. Ciprofloxacin	100 mg	10	21.50 97.00
Tab. Diclofenac	100 mg	10	3.35 36.70
Tab. Cetirizine	10 mg	10	2.75 20.00
Tab. Nimesulide	100 mg	10	2.70 25.00
Cap. Cephalexin	500 mg	10	31.50 116.95

The Bureau of Pharma CPSUs set up recently is involved in promotion of the unbranded generic drugs and the Generic Drug Campaign.

(f) and (g) In the case of scheduled drugs, Maximum Allowable Post-manufacturing Expenses not exceeding 100% for indigenously manufactured scheduled formulations and not exceeding 50% of the landed cost for imported formulations is allowed in Drugs(Price Control) Order, 1995. While the prices of non-Scheduled formulations, i.e. the drugs not covered under the Drugs(Price Control) Order, 1995 are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors.

Incredible India Campaign

852. SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government in pursuance of its campaign 'Incredible India' to boost tourism;

(b) the expenditure incurred for this campaign during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the number and names of places of Karnataka included in the 'Incredible India' campaign?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism promotes and publicizes the tourism attractions of the country in the domestic as well as the international markets through thematic and generic promotional campaigns. Ministry also undertakes various publicity activities like production of tourism literature & collaterals, participation in domestic and international travel fairs and provides information through its domestic and international offices as well as its website. Ministry also invites Media persons, tour operators and Opinion Makers to visit the country under hospitality programme and assists tour operators for overseas promotions.

(b) Details of the Budget Estimates / Expenditure incurred for overseas and domestic marketing and promotions are as under:

Year	Overseas Promotion, Publicity and MDA	Domestic Promotion, Publicity & Hospitality
2008-09 (Budget Estimates)	Rs. 220 Cr.	Rs. 72.00 Cr. (including advertising and publicity of NE Region)
2007-08 (Expenditure Incurred)	Rs. 170.89 Cr.*	Rs. 64.11 Cr.*
2006-07 (Expenditure Incurred)	Rs. 173.35 Cr.	Rs. 60.17 Cr.
2005-06 (Expenditure Incurred)	Rs. 165.93 Cr.	Rs. 56.07 Cr.

*Provisional

(c) Through Incredible India Campaigns the Ministry promotes the whole of India including the tourism sites and attractions of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Lighting arrangements under the Railway Bridges

853. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate lighting arrangements under the railway bridges in the country; and

(b) if so, the status of lighting arrangements of such bridges under the West-Central Railway Zone, Jabalpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. However, on some of the bridges lighting arrangement has been provided for security reasons on case to case basis.

(b) There is no lighting arrangement provided on Railway bridges except on two nos. Railway under bridge (RUB) on Itarsi Yard at Bhusawal end & Madan Mahal station on West Central Railway, where appropriate light fittings have been provided.

[English]

Modernisation of Bagdogra Airport

854. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of progress made so far in the work of modernization of Bagdogra Airport;

(b) whether the Government is considering to give International status to Bagdogra Airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) AAI has undertaken strengthening and expansion of apron of Bagdogra airport. The work is expected to be completed by the end of March, 2009.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Promotion of Culture of Orissa

855. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Orissa to preserve, protect and promote the culture of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for this propose during the last three years; and

(d) the various schemes, programmes initiated to protect and preserve the dying and vanishing Tribal and Folk art and culture thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Import of Pharmaceutical Raw Materials and Vaccines

856. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms need to be complied for import of pharmaceutical raw materials and vaccines;

(b) whether the Government has been allowing import of cheap pharmaceutical raw materials and vaccines from some countries without physically verifying the compliance of its regulatory requirement or the equivalent international standards;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure transparency in the system of registration of Active Pharmaceutical ingredients and vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The quality of imported pharmaceutical raw materials and vaccines is regulated through the system of registration and licensing of overseas manufacturer and the drugs manufactured by them as provided under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder which is administered by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the Government of India.

(b) and (c) The office of Drug Controller General (India) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issues the Registration Certificate after the examination of Drug Master File, Plant Master File, Schedule D-(I) & D-(II) information, Regulatory documents such as manufacturing license, WHO GMP certificate and Free Sale Certificate issued by National Regulatory Authority of exporting country and after testing of the drug at Notified Laboratory. However, whenever considered necessary the manufacturer is also subjected to inspection.

(d) The application received for registration and the Registration Certificate issued are updated regularly on website of the office of Drug Controller General (India) (DCGI) www.cdsc.nic.in. The turnaround time in respect of each category of drug is displayed. The officials of DCGI office meet with the applicants daily regarding each category of drugs.

Services of Private Airlines for Public Safety

857. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made it mandatory for private airlines to spare their available aircraft for use by security agencies during a terror attack, communal violence or any other incident concerning public safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued any directions to private airlines to place their aircraft at the disposal of the government for public service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

of Civil Aviation has issued a notification on 22nd January 2009 in the interest of public safety, making it mandatory for an operator to provide aircraft to the Central Government for the public service. An officer of the Central Government not below the rank of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation or Ministry of Home Affairs can exercise this authority. Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a notification on 23rd January 2009 authorizing Director General of National Security Guard or any other member of the Security Guard not below the rank of Inspector General authorized by him in this behalf, to exercise the authority.

[Translation]

Development of Camp Sites

858. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Scheme is in vogue for development of camp sites, especially for low- budget domestic tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the pattern of funding of the said scheme; and

(c) the details of funds allocated/released to various States including Uttar Pradesh under the said scheme during the past three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has formulated and circulated the guidelines on 15th July, 2008 for setting up of camp sites, in order to promote and facilitate Eco, Adventure and Pilgrimage Tourism and also with the objective of augmentation of accommodation. The development of Camp Sites is covered under the existing scheme of Product / Infrastructure Development of destinations and circuits

(c) The details of the funds sanctioned for development of camp sites since the issue of the guidelines are as under:-

(i) Haryana -Rs. 349.70 lakh.

(ii) Himachal Pradesh-Rs.90.00 lakh.

[English]

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

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

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had recently floated tenders for allotment of stalls at Delhi Railway Station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are taking any step to cancel tenders for the stalls already allotted to persons belonging to SCs/STs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Hardship Faced by People of Reserved Category

860. SHRI HEMANT KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) people living outside their area are facing a lot of difficulties in getting caste certificate;

(b) if so, the details of the steps being taken by the Government to streamline the relevant rules in this regard to facilitate the aggrieved section of the society; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In order to remove the difficulty faced by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Other Backward Classes, who have migrated from one State to another, for the purpose of employment, education, etc. in obtaining caste certificate from the State from which they have migrated, it had been clarified to all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, vide letters No. BC. 16014/1/82-SC&BCD-1, dated 18.11.1982 and No. 12011/11/94-BCC (C), dated 8th April, 1994 respectively that the prescribed authority of a State Government/Union Territory Administration may issue the Scheduled Caste/Other Backward Class certificate to a person who has migrated from another State, on the production of a genuine certificate issued to his father/mother by the prescribed authority of the State of the father's/mother's origin, except where the prescribed authority feels that detailed enquiry is necessary through the State of origin before issue of the certificate. The certificate will be issued irrespective of whether the caste in question is scheduled or not in relation to the State/Union Territory to which the person has migrated.

[English]

Schemes for Food Processing

861. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes in operation for storage and processing of fruits and vegetables;

(b) whether the Government has given aid for food parks and other food processing units in various parts of the country including Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme during 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public / private organizations for integrated cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crores. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various other schemes for promotion and development of Food Processing Industries including fruit and vegetables processing industries in the country. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available.

Under the old Plan Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries 56 Food Parks have been approved for grants-in-aid in various states, including 4 Food Parks in Kerala. A Statement is enclosed.

Ministry has also been operating several other Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for modernization of abattoirs, setting up / up-gradation of food testing laboratories, creation of infrastructure facilities for Human Resource Development, Research & Development in food processing sector, implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) / ISO

22000 systems besides other promotional and capacity building measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like tax reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries and make them more competitive.

Statement

Details of Food Parks approved for financial assistance under old plan scheme

S.No.	State	Location of the Project	Implementing agency	Approved MFPI grant (Rs. in lakhs)	Grant released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kuppam, Dist.-Chittoor	Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.	400.00	200.00
2.	Assam	Chaygaon, Distt. Kamrup	Assam Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	350.00	175.00
3.	Bihar	Hajipur, District Vaishali	North Bihar Ind. Area Dev. Authority, C/o Department of Industries	400.00	
4.	Chhattisgarh	Village Teadesara, Distt Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation	400.00	200.00
5.	Haryana	Saha, Distt.-Ambala	Haryana State Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd.	293.00	293.00
6.	Haryana	Rai, Dist.-Sonapat	Haryana State Ind. Dev. Corporation Ltd.	400.00	200.00
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	Khunmoh, Distt-Srinagar	J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	400.00	300.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	Sopore, Baramulla	J&K State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (J&KSIDCO)	400.00	200.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	Jammu Agro Industrial Food Park	346.00	273.00
10.	Karnataka	Malur, Distt.-Kolar,	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board / Food Karnataka Limited	400.00	300.00
11.	Karnataka	Bagalkot,	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board / Food Karnataka Limited	400.00	200.00
12.	Karnataka	Jevargi	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board/ Food Karnataka Limited	400.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Karnataka	Hirriyur	M/s Akshay Food Park Limited	400.00	200.00
14.	Kerala	Distt. Mallapuram,	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	400.00	400.00
15.	Kerala	Aroor, Distt.-Alappuzha	Marine Products Infrastructure Development Corporation P. Ltd. (MIDCON) / Seafood Park India Ltd.	299.00	265.00
16.	Kerala	Mazhuvannur, Ernakulam	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	200.00	200.00
17.	Kerala	Adoor	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)	388.00	194.00
18.	Madhya Pradesh	Jaggakhedi, Distt.-Mandsaur,	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	381.83	381.83
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Nimrani, Dist. Khargone,	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Indore) Ltd.	400.00	300.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Piparia, Babai, Distt.-Hoshangabad	Madhya Pradesh Audyogic Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Ltd.	400.00	328.76
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Borgaon, Distt. Chhindwara	M.P.Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd.	400.00	400.00
22.	Madhya Pradesh	Malanpur, Ghirongi, District Bhind (M.P).	M.P.Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd.	400.00	400.00
23.	Madhya Pradesh	Maneri, Distt. Mandla	M.P.Audyogik Kendra, Vikas Nigam (Jabalpur) Ltd.	400.00	200.00
24.	Maharashtra	Butibori, Distt.-Nagpur,	Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	400.00	300.00
25.	Maharashtra	Vinchur, Distt. Nashik	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	400.00	300.00
26.	Maharashtra	Mouza Gumthala, Bhandara Road, Distt. Nagpur	M/s Haldiram Krishi Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Distt. Nagpur	400.00	400.00
27.	Maharashtra	Village Sangvi, Distt. Satara	M/s Agrifood Informatics (India) Ltd., Pune-411013	400.00	400.00
28.	Maharashtra	Palus, Distt.-Sangli	Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation	400.00	124.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Maharashtra	Kapsi, Taluka Kamtee, Distt. Nagpur	M/s Maa Umiya Audyogic Sahakari Vasahat Maryadit	387.00	387.00
30.	Maharashtra	MIDC Industrial Area, Shendra, Aurangabad	M/s Laxmi Nirmal Pratisthan	400.00	200.00
31.	Manipur	Lamphelpat, Imphal	Manipur Food Industries Corporation Ltd.	400.00	200.00
32.	Manipur	Distt.-Ukhrul	Rishang Keishing Foundation for Management of Tribal Areas	400.00	200.00
33.	Mizoram	Chhingchip	Mizoram Food and Allied Industries	382.00	382.00
34.	Nagaland	Bamunpukri, Dimapur	Progressive Rural Development Society	387.12	96.78
35.	Orissa	Khurda	Orissa Indl. Infrastructure Development Corporation	400.00	200.00
36.	Punjab	Sirhind, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib	Punjab Agri Export Corporation	400.00	200.00
37.	Rajasthan	Ranpur, Distt. Kota	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	283.70	141.85
38.	Rajasthan	Boranada, District Jodhpur	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	387.77	193.88
39.	Rajasthan	Sri Ganganagar	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	227.89	100.00
40.	Rajasthan	Alwar	Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation Ltd., (RIICO)	351.98	87.995
41.	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar, Distt.-Madurai	V.P.S Ayyemperumal Nadar & Sons.	400.00	400.00
42.	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul District	Nilakottai Food Park Ltd.	325.00	81.25
43.	Tripura	Bodhjungle, West Tripura	Tripura Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	400.00	300.00
44.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Wise Industrial Park Ltd.	395.00	271.00
45.	Uttar Pradesh	Kharkion, Distt.-Varanasi	U.P State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	400.00	200.00
46.	Uttar Pradesh	Shahajanwa, Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur Industrial Dev. Authority	323.11	80.77
47.	Uttar Pradesh	Village Kushalipur, District Saharanpur	M/S Kushal International Limited	400.00	400.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
48.	Uttar Pradesh	Kursi Road, Distt.- Barabanki	U.P State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	400.00	400.00
49.	West Bengal	Chakgaria, 24 Parganas (South)	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	400.00	400.00
50.	West Bengal	Dankuni, Distt. Hooghly	Modular Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	400.00	75.00
51.	West Bengal	Haldia District Midnapore.	Haldia Development Authority, Haldia	400.00	200.00
52.	West Bengal	Sultanpur, South 24 Parganas	State Fishermen's Cooperative Ltd., (BENFISH), Kolkata	200.28	200.28
53.	West Bengal	Malda	Deptt. of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal.	387.00	387.00
54.	West Bengal	Shankarapur, Dist. Purba Medinipur	Department of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources, Govt. of West Bengal	178.92	178.92
55.	West Bengal	Sankhrail, Howrah	West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC)	400.00	400.00
56.	West Bengal	Murshidabad	M/s Pataka Industries Limited	379.88	-

Sanitary Conditions in Trains

862. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the Amritsar-New Delhi Shatabdi Express train was delayed on account of chaos created by the passengers due to unsanitary conditions in the train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been a case of delayed departure to Amritsar - New Delhi Shatabdi Express on 24.01.2009 on account of delay in cleaning coaches.

(b) Train No. 2029 New Delhi - Amritsar Shatabdi Express is scheduled for arrival at Amritsar at 1325 hrs. The

same train, after attention, leaves Amritsar as Train No. 2030 Amritsar - New Delhi Shatabdi Express at 1700 hrs.

However, on 24.01.2009, the train arrived late at Amritsar. Timely cleaning of the coaches could not be carried out leading to passenger unrest and delay in departure of the train.

(c) and (d) Enquiry has been conducted and concerned official has been taken up for not taking extra efforts to get the coaches cleaned timely.

(e) To improve upon the situation, Railways have initiated action for outsourcing the mechanized cleaning of coaches through professional agencies.

[Translation]

Ambala-Nangal Passenger Train

863. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received requests from Public Representatives regarding extension of Ambala - Nangal passenger train to Churudu railway station in Una district of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel

864. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

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

(a) whether the prices of aviation turbine fuel have been reduced recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the sale price of the aforesaid product in August 2008 and in January 2009 separately; and

(d) the reasons behind slash in price of the aforesaid product?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, The Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) is a decontrolled product and its price is fixed by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) based on the movements in the international oil prices and commercial considerations. The price of ATF for domestic Airlines is now revised on fortnightly basis by the OMCs with effect from 16th November 2008. The sale price (without Sales Tax) of ATF at Delhi at different points of time in the recent past were/are as follows:

		Rupees per KL
On 1st August 2008	-	59,190.22
From 1st January 2009	-	25,381.01
From 16th January 2009	-	26,246.93
From 1st February 2009	-	25,240.30
From 16th February 2009	-	24,298.61

[English]

District Disability Rehabilitation Centres

865 SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government provides assistance to set up District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRC) under Persons with Disability Act, 1995 to help the disabled persons in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such centres established in different States and Union Territories (UTs) alongwith its locations; and

(c) the mechanism in place to monitor and review the performance of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 173 District Disability Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) have been established. The State and Union Territory-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) District Management Team under the chairmanship of the District Collector monitors and coordinates activities of the concerned DDRC.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Number of DDRCs	Name of the District concerned
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	3	Vishakapatnam, Anantpur and Karimnagar
2	Karnataka	7	Bellary, Belgaum, Mangalore, Tumkur, Gulbarga, Mandya and Bidar
3	Kerala	3	Kozhikode, Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram
4	Tamil Nadu	7	Vellore, Thoothukudi, Madurai, Salem, Virudhunagar, Kanyakumari and Perambalur
5	Jammu and Kashmir	4	Udhampur, Leh, Anantnag and Doda
6	Himachal Pradesh	3	Shimla, Dharamsala and Kinnaur
7	Punjab	7	Patiala, Sangrur, Ferozepur, Bhatinda, Hoshiarpur, Moga and Nawanshahr

1	2	3	4
8	Haryana	5	Rohtak, Kurukshetra, Sonapat, Hissar and Fatehabad
9	Uttaranchal	5	Tehri Garhwal, Haridwar, Almora, Bageshwar and Nainital
10	Uttar Pradesh	13	Gorakhpur, Mau, Gonda, Varanasi, Agra, Meerut, Allahabad, Balia, Jhansi, Farrukhabad, Pilibhit, Ambedkar Nagar and Raibarielly
11	Rajasthan	9	Ajmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jhunjhunu, Bikaner, Jaisaimer, Tonk, Jalore and Pali
12	Gujarat	9	Surat, Jamnagar, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Nadiad and Junagarh
13	Maharashtra	7	Kolhapur, Buldana, Wardha, Latur, Aurangabad, Sindhudurg and Mahim
14	Madhya Pradesh	22	Balaghat, Rewa, Sagar, Indore, Jhabua, Gwalior, Rajgarh, Ujjain, Satna, Khargaon Khandwa, Agar, Alote (Ratlam), Jawad, Dewas, Mandsaur, Damoh, Shivpuri, Chhindwara, Guna, Vidisha and Sehore
15	Chhattisgarh	6	Raipur, Raigarh, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Bastar and Jashpur
16	Bihar	14	Darbhanga, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Chhapra, Kishanganj, Nawada, Jehanabad, Samstipur, Begusarai, East Champaran, Kaimur, Madhubani and Bhojpur
17	Jharkhand	5	Ranchi, Hazaribag, Dumka, Jamshedpur and Dhanbad
18	Orissa	8	Kalahandi, Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Phulbani, Ganjam, Nabrangpur and Keonjhar
19	West Bengal	5	Jalpaigudi, Murshidabad, Dakshin Dinajpur, 24 Parganas North and Birbhum
20	Assam	8	Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Silchar, Karimganj, Dhubri, Nagaon, Jorhat and Barpeta
21	Meghalaya	3	Shillong, East Garo Hills and Jaintia Hills
22	Arunachal Pradesh	3	Itanagar, Tawang and East Kameng
23	Manipur	3	Imphal, Thoubal and Churachandpur
24	Nagaland	1	Dimapur
25	Mizoram	3	Aizawal, Lunglei and Kolasib
26	Tripura	3	Agartala, Dhalai and North Tripura
27	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
28	Goa	1	Panaji
29	Puducherry	2	Puducherry and Karaikal
30	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	Port Blair
31	Dadra Nagar and Haveli	1	Silvassa
32	Daman and Diu	1	Diu
Total		173	

[Translation]

Processing of Agro Products

866. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any long term scheme for processing of agro products in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing various Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector in other areas as well as in the rural areas: (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres. For Cold chain, the scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crores. The Ministry has launched a comprehensive scheme for modernization of 50 abattoirs across the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance (grants-in-aid) would be provided at 50% and 75% of cost of plant & machineries and technical civil work in general and difficult areas respectively, subject to maximum of Rs. 15 crores for each project, (ii) Under the Setting up / Technology Upgradation / Modernization / Expansion / Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in Difficult Areas to the Entrepreneurs, (iii) Under the scheme of Human Resource Development, assistance has been provided to 56 colleges to start courses in food technology and food science. Food Processing Training Centres were established for training in Food Processing Industries, (iv) Under the Research and Development scheme the major objective are to ensure compliance with food standards and to assist industries in the food sector to develop and implement quality management systems such as ISO 9000, HACCP etc., analyzing the samples received from the food processing sectors, imparting training in the areas, providing information on quality standards etc. Ministry of Food Processing

Industries is observing the year 2008-09 as Food Safety and Quality Year and through various programmes, it has been planned to accelerate the awareness of Food Safety and Quality in the general masses, (v) Under the scheme of Upgradation of Quality of Street Food with two components with Safe Food Town and the Food Street, the Safe Food Component is being implemented in 9 cities viz., Kochi, Ludhiana, Agra, Ranchi, Nagpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Jaipur and Panaji. The Food Street component is being implemented in two cities viz., Varanasi and Tirupati. The Safe Food Town are to be implemented in 50 selected cities across the country aimed at various capacity-building initiatives of Street Food Vendors based on their knowledge, attitude and practices towards handling, preparation, storage and presentation at a cost of Rs. 178.00crores.

In the 11th Plan, it has also been proposed to continue assistance in the form of grant to private sector/public sector organisations through schemes for setting up of Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as HACCP, ISO 9000, GHP and GMP Practices, Promotion of Research and Development, Capacity Building and Human Resource Development and other promotional activities with higher levels of assistance.

[English]

Increase in Prices of Medicines

867. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

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

- (a) whether some pharmaceutical companies are selling some medicines like Ciprofloxacin, Diclofenac, Cetirazine, Paracetamol, Numesullide and Cephalixin at very high rates;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of such companies; and
- (c) the punitive action taken or likely to be taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): (a) to (c) In the case of Ciprofloxacin, which is a scheduled bulk drug the matter regarding price notification of the said bulk drug is presently affected by the orders of Hon'ble High Court of Mumbai and the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the matter is subjudice.

Additionally, it has come to the notice of NPPA that some pharmaceutical companies as per list enclosed as Statement, are selling scheduled formulation containing Ciprofloxacin over and above the ceiling price fixed by NPPA. Subject to directions of courts in individual cases, NPPA has taken action to recover the overcharged amount.

In the case of the drugs viz: Diclofenac, Cetrizine, Paracetamol, Nimusulide and Cephalixin which are non-scheduled medicines for which manufacturers are free to fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of NPPA. As a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations on the basis of monthly reports of ORG-IMS. Wherever the price increase is found beyond 10% in one year necessary action is taken by NPPA as per guidelines. The manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

No specific case has come to the notice of NPPA regarding selling the above medicines at rates at variance from the aforesaid guidelines except in the case of Relent containing Cetrizine manufactured by M/s Dr. Reddy's and Voveran containing Diclofenac manufactured by M/s Novartis for which prices have been fixed under para 10(b) of DPCO, 95.

Sl. No.	Name of the companies
1	2
1	Biological Evans Limited
2	Cadila Pharma Ltd.
3	Cipla Ltd.
4	Dey's Medical Store Ltd.
5	Dr. Reddy Lab. Ltd.
6	FDC Ltd.
7	Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.
8	SOL Pharma Ltd.
9	Sun Pharma Ltd.
10	Wockhardt Ltd.
11	Akume Drugs Pharma Ltd.
12	Health Biotech Pvt. Ltd.
13	Ind Chemic Health Pvt. Ltd.
14	M/s. Bilson Pharma

1	2
15	M/s. Cadila Healthcare Ltd.
16	M/s. Emcure Pharma Ltd.
17	Pilco Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
18	Torgue Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.
19	Tulas Pharma Works
20	Ranbaxy Labs. Ltd.
21	Shree Krishna Keshav lab
22	Sipra Remedies Pvt. Ltd.
23	Panacea Biotech Ltd.
24	Well Health Pharma
25	Franklin Lab. Pvt. Ltd.
26	Alembic
27	Glynore Pharma
28	Kentreck Lab Pvt. Ltd.
29	Elder Care Ltd.
30	Spectra Labs
31	Parth Parentral
32	Pifer Pharma
33	Ind Chemic Health Pvt. Ltd.
34	Okasa Pharma Pvt. Ltd.
35	Systochem Lab Ltd.
36	Orange Biotec
37	Indkus Drugs & Pharma
38	Tarn Bran Pharmaceuticals

[Translation]

Railway Land Development Authority

868. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Railway Land Development Authority was created;

(b) the area of land acquired by the said authority so far since its creation;

(c) the area of land put to commercial utilization so far;

(d) the details thereof, zone-wise; and

(e) the revenue earned as a result thereof, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) was created on 04.01.2007 and it started functioning with effect from 19.01.2007.

(b) to (e) RLDA does not acquire any railway land. Railway land is entrusted to RLDA by the Ministry of Railways for its commercial development from time to time.

So far 127 sites measuring 1480 hectares approximately, spread over Indian Railways have been entrusted to RLDA for commercial development of railway land. So far three sites as per details below have been awarded for commercial development but development agreement is not yet executed.

- (i) Northern Railway: Sarai Rohiila (area 15.5 hectare),
- (ii) North Central Railway: Gwallor (area 1.36 hectare),
- (iii) East Coast Railway: Vizag (area 0.15 hectare).

A total Rs. 1065.51 crore is due to be received for above sites as premium fee.

[English]

Development of Tourism

869. SHRI M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made provision of Rs.522 crore for development of tourism during the year 2008-09;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated to each State during the said period including Karnataka; and

(c) the manner in which the funds are to be utilized for the development of infrastructure to boost tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Ministry of Tourism has made a provision of Rs.522.00 crore for the scheme of Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits in B.E. 2008-09.

(b) The details of funds sanctioned for tourism projects to States/Union Territories including Karnataka by Ministry of Tourism in the year 2008-09 (upto 31st January 2009) under the following schemes are given in the enclosed Statement.

1. Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits
2. Assistance for Large Revenue Generating Projects
3. Computerization and Information Technology
4. Fairs, Festivals and Events
5. Rural Tourism-Infrastructure and Capacity Building for Service Providers

(c) Implementation of the projects is the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry, however, monitors the progress through review meetings with State Government officials and site visits from time to time.

The first instalment of fund is released when the project is sanctioned. The subsequent instalment is released only on receipt of utilization certificate for previous instalment.

Statement

Projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism during the year 2008-09 (upto 31st January 2009)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Projects	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7	9980.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	3147.74
3.	Assam	4	2107.61
4.	Bihar	7	1578.38
5.	Chandigarh	4	568.11
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3	24.88
7.	Daman and Diu	1	12.50
8.	Delhi	1	15.00
9.	Goa	1	5.00
10.	Gujarat	7	2133.66
11.	Haryana	7	2485.49
12.	Himachal Pradesh	9	2977.66
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	22	4346.53
14.	Kerala	9	3207.68
15.	Karnataka	4	4273.21

1	2	3	4
16.	Maharashtra	3	4110.05
17.	Manipur	8	2497.59
18.	Meghalaya	6	1238.54
19.	Mizoram	4	318.38
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9	2687.41
21.	Nagaland	9	2544.66
22.	Orissa	5	3748.42
23.	Pudueherry	3	25.00
24.	Punjab	2	1745.10
25.	Rajasthan	6	2179.19
26.	Sikkim	18	6685.85
27.	Tamil Nadu	15	3246.14
28.	Tripura	6	360.94
29.	Uttar Pradesh	3	2416.15
30.	Uttarakhand	2	2891.36
31.	West Bengal	7	2851.73
	Grand Total	205	76410.54

Tribes of North Eastern Region

870. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the culture and languages of many small tribes of North Eastern Region are endangered; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to protect these endangered culture and languages?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Though the extent of endangered linguistic tribal communities in the North Eastern Region has not been surveyed, various Ministries and agencies of the Government are making efforts to protect and preserve the cultural heritage and indigenous languages of the Region.

2. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Research and Training under which grants-in-aid is released to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)

for providing planning inputs to the State Governments, conducting research and evaluation studies, collection of data, conducting training, seminars and workshops, documentation of customary laws, setting up of tribal museum for exhibiting tribal artifacts and preservation of tribal culture.

3. Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore under the Ministry of HRD has brought out a number of publications on languages in the North-East and commenced North East Language Development whereby researchers from over 80 speech communities have received some training involving creation of awareness on the issue of language endangerment and language development; and 25-30 research programmes have been actively supported every year.

4. Sahitya Akademi has launched a North Eastern Tribal Oral Literature Centre at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong which has been organizing programmes on the literatures of the North East region and also the collection, editing and translation of the Tribal Oral literature of different languages of the North East.

5. North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC), Dimapur is operating "Guru-Shishya Parampara scheme", which has been beneficial in strengthening and revival of many of the folk arts of the region. Besides this, under the scheme of "documentation of dying and vanishing art forms", the NEZCC has undertaken several documentation projects in the North East. The "Theatre rejuvenation scheme" implemented by the NEZCC has been instrumental in reviving many folk plays and popularizing them in the tribal communities. The Ministry of Culture has also initiated an annual festival of the eight North Eastern States, called "Octave", which has made a positive impact in promoting the culture and art forms of the North East including the smaller tribal communities of the region.

Fertilizers Units

871. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the number of fertilizer units operating in the country both in public/private sector at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQU): Statement indicating state-wise/Sector-wise number of fertilizer (Urea, DAP and Complex fertilizers) units operating in country is enclosed.

Statement*State-wise and Sector-wise no. of major Fertilizers units operating in the country*

Sl. No.	Name of States	No. of operating unit and Sector			Name of the units
		Public	Co-operative	Private	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh			4	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Kakinada-I (Urea) Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Kakinada-II (Urea) Coromandal Fertilizer Ltd. Kakinada (DAP, Complexes) Coromandal Fertilizer Ltd-. Vizag (Complexes)
2	Assam	2			Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. Namrup-III (Urea) Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. Namrup-II (Urea)
3	Goa			1	Zuari Industries Ltd. Goa (Urea, DAP & Complexes)
4	Gujarat		3	5	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Ltd. Bharuch (Urea, Complexes) Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Vadodara (Urea, DAP & Complexes) Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Sikka-I (DAP & Complexes) Gujarat State Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Sikka-II (DAP & Complexes) Hindalco Industries Ltd. Dahej (DAP) Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd.- Kandla (DAP & Complexes) Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd.- Kalol (Urea) Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd.- Hazira (Urea)
5	Haryana	1			National Fertilizers Ltd. Panipat (Urea)
6	Karnataka			1	Manglore Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. Manglore (Urea, DAP & Complexes)
7	Kerala	2			Fertilizer and Chemicals & Travancore Ltd. Udyogamandal (Complexes) Fertilizer and Chemicals & Travancore Ltd. Cochin (Complexes)
8	Madhya Pradesh	2			National Fertilizers Ltd. Vijaipur-I (Urea) National Fertilizers Ltd. Vijaipur-II (Urea)
9	Maharashtra	3		1	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. Trombay (Complexes) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. Trombay-IV (Complexes) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. Thal (Urea) Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.- Taloja (Complexes)

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Orissa		1	1	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Paradeep (DAP, Complexes) Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. Paradeep (DAP, Complexes)
11	Punjab	2			National Fertilizers Ltd. - Nangal-II (Urea) National Fertilizers Ltd. - Bhatinda (Urea)
12	Rajasthan			3	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Gadepan-I (Urea) Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Gadepan-II (Urea) Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. Kota (Urea)
13	Tamil Nadu	1		1	Madras Fertilizer Ltd. Chennai (Urea) Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd.- Ennore (Complexes)
14	Uttar Pradesh		5	2	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Phulpur-I (Urea) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Phulpur-II (Urea) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Aonla-I (Urea) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Aonla-II (Urea) Indo-Gulf Fertilizer Jagdishpur (Urea) Tata Chemicals Ltd. Babrala (Urea) Kribhco Shyam Fertilizers Ltd. Shahjahanpur (Urea)
15	West Bengal			1	Tata Chemicals Ltd. Babrala (DAP & Complexes)
Total		13	9	20	

[Translation]

Short Supply of LPG

872. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding non-supply of LPG regularly to the consumers by the LPG dealers in Rajasthan and Jharkhand and also that the consumers themselves have to bring the cylinders from the godown by incurring extra expenditure;

(b) if so, the action taken against the erring LPG distributors during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the said distributors are also involved in black-marketing of LPG cylinders; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the States of Jharkhand and Rajasthan and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have detected 20 and 87 cases of black-marketing of LPG /non-home delivery and not extending cash and carry rebate to the customers against their LPG distributorships in the States of Jharkhand and Rajasthan respectively during the years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and April to December, 2008. Action against all the erring distributorships was taken as per the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

[English]

Freeze on New Domestic double LPG Cylinder Connection

873. SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a freeze on new domestic double LPG connections;
- (b) if so, the reasons for imposing the freeze;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to liquidate the waiting list for connections;
- (d) the time by which the companies will be able to put an end to the freeze completely; and
- (e) the total number of consumers in the waiting list for second cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not stopped release of new LPG connections. New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. At present, new LPG connections are available for genuine domestic customers and as on 01.01.2009, there are 1050 lakh LPG customers in the country.

OMCs have reported that they have released 36.80 lakh new LPG connections and 7.50 lakh Double Bottle Connection (DBC) in the country during the period April-December, 2008.

However, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported waiting list of 1,31,471 for release of new LPG connections and 13,89,319 for DBC in certain States in the country. The waiting list for new connections is expected to be cleared by the end of March, 2009 and for DBCs in 2009-10. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported nil waiting list for both new connections and DBCs.

Penalty for Hijack Hoax

874. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific provisions for penalising those who inflict hijack hoax trauma and inconvenience on others travelling in the aircraft;
- (b) whether the Indigo flight with suspected hijackers on board made an Emergency Landing at Indira Gandhi International Airport recently;

- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether any investigation has been made in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The persons doing such acts are prosecuted under Section 3(1) of 'The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982', which inter-alia reads as "whoever unlawfully and intentionally communicates such information which he knows to be false so as to endanger the safety of an aircraft in flight shall be punished with imprisonment for life and shall also be liable to fine".

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. On 1.2.2009, a passenger named Jitender Mohala on board Indigo flight No,6E334, informed a Cabin Attendant that he is carrying a gun and some infected needles. He also told that he was involved in Kandahar hijacking and soon he along-with his associates is going to hijack the aircraft. He moved his hands towards her neck to show the point which he could press to make a person unconscious. The matter was reported to crew members in cockpit and the aircraft was landed at Delhi airport in emergency. An FIR was registered at Police Station: Domestic Airport, Delhi. Jitender Mohala was arrested on 2.2.2009. Investigation is still in progress.

Air Connectivity in North-Eastern Region

875. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the North-Eastern Council has represented to the Ministry to direct domestic airlines to provide more intra-connectivity in the highly inaccessible region; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) For traveling to/from North Eastern States Alliance Air under an MOU with North East Council (NEC) commenced scheduled operations in the North East Region w.e.f. 2.1.2003.

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirements for scheduled regional air transport service with a view to promote air connectivity within

a region, expand air travel services for Tier II and Tier III cities and between specific regions. There are four regions identified as North, South, West, East/ North-East coinciding with the Flight Information Regions (FIRs) as defined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

The Government has issued initial No Objection Certificate (NOC) to operate Scheduled Air Transport (Regional) Services to M/s. Zav Airways for North East/ Eastern Region.

The airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines (RDG) issued by Government. As per RDG, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in Category II at least 10% of the capacity deployed by them on routes in Category I and of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep. The operator is also required to deploy in Category III, at least 50% of the capacity deployed on routes in Category I.

Import Duty on TMT

876. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the exemption of import duty on Thermo Mechanically Treated (TMT) which provides relief to domestic manufacturers of the items used for the construction sector;

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

(c) the measures taken by the Government to sustain the steel industry in the light of the Global slowdown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steel prices had seen a huge upswing last year. In order to contain the upswing in prices and ensure availability of steel in the domestic market the Government took various fiscal and other measures which inter-alia included abolition of duty on import of steel and abolition of CVED on import of TMT bars and rods, which is widely used in the construction sector. However in view of the slowdown in the steel sector due to the global economic crises, the market situation has undergone a change and in the face of declining steel demand and increasing volumes of imports the Government has reversed some of the measures taken

earlier and re-imposed import duty on iron and non-alloy steel items at 5%, w.e.f. 18.11.2008 and countervailing duty (CVD) on import of TMT bars and structural w.e.f. 2.1.2009.

(c) The Government is closely monitoring the situation and is in continuous dialogue with the steel industry. The following measures have already been taken by the Government in view of the current downturn:

- (i) Export Duty on all steel items (except melting scrap) withdrawn w.e.f. 31.10.2008.
- (ii) DEPB on steel items restored w.e.f. 14.11.2008.
- (iii) Import Duty on iron and non-alloy steel items re-imposed at 5%, w.e.f. 18.11.2008.
- (iv) 'Hot Rolled Coil' brought into restricted category of import w.e.f. 21.11.08
- (v) CENVAT on steel items reduced from 14% to 10% w.e.f. 7.12.2008.
- (vi) Countervailing duty (CVD) on TMT bars and structurals reintroduced w.e.f., 2.1.2009.

Heritage on Wheels

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

(a) whether the Railways have started Heritage on Wheels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to discontinue the Heritage on Wheels train;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to restore its services and to make it operationally Viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Heritage on Wheels had started its operation in February, 2006.

(b) This metre gauge Luxury tourist train, operated by the Railways in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, offered a 3 day / 2 night package tour from Jaipur to regions of Bikaner and Shekhawati in Rajasthan.

(c) The operation of Heritage on Wheels has been discontinued with effect from January, 2009.

(d) In view of gauge conversion work on its circuit.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

Export of Iron Ore from NMDC owned mines

878. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 90 per cent of Iron ore have been exported from the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) owned mines during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the steel workers have been demanding total ban on export of the iron ore especially the hematite variety and conserve this precious raw material for domestic captive consumption; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) From time to time, demands have been raised from various quarters regarding ban on export of iron ore. The matter of export of iron ore has been considered by the Government and it has been decided that although conservation of iron ore resources of the country is of paramount importance, the same may not be achieved by banning or capping the export of iron ore but by taking recourse to appropriate fiscal measures. An export duty of 5% ad-valorem is presently levied on all varieties of iron ore other than fines.

[Translation]

**Fire-fighting System at
Railway Stations**

879. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether fire-fighting arrangements have been made at all the Railway Stations in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;
- (c) if not, the steps taken by Railways to install such equipments in all the Railway Stations;
- (d) whether the Railways have conducted inquiry into the recent incident of fire at RRI building in Jabalpur under the West-Central Railway Zone; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fire-fighting arrangements have been made at all the stations over Indian Railways. The details are as under:

- (i) Each station is provided with two numbers of dry chemical powder type fire extinguishers.
- (ii) Fire buckets filled with dry sand and water are provided at all stations.
- (iii) Safety posters for operating various types of fire extinguishers have been displayed at stations.
- (iv) At large stations, smoke detectors in Route Relay Interlocking installations have been provided.
- (v) Front line staff such as Station Masters have been imparted regular training to operate fire extinguishers.
- (vi) Periodical drill on fire fighting is conducted.
- (vii) The telephone number of nearby fire brigades is kept available at Railway Stations.
- (viii) Frequent drives against carrying of inflammable/dangerous articles in trains as well as station premises are undertaken.
- (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. An enquiry committee consisting of Junior Administrative Grade Officers had enquired into the recent incident of fire at Route Relay Interlocking building at Jabalpur.

Outcome of enquiry and action taken thereon:

- (i) Responsibility - Electrical equipment failure.
- (ii) The enquiry committee has suggested various system improvements to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.
- (iii) Smoke detectors at Jabalpur RRI have been relocated and provided with reliable back up power supply so that reliability is improved and early alarm is raised in the event of fire.

[English]

Reduction in prices of fertilizers

880. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANBHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any representations to reduce the prices of fertilizers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No. Sir.

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

**Unfair pricing of diesel/petrol by
State owned Oil Companies**

881. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector oil companies have referred the issue of unfair pricing of diesel and petrol by the state owned oil companies to Oil Sector Regulatory Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Oil Sector Regulatory Authority in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has informed that the Board had received a complaint dated 12th February, 2008 in the matter of M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. & others Vs M/s Indian Oil Corporation and others, under the provisions of section 12 read with section 11 (a) of the PNGRB Act, 2006. The Board had issued an interim order on 12th December, 2008 confirming its jurisdiction to consider the matter. The State-owned Oil Companies have however filed an appeal against this order before the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity under section 33 of the PNGRB Act, 2006 and section 111 of the Electricity Act, 2003. The matter is pending before the Appellate Tribunal for Electricity.

[Translation]

**De-addiction Centres at
Panchayat Level**

882. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement Centrally Sponsored Schemes for de-addiction centres at village panchayat level in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the said centres proposed to be opened during the current year, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated in this regard during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Under the revised Central Sector Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse effective from October 2008, Panchayati Raj Institutions are also eligible for central assistance for setting up Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) and taking up other drug de-addiction activities specified in the scheme.

(b) State or location wise targets are not fixed in advance. Sanction is accorded on receipt of appropriate proposals duly recommended by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) Notional Allocation for the States is made at the beginning of the financial year. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of State wise Notional Allocation under the Central Sector Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse for the financial year 2008-09

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Notional allocation for 2008-09 (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3
States		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	211
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15
3.	Assam	218
4.	Bihar	228
5.	Chhattisgarh	62
6.	Goa	7
7.	Gujarat	152
8.	Haryana	63
9.	Himachal Pradesh	18
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	30
11.	Jharkhand	81
12.	Karnataka	158
13.	Kerala	95
14.	Madhya Pradesh	181

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	290
16.	Manipur	125
17.	Meghalaya	30
18.	Mizoram	75
19.	Nagaland	30
20.	Orissa	110
21.	Punjab	73
22.	Rajasthan	169
23.	Sikkim	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	186
25.	Tripura	40
26.	Uttarakhand	26
27.	Uttar Pradesh	497
28.	West Bengal	240
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	7
30.	Chandigarh	7
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	7
32.	Delhi	41
33.	Daman and Diu	7
34.	Lakshadweep	1
35.	Puduchery	7
Total		3500

Renke Commission

883. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

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

(a) whether the Registrar General of India has assessed the actual population of Nomadic and De-notified tribes in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of Justice Renke Commission for nomadic tribes;

(d) if so, whether the Government has prepared any action plan for nomadic tribes in accordance with the recommendations of the said Commission;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic Tribes headed by Shri Bal Krishna Renke had submitted its report on 02.07.2008, which is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Functioning of FACT

884. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) in Kerala is in the process of diversifying its operations;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for resurgence of the Company; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) FACT has indicated that it has plans for expansion and diversification of its operations through joint ventures with other PSUs, utilizing the land and other resources of the Company. The main purpose of diversification is the optimum utilization of available resources of the company particularly land resources and the huge stock of waste Gypsum available to earn revenue on a sustainable basis and to increase the overall profitability of the company. The main diversification projects proposed by the Company are as under:

1. FACT has formed a joint venture company namely FACT-RCF Building Products Ltd., for manufacturing of value added products using Phospho-Gypsum.
2. Setting up of container freight stations in association with Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) for which an MOU has been signed.

3. Setting up a free-trade warehousing zone at Udyoga-mandal.
4. A joint venture company with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) by demerger of FEDO, the Engineering Division of FACT for which an MOU has been signed.
5. A joint venture with Cochin Shipyard Ltd., by demerger of FEW, the fabrication Wing of FACT for which an MOU has been signed.

(c) and (d) The Government had sanctioned a one-time grant-in-aid of Rs. 200 crore to FACT in March, 2008, in order to enable the company to sustain its operations. The Company was also advised to entrust a study by a reputed consultant to suggest measures for enhancing operational efficiency including cost cutting measures. The recommendations of the consultant are under examination by the Board of Directors of the FACT.

Doubling/ Electrification of Railway Lines

885. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned for doubling/ electrification of railway lines during the last three years in the country, especially in West Bengal;

(b) the status of the ongoing projects for doubling/ electrification of railway lines;

(c) the reasons for delay and the time by which these projects are likely to be completed; and

(d) the further steps taken by the Railways for speedy execution of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) During the period from 2005-06 to 2007-08, 59 doubling and 12 railway electrification works have been included in the Railway Budgets. Out of these following works are fully/partly in the State of West Bengal.

S.No.	Name of the project	Plan head	Length (in Km)
1	Chinpai-Saintia	Doubling	30
2	Malda & Old Malda	Doubling	0.38
3	Adra-Joychandipahar	Doubling	6
4	Gokulpur-Midnapur new bridge	Doubling	2
5	Andal-Pandabeswar (completed)	Railway Electrification	20

(b) There are in all 120 doubling projects in progress having a throwforward of about Rs. 12,000 crore as on 01.04.2008. There are 19 railway electrification projects having throwforward of Rs. 3450 crore. All the projects are in various stages of progress as per the availability of funds.

(c) The main reasons for delay have been paucity of funds, delay in land acquisition, failure of contracts, adverse law and order condition and other market forces affecting the progress in some of the projects.

(d) The availability of funds for the projects have increased considerably over the last few years due to provision of funds through internal generation,, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Governments and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited through extra budgetary resources. Modification of contract conditions, empowerment of field units and pursuing the security and land acquisition cases with the State Governments are some of the measures to expedite the completion of Projects. With these steps it is expected that all the doubling works in progress will be completed in the next 3-4 years.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

886. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to increase the income limit of family of Scheduled Castes to become eligible for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes;

(b) whether the criteria of minimum of 60 per cent in Master's Degree is required for SC Students to become eligible for registering themselves for M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes;

(c) if so, whether the Government is considering to revise the percentage criteria from 60 per cent to 50 per cent to get fellowship for pursuing M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes and also increase the income limit of family to five lakhs; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No income limit has been prescribed under the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Setting up of Power Plants by
Indian Oil Corporation**

887. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Limited proposes to set up power plants in some States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the IOC proposes to set up Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plants also in collaboration with other countries;
- (d) if so, the time by which these power plants will be set up in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has proposed to set up a coal based power plant at Naraj Marthapur in Orissa in joint venture with Tata Power Company.

(c) and (d) IOC and Petropars of Iran propose to set up an integrated Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Project at Iran. The consortium of IOC and Petropars submitted a detailed pre-proposal to National Iranian Oil Company on 28th February 2005, which involve development of upstream facilities and downstream facilities for liquefaction of the entire gas production to produce about 9 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of LNG.

IOC also has plans to develop an LNG Import terminal at Ermmore with initial capacity of 2.5 MMTPA, expandable to 5.0 MMTPA. Detailed Feasibility Report for the project has been completed. Investment decision would be taken after long term tie-up for LNG. IOC has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Petronet LNG for jointly sourcing the gas and joint development of the project.

Contribution to UNESCO

888. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries contributing to UNESCO for promotion of cultural activities and the criteria adopted by the UNESCO for the same;
- (b) whether the Government contributes to UNESCO for promotion of cultural activities;
- (c) if so, the details of the contribution made by the Government to UNESCO during 2007-08 and 2008-09 so far;

(d) the extent to which the objectives of such contribution has been achieved during the said period; and

(e) the details of assistance provided by UNESCO during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training to Pilots and Cabin Crew

889. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to train cabin crew and pilots of all airlines in handling emergency situations in the wake of hijack scare;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether any specific programme for training of pilots and cabin crew has been chalked out;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of existing drills and briefing programmes organised by various airlines operating in the country so far during 2007-08 and 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is already imparting 6 days' training to Cabin Crew and Pilots on handling emergency situations. The training for Cabin Crew is compulsory in nature and Directorate General of Civil Aviation issues permit to them only after completion of this training.

(e) The details of existing drills and briefing programmes organized by various airlines during 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below:

Name of the Airline	2007-08	2008-09
Jet Airways	1528	875
Kingfisher Airline	540	582
Air India	258	245
Go Airlines	72	36
Air Deccan	581	174
Inter Globe Aviation Ltd.	426	368

**Green field Electric Locomotive
Rail Factory**

890. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to set up green field electric locomotive rail factory in the country;
- (b) if so, the location identified therefor;
- (c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;
- (d) the number of persons likely to be provided jobs in the said factory; and
- (e) the time by which the said factory is likely to be set up?

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

- (b) Madhepura, Bihar.
- (c) Rs. 1293.57 Crore
- (d) It is presently not feasible to indicate.
- (e) Anticipated by 2012-13.

Regional Rail Museum

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

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to set up Regional Rail Museums in various States in the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations identified for the same and the estimated cost of the projects; and
- (c) the time by which the new Rail Museums are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Regional Rail Museums are not set up on State basis. Regional Rail Museums are set up region wise. There is a proposal to set up one new Regional Rail Museum for the Western Region.

(b) The Regional Rail Museum at Lonavala has been sanctioned in the Rail Budget 2008-09 at an estimated cost of Rs.11.63 crore for the first phase.

(c) At this stage, the timeframe cannot be clearly fixed.

[Translation]

Global Warming

892. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any measures have been taken by the Railways to deal with the problem of global warming and reducing green house gases in the atmosphere in various railway zones;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any such measures have been taken in the West Central Railway Zone, Jabalpur; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Mass Emission Measurement System for measurement of gaseous emissions and particulates has been installed on diesel engines test bed at Research Designs and Standards Organization, which is the nodal agency for evaluation and appraisal of such projects.

(b) to (d) Work 'Consultancy for Reduction of Exhaust Emissions from Diesel Locomotives on Indian Railways' has been sanctioned and the work is in progress. In addition, various technological improvements are being taken up on diesel locos, not only to improve performance capability of locos but also to reduce unburnt fuel, thereby arresting global warming.

[English]

Accident at Bokaro Steel Plant

893. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any fire accident took place at Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) during the last year;
- (b) if so, the details of human loss and capital damage caused thereby;
- (c) whether any enquiry has been ordered in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the out come thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Special Subsistence Allowance for
Mentally Retarded Children**

894. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide a special subsistence allowance to the parents of mentally retarded children in view of the problems being faced by them in their upbringing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also received any request to provide such allowance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities which is a statutory body under this Ministry has received such requests from time to time. However, the endeavour is to provide services and financial assistance directly to persons with disabilities.

[English]

Construction of Level Crossing

895. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be please to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received proposals for construction of level crossings from various States, including Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total number of level crossings selected for construction during the current year, State-wise, especially in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Railways receive, from time to time, a few requests for level crossings from States and local authorities. However, these are considered on specific case by case basis. Records of proposal are not maintained State-wise. Recently, in Karnataka, 02 proposals have been received during the year; (i) at Chittapur yard on

Secundrabad-Wadi section (ii) at km. 25/12-13 & 34/6-7 on Gadag-Bijapur section. Out of these, level crossing, at Chittapur has been completed, and on receipt of approval from Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) would be commissioned. The other is under consideration.

As per existing policy, new crossings is made in consultation with the State Government at the time of laying a new line or within 10 years from the date of its commissioning to traffic. Thereafter, any work such as level crossing can be provided at a technically suitable location on deposit terms, if such a proposal is sponsored by the State Government/Local bodies duly agreeing to bear the initial cost of construction of the level crossing and one time capitalized cost of recurring maintenance and operational charges. Further, as per policy of Railways, no new unmanned level crossing is permitted on existing lines.

Yatri Niwas

896. SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Yatri-Niwas, especially in backward and rural areas as on date, location-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct Yatri-Niwas in various States during the current fiscal year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has revived the scheme for providing central financial assistance for construction of Yatri-Niwas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The State-wise and location-wise details of the Yatri Niwas sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism during the 8th and 9th Plans are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (e) The scheme of the Ministry of Tourism for providing central financial assistance for the construction of Yatri Niwas has been discontinued from the 10th Plan onwards.

Statement

Project sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism for Yatri Niwas during 8th and 9th Plans

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Projects	Location
1	2	3	4
1	Andaman and Nicobar	1	(i) Karmtang
2	Andhra Pradesh	7	(i) Arraku Valley (ii) Vishakapatnam (iii) Tirupati (iv) Yodagirigutta, (v) Horsely Hills (vi) Tirumala-Tirupathi (vii) Nagarjuna Segar

1	2	3	4
3	Arunachal Pradesh	2	(i) Bameng (ii) Roing (Dibang) Valley
4	Assam	3	(i) Barpeta (ii) Bhuban Hills, Silchar (iii) Batadrawa
5	Himachal Pradesh	4	(i) Deotridh (ii) Jawalamukhi (iii) Bharmour (iv) Dharamshala
6	Jammu and Kashmir	3	(i) Vaishrio Devi (ii) Baba Rishi (iii) Patnitop
7	Karnataka	10	(i) Dharwar (ii) Gulbarga (iii) Bijapur (iv) Maravanthe (v) Udipi (vi) Hampi (vii) Hassan (viii) Yellammanagudda (ix) Sravanabelagola (x) Talakad, Mysore
8	Kerala	6	(i) Peermedu (ii) Calicut (iii) Malayattur (iv) Alleppey (v) Kondotti (vi) Kumily
9	Madhya Pradesh	1	(i) Hossangabad
10	Maharashtra	1	(i) Jothiba, Kolhapur
11	Manipur	1	(i) Imphal
12	Orissa	4	(i) Puri (ii) Chandipur (iii) Satpuda (Chilka Lake) (iv) Konark
13	Punjab	1	(i) Fatehgarh Sahib
14	Tamil Nadu	3	(i) Rameshwaram (ii) Samayapuram (iii) Tiruvananmalai
15	Uttarakhand	2	(i) Gauchar (ii) Guptkashi (Rudraprayag)
16	West Bengal	1	(i) New Jalpaiguri

*[Translation]***Cultural Heritage Centres**

897. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cultural heritage centres and other places of heritage of importance identified in various States, especially in backward and rural regions as on date;

(b) the measures taken by the Central and State Governments for their protection and conservation; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

*[English]***Public-Private Partnership Project**

898. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to start projects in collaboration with the private companies across the country;

(b) if so, the details of the projects proposed for construction in collaboration with the private companies, State-wise;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has opposed this move of the Ministry of Railways;

(d) if so, the reasons in this regard;

(e) whether the proposed projects are to be covered under the scheme of public-private partnership project; and

(f) if not, the status of the proposed projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain areas such as development of important identified stations, rail connectivity projects for ports/industries through Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) and several activities in catering/tourism and hospitality areas have been identified for possible execution through participation of private companies.

These projects are taken up in a need based manner and not in terms of State jurisdictions. However, some of the ongoing connectivity projects being executed through RVNL are as under:

S. No.	Name of the project	Landed/ Anticipated cost (Rupees in Crore)	State
1	Haridaspur-Paradip New Line (82 kilometers)	1000	Orissa
2	Obulavaripalle- Krishnapatnam New Line (112 kilometers)	1000	Andhra Pradesh
3	Bharuch-Dahej Gauge Conversion (62.36 kilometers)	285	Gujarat
4	Angul-Sukinda New Line (98 kilometers)	1052	Orissa

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The projects are covered either under Public-Private Partnership or Joint Venture.

Setting up of New Engine Plant in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether the General Motors has formalized an agreement to build a new engine plant in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the investment to be made in the said project;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be completed alongwith the progress made therein till date;

(d) the extent of Indian stake in the project; and

(e) the incentives and concessions provided/proposed to be provided to General Motors for building this facility in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), General Motors India has signed an agreement with the Government of Maharashtra on 28 August 2008 to set up an engine plant with an investment over \$200 million. This is in addition to over \$300 million invested in the car manufacturing plant at Talegaon. The total investment of car manufacturing and engine plants is now over \$500 million.

(c) Construction of the new engine plant is in full swing and the plant is expected to be commissioned sometime during the end of next year. The car plant at Talegaon was inaugurated on 2nd September, 2008 and is now rolling out mini car Spark from there.

(d) The plant is being set up by General Motors India Private Limited which is a wholly owned subsidiary of General Motors Corporation of USA, registered in India.

(e) The required information is being collected from the Government of Maharashtra.

Performance of ONGC

900. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net profit of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has reduced by 43% during third quarter of 2008-09;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the projection of profit for Fourth Quarter and whether any steps have been taken to improve the profits and performance of ONGC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) and (b) The net Profit After Tax (PAT) earned by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) during the third quarter (Q3) of 2008-09 (October-December, 2008) was Rs.2475 crore as compared to Rs.4367 crore earned during Q3 of 2007-08 and Rs.4808 crore earned during 2nd Quarter of 2008-2009. The lower PAT in Q3 of 2008-2009 could be attributed to the steep fall in international crude oil prices, increase in Operating Expenditure (OPEX) and increase in cost of dry wells and survey etc. by ONGC.

(c) to (e) The profit of ONGC depends on the international price of crude oil and value added petroleum products. Since the international prices of crude oil and value added petroleum products cannot be predicted, the profit of ONGC for 4th quarter of 2008-09 can not be projected. However, ONGC has taken steps to reduce OPEX and cost of dry wells & survey etc.

[Translation]

OBC Population

901. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official figure regarding the population of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the country is available with the Government;

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

(c) if not, the procedure being followed for allocation of funds for development projects for OBCs in the absence of actual figure of OBC population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under various welfare schemes for OBCs, the funds are notionally allocated to the States/UTs on the basis of total population of the State/UT.

Repair of Old Coaches

902. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether old railway coaches need repairs and improvement; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Maintenance and upkeep of coaches is a continual requirement and this is carried out periodically during laid down maintenance schedule in open line as well as periodic overhauls in the Workshops in Zonal Railways. Besides, the coaches are also given a 'Mid-life' rehabilitation to restore their condition.

[English]

Mumbai High Redevelopment Plan

903. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has decided to go for the second phase of the Mumbai High North Redevelopment Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the redevelopment plan is likely to be completed; and

(d) the details including the quantity of the products that would be yielded from the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Board has approved the second phase of Mumbai High North Redevelopment Project at a cost of Rs.7133 Crore.

(b) The project includes 6 new platforms, top side modifications of 10 existing well platforms, production facility at WI-4, 73 new wells, 38 side track wells, 26 additional injector wells, installation of 21 Electrical Submersible Pumps (ESP) and 141 km of sub-marine pipeline etc.

(c) The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2012.

(d) The project envisages an incremental oil and gas production of 17.354 MMT and 2.987 BCM respectively by the year 2030.

Oil Bonds

904. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the oil bonds issued to the oil marketing companies in the country during the past three years;

(b) the reasons for issuing these oil bonds during the said period; and

(c) the policy changes contemplated, if any, in the light of falling prices of crude oil in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of the Oil Bonds issued to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the last three years are given below:

	(Rs. Crore)
2005-06	11,500.00
2006-07	24,121.00
2007-08	20,333.33
2008-09 (till date)	65,942.00*

*Includes Rs. 14,956.17 crore for 2007-08

Despite increase in the international oil prices, particularly from 2004-05, the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products i.e. Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG were not revised in line with the international oil prices, which resulted in mounting under-recoveries to the OMCs. The OMCs have incurred under-recoveries of Rs 40,000 crore in 2005-06, Rs.49,387 crore in 2006-07 and Rs.77.123 crore in 2007-08. The under-recoveries projected for the current year are Rs. 1,03,908 crore.

The Government has recently approved a revised Burden Sharing Mechanism for 2008-09 under which the Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies will contribute Rs.32,000 crore and the remaining under-recoveries would be compensated through issuance of Oil Bonds.

In view of the recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has reduced the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.1/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1 2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps

905. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petrol pumps/retail outlets allotted/ opened by oil companies under various schemes during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) the names of the States/districts where the petrol pumps are being run by the oil companies themselves;

(c) the names of States / districts in the country where no allotment of petrol pumps has been made to anyone so far;

(d) whether any norms/criteria have been prescribed for opening of new outlets;

(e) if so, the action taken against those persons who violate these norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL):

(a) The number of retail outlets (RO) opened by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) during the last three years and in the current year are as under:

Year	No. of ROs opened
2005-06	3295
2006-07	2475
2007-08	2074
2008-09 (Apr-Dec)	660

Details of these outlets are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(b) The number of permanent Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) ROs being run by OMCs under the supervision of their own officers are as under:

Name of	No. of COCO ROs
OMCs	
IOC	89
BPC	140
HPC	105

Details of these outlets are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(c) Allotment of ROs have been made by OMCs in all the States throughout the country.

(d) and (e) New retail outlets/ LPG distributorships are set up by OMCs at identified locations based on surveys and feasibility studies. Locations found to be having sufficient potential and which are economically viable are rostered in the State-wise Marketing Plans for setting up retail outlets/ LPG distributorships.

Setting up of retail outlet dealership/ LPG distributorship involves various steps like issue of advertisements, scrutiny of applications, scrutiny of sites offered by candidates, interviews /selection of dealers, field verification of credentials of selected candidates, issue of Letter of Intent (LOI) procurement of land, obtaining various Statutory approvals, construction work, etc.

The above norms are followed by OMCs in opening of new ROs.

[English]

Policy of Reservation

906. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has actual data of population benefited by the policy of reservation in educational institutions;

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

(c) whether the Government has identified some drawbacks in policy of reservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures contemplated by the Government;

(e) whether the Commission constituted for considering the proposal for reservation for the economically backward classes has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the salient features of the said report; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Revival of Instrumentation Ltd.

907. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any final decision for providing a revival package for the Instrumentation Ltd., Kota; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has approved the revival package of Instrumentation Limited, Kota on 23.02.2009.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): On behalf of Shri Sharad Pawar, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bureau of Indian Standards, 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 Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10770/09]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10771/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): On behalf of Shrimati Ambika Soni, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, 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 Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10772/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida, 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 National Council for Hotel Management and Catering Technology, Noida, for the year 2007-2008.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10773/09]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, 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 South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10774/09]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, 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 Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2007-2008.
 - (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10775/09]
 - (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, 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 West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, for the year 2007-2008.
 - (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10776/09]
 - (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lalit Kala Akademi, 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 Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
 - (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10777/09]
- THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table:-
- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 329(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2008, granting Nidhi Status to Companies, mentioned therein, under Section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956, issued under sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 620A of the said Act.
 - (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10778/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Consolidated Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10779/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Instructional Media Institute, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10780/09]

- (4) A copy of the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Work Place (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10781/09]

- (5) 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 Central Apprenticeship Council (Amendment) Rules, 2008 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 895(E) dated the 30th December, 2008.
- (ii) S.O. 2594 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2008 specifying the subject fields in technology, mentioned therein, as designated trades for the purposes of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10782/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR

SAHU): On behalf of Shri B.K. Handique, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10783/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): On behalf of Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, for the years 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 and thirteen other organisations, mentioned therein, for the year 2007-2008, within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10784/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 20 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993:-
 - (i) Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Memorandum of Action Taken on the Annual Report of National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10785/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri Kantilal Bhuria, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Employees Provident Fund), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10786/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10787/09]
- (5) A copy each 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 Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10788/09]
- (7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Gujarat State Seeds Corporation Limited for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10789/09]
- (8) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited for the years from 1992-1993 to 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10790/09]
- (9) A copy of the Honey Grading and Marking Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 877(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2008 under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10791/09]
- (10) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2847(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th December, 2008 containing corrigendum to the Notification S.O. 3(E) dated the 1st January, 2008 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10792/09]
- (11) A copy of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment), Order, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 2888(E) in Gazette of India

dated the 15th December, 2008 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10793/09]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 27 of the Insecticides Act, 1968:-

- (i) The Use of Fenitrothion Order, 2007, published in Notification No. S.O. 706(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2007.
- (ii) The Restriction of Import, Manufacture and Use of Lindane (Gamma B.H.C.) Order, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 1472(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007.
- (iii) The Restriction on Use of Diazinon Order, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 45(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008.
- (iv) The Restriction on Use of Fenthion Order, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 46(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008.
- (v) The Withdrawal of Metoxuron Order, 2007 published in Notification No. S.O. 47(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 2008.
- (vi) The Restriction on Use of Dazomet Order, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 3006(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2008.
- (vii) The Banning of Chlorofenvinphos Order, 2008 published in Notification No. S.O. 3007(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10794/09]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Insecticides Act, 1968:-

- (i) S.O. 374(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2009 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 45(E) dated 8th January, 2008.

- (ii) S.O. 375(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2009 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 46(E) dated 8th January, 2008.

- (iii) S.O. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th January, 2009 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 47(E) dated 8th January, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10795/09]

(14) A copy of the Fertiliser Control (Amendment) Order, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 401(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2009 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10796/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kumarakruppa Frontier Hotels Private Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10797/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Donyi Polo Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Itanagar, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10798/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10799/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, 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 Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10800/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Assam Rifles Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 861(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2008 under section 167 of the Assam Rifles Act, 2006 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 106 (E) (in English version only) dated the 20th February, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10801/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri Taslimuddin, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (i) The Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Fifth Amendment) Order, 2008, published in Notification No. 2247(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2008.
- (ii) The Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Sixth Amendment) Order, 2008, published in Notification No. 2248(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2008.
- (iii) The Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs (Seventh Amendment) Order, 2008, published in Notification No. 2249(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10802/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Veterinary Council of India, 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 Veterinary Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10803/09]

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10804/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha

Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10805/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rehabilitation Council of India, 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 Rehabilitation Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10806/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10807/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10808/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, Noida, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, Noida, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10809/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL), Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10810/09]

- (5) A copy of the Central Silk Board (Amendment) Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 818(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2008, under sub-section (3) of Section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10811/09]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2160(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 2008, specifying 11 categories of textile articles for exclusive production by Handlooms, issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10812/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): On behalf of Dr. Akhilesh Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10813/09]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Food Corporation of India, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10814/09]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-
- (i) The Sugar (Price Determination for 2008-2009 Production) Order, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 41(E)/Ess. Com./Sugar. in Gazette of India dated the 21st January, 2009.
 - (ii) The Sugar (Control) Amendment Order, 2008, published in Notification No. S.O. 2984(E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane. in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10815/09]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 102(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th January, 2009 exempting the levy of cess on sugar, collected as a duty of excise, on any sugar "manufactured from such other sugar" on which cess, leviable under sub-section (1) of Section of Section 3 of the Sugar Cess Act, 1982, issued under sub-section (4) of Section 3 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10816/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): On behalf of Shri Anand Sharma, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Film Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Film Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10817/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Explosives Rules, 2008 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 907(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2008, under sub-section (8) of Section 18 of the Explosive Act, 1884.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10818/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): On behalf of Shrimati D. Purandeswari, I beg to lay on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, 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 National Institute of Technology, Calicut, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10819/09]
- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Audited Accounts of the Visva Bharti, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10820/09]
- (4) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Aligarh Muslim University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10821/09]
- (5) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University of Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10822/09]
- (6) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the University of Delhi, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10823/09]
- (7) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the North Eastern Hill University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10824/09]

- (8) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Nagaland University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10825/09]

- (9) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Assam University, for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10826/09]

- (10) A copy of the Statement* (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report of the Mizoram University for the year 2007-2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10827/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): I beg to move on the Table :-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10828/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shri Jairam Ramesh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

* Annual Report was laid on the Table of the House on 17.02.2009.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, Kochi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10829/09]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following message dated the 20th February, 2009 from the hon. President:-

"I have received the expression of thanks by the Members of the Lok Sabha for the Address which I delivered to both Houses of the Parliament assembled together on 12 February, 2009."

12.02¼ hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, 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 24th February, 2009 agreed without any amendment to the Central Universities Bill, 2009, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 19th February, 2009."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 115 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 25th February, 2009, agreed to the following amendments made by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th February, 2009, in the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Bill, 2008:-

ENACTING FORMULA

1. Page 2, line 5, for "Fifty-ninth", substitute "Sixtieth"
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Clause-1 | Short title and Commencement |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
2. Page 2, line 9, for "2008", substitute "2009".
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2009, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th February, 2009 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation Bill, 2009, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th February, 2009 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (v) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance Bill, 2009, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th February, 2009 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.02¼ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

84th Report

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I beg to present the Eighty-fourth Report (Hindi and English

versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2008-2009) on Action Taken on Fifty-fourth Report of PAC (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (2005-2006)".

12.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

37th Report

[Translation]

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA (Ropar): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)".

12.03 ¼ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

42nd Report

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (2008-09) on 'The Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008'.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

140th to 142nd Reports

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

- (1) One Hundred and Fortieth Report on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Thirty Second Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- (2) One Hundred and Forty-first Report on Action Taken by Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Thirty Third Report on Demands for Grants (2008-09) of the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region.

- (3) One Hundred and Forty-second Report on Implementation of Central Scheme of Modernization of Prison Administration.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development, pertaining to the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): On behalf of Shrimati Suryakanta Patil, I am laying this statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the Thirty-Seventh report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction under 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha bulletin, Part-II dated September 01, 2008.

The Thirty-Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17th April 2008. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Drinking Water Supply) for the year 2008-09. Action taken report on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee was sent to the Standing Committee on 1st September, 2008.

There were 35 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report, wherein action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues concerning the schemes for Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the annex to my Statement, which is laid on the Table of the House. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07 hrs.

CARRIAGE BY AIR (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008*

Amendments made by Rajya Sabha

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, let us dispose of a very short business, item no. 30, Shri Praful Patel. He has to open

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. L.T. 10830/09

**The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 30th April, 2008 and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with amendment in its sitting held on the 18th February, 2009 and returned it to Lok Sabha on the same day.

some airports. I would not have given this opportunity, unless it was somewhere in West Bengal. He persuaded me to agree to this.

Yes, Mr. Praful Patel. You may remember the special facility, when I wrote to you about some Bengal's matter.

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

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Carriage By Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration:-

Enacting Formula

- 1. That at page 1, line 1, --
for "Fifty-ninth", substitute "Sixtieth"

Clause 1	Short title and Commencement
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- 2. That at page 1, line 3,--
for "2008", substitute "2009"

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill further to amend the Carriage By Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration

Enacting Formula

- 1. That at page 1, line 1, --
for "Fifty-ninth", substitute "Sixtieth"

Clause 1	Short title and Commencement
-----------------	-------------------------------------

- 2. That at page 1, line 3,--
for "2008", substitute "2009"

The motion was adopted.

Enacting Formula

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

- "That at page 1, line 1,--
for "Fifty-ninth", substitute "Sixtieth" (1)

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1	Short title and Commencement
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MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

- "That at page 1, line 3,--
for "2008", substitute "2009" (2)

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I beg to move:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to re-examine Employees' Provident Fund Pension Scheme implemented from 16.11.1995 in the light of recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Labour and Employment to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Need to re-examine the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme implemented from 16.11.1995 in the light of recommendations of the 6th Pay Commission."

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Sir, the question of amendment in Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 (EPS '95) in the wake of 6th Central Pay Commission Report does not arise because the two are not related. Central Pay Commission's recommendations apply to Government servants who are not covered under the EPS'95. Hence, revision of pension on recommendations of the Central Pay commission will require no amendment in the EPS '95.

The Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, a Scheme under Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, has been conceived as a Defined Benefit Social Insurance Scheme formulated following actuarial principles for ensuring long term financial sustenance. It is financed through contribution from the employers at the rate of 8.33 percent of the wages of employees and the Central Government, also contributes 1.1/6% of the wages of the employees. Any increase in the amount of pensionary benefit depends on the financial position of Pension Fund. The quantum of pension to members of EPS, '95 is actuarially calculated in accordance

with the provisions of the Scheme. To review the rates of contributions and quantum of the pension and other benefits, paragraph 32 of the Scheme provides for annual valuation of the Pension Fund.

The first four valuations had revealed a surplus, which resulted in the grant of four additional reliefs. However, the next four valuations did not reveal any surplus and hence the grant of additional relief had not been possible.

The pension under EPS'95 is directly related to pensionable salary and length of service and superannuation at the age of 58. Low salary and low length of service and option for early pension are the main factors for very low pension amount under EPS'95.

The exercise for valuation of Pension Fund is on and the decision on altering the benefits will be taken based on the results of the valuation.

A Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary (L&E) comprising of representatives of Employers and Employees has been constituted to review the entire Scheme.

There is a standing Sub-Committee, namely- Pension Implementation Committee under the Central Board of Trustees (EPF) comprising, inter alia, two representatives each of employers and employees to review the functioning of Employees' Pension Scheme and to consider the suggestions/proposals for amendment/improvement in the Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have never requested that the pension of employees getting pension under provident fund and pension scheme may be enhanced under the same rule under which salaries and pension of Central and State Governments regular employees have been increased after recommendation of the Sixth Pay Commission. My intension was that it forms a base; if there is any type of enhancement in pay and pension of other employees, then these lakhs of employees who are getting pension under other scheme, may be benefited likewise by the Government, it is injustice to them if the Government does not do so. Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme was introduced in the year 1995 so as to benefit the employees working in private and semi-Government sector. For this purpose a fund scheme has been introduced in which a provision was made that the employee would contribute 8.33 percent from his salary and the Government would make a contribution of 1.1/6 percent. It was also provided that they would be given relief as per our economic

position after making an assessment of the said scheme. As the Government has said that this relief was given to them four times but evaluation of those four times show that the economic position is so bad that this relief cannot be given.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to urge the Government through you that in my view it is an insult to an old person retired employee if he is given a pension of Rs. 260, 300, 350 and 400. The Government should consider it seriously. I would like to request hon'ble Minister that Government should enhance its contribution from 1.1/6 percent to 5 percent. My second request is about the employer's contribution which is not being collected on a large scale. In the present scenario there must be some legal provision to ensure contribution of the employer. Thirdly, we have made changes in all the Trade Union Acts under the new economic policies and now closure of factories, voluntary retirement and compulsory retirement have become a common feature. Under this Act an employee is entitled for pension after attaining the age of 58 years and his pension is decided on the basis of his lifetime earnings. There are lakhs of employees who get pension of Rs. 250-300 only. The Government runs an old age pension scheme under which there is provision of minimum Rs. 400/- as pension. You have a pension scheme in which per month Rs. 250/- are given. I think it is illogical and biased. You should try to minimize the difference between such pensions. Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the minimum and maximum pension of such employees should be Rs. 1,000/- and Rs. 5,000/-. To fulfill this objective there is a need to increase rate of interest in respect of Provident Fund and the Government's contribution should also be increased and rules regarding 58 years for retirement benefits should not be applied to those employees who have retired voluntarily or compulsorily or because of company closure and the method of their service assessment may also be amended and in every way their service may be considered as 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pension should be fixed on that basis. I would like to submit my last point that the pension should also be clubbed with dearness and provisions should be made by the Government to increase their pension by incorporating the word 'dearness' in place of 'assessment'. I would like to know from hon'ble Minister as to what steps the Government would like to take on my suggestions?

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I would like to associate with him.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, you cannot associate in a Calling Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. I have got some names.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, permit me for two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ramadass, this is not a matter of right.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Sir, I am only making a request to you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Please let me tell you as to what is the position. You have not given any notice. The hon. Member, Shri Mohan Singh, gave a notice. He has been given an opportunity although it is the last day. I have allowed it because the matter is important. The question is that a maximum of five names can be allowed. That is the rule. That depends on my discretion and it is not a matter of right. I have got six more names and I will call four more hon. Members, if they assure me that they will only put the questions. There should not be any preface. If all of you are agreeable then I will do it.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia. If you are keeping quiet, then you are agreeing to my proposal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I always agree with your proposal.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, please put only question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the increase in the prices of almost all the essential commodities and the revision of pension that was done long back only for once, and in view of increase in the wages of the Central Government employees, the Central Government pensioners as well as the State Government pensioners, whether the hon. Minister will consider of not going through the valuation process because it will take time, and whether the Government will take a decision to revise the rate of pension which is now being paid to the retired employees under Employees Pension Scheme, 1995 so that they may survive. It is because they are getting a very small amount. I would like to know whether he will consider revising or raising the pension which is now being paid under the scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, only one question please.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, you have always been fighting and struggling for the

cause of labourers throughout your life. Therefore, I need your protection. I will ask question after completing my point within one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[English]

I am very aggressive about Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Ministry of Labour, Government of India had implemented pension scheme on 1.4.1994 in favour of various factory workers, small industries workers, mine workers, wool and Bidi workers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How many pages do you have?

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, now it is very hard to survive for a labourer who works hard throughout his life. Therefore, I would like to request the Government, through you, that when the Union Government and State Governments have implemented Sixth Pay Commission and the employees and pensioners are also getting its benefits, why the members of provident fund organization who are getting the benefits of the scheme 1995, are being deprived of its benefits? Therefore, keeping in view the present scenario, hard conditions of their survival, price rise, I would like to know from the Government through you whether the Government is going to enhance the pension of pensioners who are getting it from Provident Fund and benefit them by increasing the amount of pension to atleast Rs. 1000/- and prove itself to be a welfare state.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put only one question.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, those who have opted for the EPF pension have not received any increment. As the hon. Minister has rightly said, they have been given only four reliefs. In answer to my question, the hon. Minister said that the amount of accumulated pension in the EPF Fund is Rs.80,776.22 crore. Up to 2006, only Rs. 14,578.58 crore were disbursed. The rest is remaining with the EPF Fund. Still, the actuarial evaluation shows that there is deficit in the EPF Fund. I think there is some discrepancy in the actuarial evaluation. On the basis of the actuarial evaluation of the EPF Fund, they are not given benefits.

Next, commutation of the EPF Pension was given. After 100 months, they were not given the initial amount. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. Will those, who have opted for the EPF Fund, be given the initial amount? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. You gave your notice at 11.07 hours only.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): I am highly obliged to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Obliged for giving notice late? All right, in view of the importance of the matter and your commitment, only one question is allowed.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I will put my question. In just one minute, I will preface it.

I am seriously contesting the statement of the hon Minister that the Fund does not permit increase in the pension of the entitled people. I am seriously contesting it because the actuarial evaluation is different. It is not only that. He was speaking of the *aam admi*. Why can it not be supplemented by having additional allocation from the Government Budget? Mr. Minister, you are speaking of the *aam admi*. Keeping this in view, my question is: Will you take up the matter with the Government, with the Finance Ministry for having additional allocation to supplement the Scheme so that the corpus is increased to give increased pension particularly to those who are getting pension in the name only. This is the first question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No more question is allowed. I am sorry. It is enough. You have put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have no pension and nothing much. I have to survive!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I have also given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Why I mention about the time is this. I want your conscience to be troubled. It was given at 11.45

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You gave it at 12.14 hours. You want to take an undue advantage because you have given a notice. I have been requested by him. I like him very much. He said: "Sir, be liberal today."

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. M. Ramadass.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has not even given any notice. Do not do this in the next House if you are elected.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, wish me that I come back again.

MR. SPEAKER: I wish you all the best.

PROF. M. RAMADASS : Thank you, Sir.

In view of the fact that the rate of pension fixed in 1995 has not been periodically revised as in the case of workers in the organized sectors like the Government sector and the consequent economic sufferings to the working class, will the hon. Minister immediately order for the revision of pension and save the seven crore uncared for workers in the country? I would like to know whether the pension rate and the quantum of pension will be linked to the inflationary pressures in the economy instead of taking the valuation process.

MR. SPEAKER: Although he did not listen to me that day when he was here, I have allowed him.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : In view of the difficulties which have been mentioned, I would submit that some interim relief must be immediately declared because they are in real difficulties. Our elders and senior citizens are only getting a very paltry amount. The figures have been mentioned by you with regard to the Fund. Though there is enormous fund, they are not getting it. My question is this. I would like to know whether you would declare any interim relief as well as hike in pension, the minimum pension and the pension as already submitted by the concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow two more Members. The first is Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy. His leader has put a very elaborate question.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme is an excellent scheme where more than 3.56 crore workers or their family survivors are getting pension. The ESI and EPFO were having the same income parameters earlier. Now, the ESI has increased it to Rs. 10,000 whereas the EPFO has not increased and still the old scheme is continuing.

MR. SPEAKER: Just put the question please. This is not the way to do it.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : It has been proposed to increase it to Rs. 15,000 by the trade unions and also by the Standing Committee. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether any such proposal is there to increase the income parameter for the EPFO pensioners.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY (Peddapalli): Sir, not a single name was called from Congress side.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not raise your hand.

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: I had raised my hand.

MR. SPEAKER: Silently, then you will get a chance.

[English]

Calling Attention rules are very clear. I do not know whether it is justified or not, but I am allowing all breach of rules today. Therefore, I have called you today. Now I am going to call him also.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. Employees Provident Fund, Gratuity and Pension are considered to be deferred wages. It has been interpreted by the Apex Court also that these are considered deferred wages. Considering these as deferred wages and also since this scheme had been implemented 14 years back, I would like to know whether the Government will consider to revise the EPF, Gratuity and other amenities that are available to the employees.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the purpose of pension scheme was to make a retired employee financially independent. So that he could lead atleast his/her life easily. Therefore, pension scheme had been brought for organized and unorganized class as well as for working class. I had launched this scheme when I was labour Minister. Now I feel very sad when it is being implemented. We had made a provision for the spouse, if the labourer dies after his retirement. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister how many spouses/wives of the working class, labourers are getting benefit of this scheme after death of the labourer. We had included their children also in it. It is also not being implemented. Sir, I am really very sad as the scheme we had started is not being implemented as it is.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first place I would like to thank Shri Mohan Singh who has initiated this discussion and all the other hon. Members for raising a very important issue which concerns the workers of our country, especially the, low-paid workers in the country. I appreciate the concern expressed by the Members.

Sir, as I have already stated in my statement, we are reviewing the scheme. We have asked the members of the

Committee to give their suggestions as to how we can increase the corpus. This is number one. As it is we have lost a lot of money amounting to about Rs. 40,000 crore and one of the reasons for this is that commutation is permitted.

The employees are having Provident Fund, Gratuity and also when it comes to the commutation of pension, a major portion is lost. I would like to submit that one of the reasons why workers are getting low pension is that they commute the pension benefit when they retire and ultimately there is nothing left. Finally, the charge is that they are getting a less amount as pension. So, we have now decided, though there is a difference of opinion - the workers have a different opinion and the management is having a different opinion to stop commutation so that when they are getting Provident Fund and Gratuity, at least they will have a higher level of pension to be paid in their old age. This is one measure that we have taken.

The second thing is that we have asked our own members, if we have to increase the pension, the Government's contribution has to be increased. If we have to increase the pension, the employers' contribution has to be increased. Shri Mohan Singh has made a valuable suggestion that you increase the contribution. This discussion is on.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): What about Government allocation?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: My senior is very much here who had brought in the scheme and he has even talked about giving pension to the family members which is happening. There may be lapses. But the family members are getting the pension, their children are getting the pension. There may be cases where there are lapses, I am not saying that. But the scheme as it is there.

One of the reasons why again the member is getting less is that after the death of the member his family members are getting and after his wife dies, again the children are getting. But that much resource is not there in our Fund to give it down the line to the second generation also or the third person. So, it is given to the husband, rather the employee, then his wife and then to the children. This is a very long thing that is happening and there is a shortage in the Fund.

But the dialogue is on. We have formed a committee under the chairmanship of Special Secretary to find ways and means as to how to find a solution to this problem. We are also talking to the employers whether they can increase their share of the contribution in which case, the Government's part could also be discussed and we can come to a conclusion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : I thank the hon. Minister for this.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please give some assurance. ...*(Interruptions)* Will you not make some increase?

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I will not say anything at this stage. Two committees are going into this matter and after we get their recommendations, we will be able to take a decision. I thank the hon. Members for sharing their concern in this House.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 10831/09]

[Translation]

SHRI P. S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, will the issue of Telengana state not be covered under the Private Members Resolution? ...*(Interruptions)*

12.38 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA (Sikar): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the need to include the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This issue has frequently been raised by the Members of Parliament from Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)* The Rajasthani is spoken by more than six crore people in their day to day life and an assurance to include Rajasthani in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution has been given by the UPA Government on a number of occasions. Gross injustice has been done to the people of Rajasthan as well as their language Rajasthani. It is a humble request of all the Members of Parliament from Rajasthan that interests of Rajasthan should be safeguarded by including the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution and an opportunity be provided to the people of Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, we all support this demand. ...*(Interruptions)*. An assurance was given on the floor of the House by the Government that it would be included in the Eighth Schedule but so far no decision has been taken in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please send a slip. I shall allow you to be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Rajasthani language is spoken by six crore people but it has not been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told you to send a slip to get yourself associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, Shri Dangawas, Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi and Shri Nihal Chand ji, all of you may send a slip.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Do not waste the time.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ch. Lal Singh is on his legs. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Please sit down. I also associate with you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What can I do if your own colleagues do not want you to be heard?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a unanimous resolution has been adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan whereby they want to give reservation. Six months have elapsed since then and the Governor Sahib is sitting over that resolution and he is not forwarding the same. What is the reason for it? What should we do? About the Governor Sahib. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are speaking without giving a notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given an opportunity to a member of your party to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Governor Sahib has been sitting over that file for the last six months. ...*(Interruptions)*

We are unable to understand it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am listening to you. Your own colleagues do not let you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the decision was taken unanimously. What can we do if the Governor Sahib is not forwarding it? Where can we raise this matter if not here? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have not given notice about it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No doubt the matter is urgent.

[Translation]

Have you given the notice?

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had given the notice in the morning for suspension of the Question Hour but the Hon'ble Speaker had assured us that we would be given time to speak later on. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have called Shri Subhash Maharia to speak on the issue of reservation. A Member of your party has been called to speak. What else can I do?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan had passed and sent a resolution which seeks to provide five percent reservation to the Gurjar Community under the Scheduled Tribe category. Besides, a resolution providing 14% reservation to the Upper Caste poor whether it be the Rajputs, Vaishyas, Brahmins or the people belonging to other communities was unanimously passed by the Assembly and forwarded to the Governor, Rajasthan and the Central Government. That proposal is pending with the Governor Sahib. Therefore, it is the demand of all Members of Parliament from Rajasthan that extra reservation within the Schedule Tribe category be provided to Gurjars and 14% reservation be provided to the Upper Caste poor so as to provide them an opportunity to make progress. With these words I conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to say it with a great regret that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the statement of Chaudhary Lal Singh.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall get you associated with this issue. Please send a slip.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi and Shri Dushyant Singh are allowed to associate on this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rawat ji, I have already said to send your names. I will associate you with them.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit with heavy heart that a bus which was heading for Doda-Bhadrawah from Batoh in my constituency met with major accident thereby killing 39 people and inflicting injuries to 15-20 people. Ever since I have become a Member of Parliament, it is eighth or ninth accident and more than 40 people have died in each accident.

Sir, my submission is that the work on N.H.-1B is going on at a very slow pace and no work is being done properly by BRO and standard of working is not up to the mark. Sir, it is my submission that people die there in accident every time. I would like to submit through you that an amount to the tune of Rs. five lakh should be given the next to the deceased of families or poor people who have died there in accident by Government of India and Government of J & K respectively so that they can survive and lead their lives comfortably. It will be very kind of you.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, military cantonment area falls under Bareilly city in my parliamentary constituency. Problem of that area is that military administration gets the roads closed in cantonment area without any reason and rhyme and without giving prior notice to this effect. It causes a lot of problems. There is a lot of movement being it a part of the city and the main way leads to Badaun from here. But closing down the roads without prior notice creates a lot of inconvenience and sometimes civilians also have to face difficulties. I would like to submit through you that directions should be issued to the military officials of the cantonment area not to create such inconvenience to the people. If there is any problem or inconvenience, people should be intimated about it through the newspaper in advance so as to facilitate the movement of traffic on the road and not to create any problem to the people.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, the river Ganges has been declared as a national river, and the Ganga Basin Authority has been set up now. As is known to this House — we have raised this matter several times in the past — that erosion of the banks of the Ganges is a major problem for many parts of the country, particularly the districts like Murshidabad, Nadia Hooghly in West Bengal. It is affecting the railway lines and endangering the National Highways, and also the power plants.

Sir thousands of people are living in uncertainty and leading their life with fear and anxiety. I had seen for myself in my district, in a place called 'Bolaghar', which is a very famous place how people are living with full anxiety and fear throughout night that anything may happen to them because they are residing by the side of the Ganges.

Now that the river Ganges has been declared as a national river and the Ganga Basin Authority has been set up, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to just strengthen the embankment, to engage themselves for re-construction of erosion-prone areas, and also to arrange rehabilitation of these thousands of people who have been affected in these districts.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we would like to associate with him on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, please send your slip.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, the edible oils available in the market are very injurious to health. As per research conducted by Centre for Science and Environment on edible oils, one thing has come to light that Raag, Panghat, Rath and Gagan brands are the most injurious edible oils. As compared to fixed standard these brands contain 5 to 12 times more transfat, artificial fat. According to the research of CSE Adani Vilmar Limited's Raag oil is the most injurious oil, which contains maximum artificial fats i.e. 23.31 per cent which is 2 to 12 times more than the fixed standard of Denmark. Mavana Sugar Mills' Panghat oil is second among these injurious edible oils, which contains 23.7 per cent artificial fats. Similarly, quantity of artificial fats is high in Rath, Gagan, Jindal and Dalda etc. as well. Today, any brand of edible oil is not trust worthy. It seems that the Ministry of Health of Government of India is under the pressure of oil companies. It appears from the statement of the Health Minister, which is published in the newspaper, that he is helpless. He said that it was true that the edible oils did not meet their standard, but we cannot do anything in this regard.

I would demand from the Government of India through you that effective law should be enacted against the manufacturers of edible oils whose products do not meet the standard so that those people who are bent-upon marring the health of people do not get a chance to toy with the lives of people in such an arbitrary way.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government of India through you that quality construction works done by P.W.D. department of U.P. government under the Prime Minister Grameen Sadak Yojana in District Bijnor in my parliamentary constituency is very poor. Being the chairman of the Monitoring Committee there, I also made a complaint in the meeting of the committee and asked to conduct an inquiry in this regard.

But its inquiry is conducted by P.W.D. Officials only. So, it that injury is of no use. I demand that this inquiry should be conducted by a Central agency. Under the Prime Minister Grameen Sadak Yojana Inquiry of Nagina-Badapur, Nagina-Raipur-Kotkadar-Kotdwar, Akbarabad-Kiratpur, Mandawar-Balawall roads should be get conducted through a Central agency and strict action should be taken against people to be found guilty in the inquiry so that such an act is not repeated.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, I am raising a very important and urgent matter regarding the plight of the weavers.

Sir, the Silk Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies functioning in this country are manufacturing various kinds of silk materials. A large numbers of Handloom Societies are functioning in Kumbakonam, Vellore, Kanchipuram, Salem, Madurai, Chinnalapatti in my District and other places in Tamil Nadu. The Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies like Thirubuvanam Cooperative Society, Kumbakonam are producing world class saaris and they are not able to sell the finished goods in a profitable manner, with the result they are incurring losses. Since the above Cooperative Societies are sustaining heavy losses, they are not able to provide continuous jobs to poor weavers working under them. The Government of India, Ministry of Textiles had already granted loan to these cooperative societies through Cooperative Banks to the tune of Rs.2,046 crore. For Tamil Nadu alone, the loan is Rs.336 crore. Due to continuous losses, all these societies in this country are not able to repay their loan.

Therefore, considering the pathetic situation of the Silk Handloom Cooperative Societies, all the States including Tamil Nadu have sent proposals to the Government of India to waive their entire loan.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to waive their entire loan without any further delay and save the poor handloom weavers working in silk production. Further to save these Silk Handloom Cooperative Societies, the Government of India has to take certain steps to supply Gold Gilt Silver Thread, Real Gold Thread and other raw materials at a genuine and affordable price to these societies without the intervention of middlemen.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise here to bring a very important issue before this House. There is a longstanding struggle in the Capital City, Trivendrum, towards the establishment of a Bench of the Kerala High Court in the State Capital.

Now, the agitation is going on for a long time. It has entered in *hartal*, boycott of the courts and also *bandhs*. Even the Chairperson of the UPA Government has also agreed towards this demand. Even all the political parties and all the organizations are agreed in this matter. But so far, no order has been issued. I must also inform this House that the Kerala Assembly twice adopted unanimously a Resolution towards the establishment of a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandram.

So far, the Central Government has not issued a notification restoring the Bench. It can be done within a week or within a day if the Government is willing to issue a notification under the provisions of the State Reorganizations Act. The matter can be settled then and there. All parties have agreed.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to issue the notification before the announcement of the Elections. Do not evade the people on this issue because it may become an Election issue if the notification is not issued before Elections and the political parties will be divided. The issue is unanimously accepted by all the political parties. Delaying the issuance of notification is doing injustice to the unity of the people.

So, I would request the Central Government, before the declaration of the election notification, to take particular care to see that a Notification is issued towards the establishment of the Bench of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has come in the past. Now, I would request Mr. M. Shivanna to speak.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The opinion of the Judiciary is not at all necessary. The Governor has also firmly recommended. ...*(Interruptions)* We are insisting that the judicial concurrence is not necessary. I hope the Government will rise to the occasion and see that the Bench is established.

With these words, I once again request the Government to issue the Notification and do justice to the people of Kerala.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajanagar) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an important matter pertaining to acute shortage of power supply in my Parliamentary Constituency Chamarajanagar.

Sir, Chamarajanagar district is a hilly region. It is also a backward district. People are facing great difficulties due to frequent cuts in power supply. People belonging to lower strata of society like tribals, nomads, semi nomads, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe constitute a major portion of the population in my constituency. All these people are living below the poverty line. The UPA Government has brought an ambitious scheme to provide free and adequate power to rural people. But the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme has not been implemented effectively. More than 50% of the villages in my constituency have still not been covered. I am unable to understand why this Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme has not been effectively implemented.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Therefore, I request the UPA Government to take necessary steps to implement the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme effectively, to supply uninterrupted power to the people of my constituency and all the BPL families should be given free power supply.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I speak from here?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA : Sir, the Government of India in principle accepted Kuttanad package of Rs. 1,840 crore on the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee which studied the problems of this area, which has faced recently the worst agrarian crisis.

However, so far no concrete steps have been taken to implement the recommendations by the Centre. Although the State Government has formed a Prosperity Council under the Chairmanship of the hon. Chief Minister and a budget allocation has been earmarked in the State Budget, the Centre has not yet released any fund towards the specific purpose. This hampers its implementation. The Swaminathan Committee has suggested measures in accordance with the peculiar geographical situation of Kuttanad and surrounding areas. Kuttanad is totally different from other areas of the country with its peculiar landscape position below the sea level. Hence, while taking measures to protect the environment and agriculture, this particular aspect of the area should be taken into consideration.

I urge upon the Government to sanction the proposed projects, building strong dykes, recommended by the Committee and release adequate funds for this proposal.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, I am requesting the Government of India through you that many brave people of India who fought for the freedom of our country are being forgotten. Today, on the occasion of death anniversary of Veer Savarkar, I saw that there was no garland on portrait in the Central Hall. It is very sad. On the occasion of death anniversary of Veer Savarkar, I today demand from the Government, through you, that the highest citizen honour 'Bharat Rama' should be conferred upon him posthumously. He was such a brave warrior of freedom struggle, who at a very young age, put himself to fight against the British Rule. Inspired by patriotism Veer Savarkar remained allegiance to the pursuit of freedom and inspired many revolutionaries. He inspired countless youth to stand against the British Rule. British Government levelled many charges against him when it saw him involved into this work.

13.00 hrs.

He was awarded life imprisonment twice. After being awarded the sentence of Kala Pani, he fearlessly said in the Court of Law that what was the guarantee that their Government would continue for so many years. Such a courageous person, who sacrificed his life for the nation and spent about ten thousand days in the jail while shifting his place, should be awarded with the title of Bharat-Ratna for his integrity and patriotism. This is my request to Government of India. In this context, I am to submit a small thing. France Government had caught him at Marcelice on 10.7.1910, a Mumbai based organization is going to make a memorial at that very place, it requires Central Government's approval, but government is delaying this matter. I urge the central government to give its approval.

13.01 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

- (i) Regarding need for early implementation of the Gramin Dak Sewak Committee Report

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the plight of more than three lakh Gram Dak Sewaks. Their nomenclature has been changed from Extra Departmental Employees to Gram Dak Sewaks, but there has not been any improvement in their salary nor are they being paid retirement benefits. These Gram Dak Sewaks are the backbone of postal services in our country. They are maintaining 80 per cent of the postal services, particularly in the rural areas.

Justice Talwar Committee was constituted in the nineties. This Committee had recommended to improve their salaries and also recommended for retirement benefits. Those recommendations were not implemented in spite of the assurances given on the floor of this House. So, these workers had to go on strike a number of times.

Subsequently, when 6th Pay Commission was constituted, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Natarajan Murthy was constituted. That Committee made certain negative recommendation and even diluted the benefits which these three lakh Gram Dak Sewaks were getting. When there was a demand for modification of the recommendation, then another Committee was constituted. That Committee also made negative recommendation. When there was a strike by these workers, they were assured that modification would be made so that these three lakh Extra Departmental Employees would get benefit. That committee also did not make any positive recommendation.

The National Federation of Postal Employees submitted a number of modifications as to how the recommendation can be modified. I urge upon the Government to take positive steps so that these modifications are made to the recommendations which were made by earlier Committee and which have diluted even the benefits these employees are getting, and Extra Departmental Employees', who are demanding retirement benefits, pay and allowances are at par with that of Central Government employees.

There is a huge gap between the pay of extra-departmental employees and the Government employees after implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve their salary, and the retirement benefits should also be given to this category of employees under the Postal Department.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, I associate myself with Basudeo Acharya.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I associate myself with Basadeo Acharya.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Sir, I too, associate myself with Basudeo Acharya.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those who want to associate with Basudeo Archarya may produce their slips here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please listen to me. Those who want to associate themselves with Basudeo Acharya may produce their slips here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: S/Shri Sunil Khan, P.C. Thomas, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya, Chandra Mani Tripathi, P.S. Gadhavi, K. Francis George, Adv. Suresh Kurup, S. Ajaya Kumar, N. N. Krishnadas, Ram Kripal Yadav, P. Rajendran, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Braja Kishore Tripathy, Brahmananda Panda, and Shrimati C.S. Sujatha would like to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the Minister should respond on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri Antulay, is present in the House, and he should respond on this issue that the Government will consider it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Please do not compel them to go on strike. ...*(Interruptions)* The Minister wants to respond on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): The hon. Member has raised a very vital point, and it seems that the consensus of the House is also with him. On behalf of the Government, I assure that it will be taken very seriously, and as far as possible it will be implemented soon.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Thomas to raise his matter of urgent importance. You can raise only one of the two issues listed against your name.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the Southern Region of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is flooded with a number of schools. There are 2,400 schools coming under the Southern Region with the head office in Chennai. It has to be bifurcated.

In Kerala itself there are 800 schools, and there are about 200 applications pending. Therefore, the total comes to about 1,000 schools. It is only in the interest of justice, and for the interest of better administration that a Regional Office be established in Kerala.

As regards the other new offices that were established in Bhubaneswar — it has got only 550 schools — and Patna — it has got 550 schools — it is very good, and we all support it. In Kerala, there are already 800 schools plus 200 schools coming up. Therefore, it is just that immediately a Regional Office should be established there.

I would like to submit that in all the other offices — where the Regional Headquarters are there — like in Allahabad, Ajmer, Chandigarh and Guwahati I find that the number of schools are much less than in the Southern Region. Therefore, it is very urgent and immediately necessary that this bifurcation be done, and a Regional Office be given to Kerala preferably in my home district Kottayam.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I state with regret that health services in Delhi have been totally paralysed and life of thousands of patients have been put at risk. Group 'C' and 'D' employees working under Central Govt. Health Scheme and those working in Delhi Govt. Hospitals, AIIMS and in Ram Manohar Lohia have gone on strike. Consequently, the strike was commenced from 23 Feb, 2009 and thousands of patients are not receiving treatment due to strike. OPDs and labs are lying closed down. Tests are not being conducted there. Tests are not being conducted in Radiology, X-ray and Blood Pressure Department. Health Services are severely affected.

This has caused continued troubles to the patients which has given discomfiture among their family members. Private Hospitals are charging arbitrarily. So, therefore I would like to request the Government of India to get this strike called off immediately. Initially, out of the facilities admissible to them, seven hundred rupees used to be given to them as monthly allowance. This should be continued while discrepancies arising out of new Insurance Scheme should be done away with so that strike may be called off and lives of patients can be saved.

I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I rise to support Sh. Rasa Singhji.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, lives of thousands of patients are in danger.

There is absolute deadlock in hospitals. Honourable Minister is present here. All the hospitals in Delhi are afflicted with chaos. No work is in progress due to the absence of CoD staffs. Therefore strike is warranted to be called off. They were getting seven hundred rupees a month, it should be kept intact. The discrepancies caused due to the implementation of Sixth Pay Commission should be ironed out.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the BHPV Limited has been taken over by the BHEL in the month of May, 2008. This became possible because of the concerted efforts of the UPA Government. This benefited five thousand families. Although nearly ten months have passed since the take over, the issue of wage revision for employees, due from 1st January, 1997, still remains unaddressed. The employees there, are suffering

a lot financially as they are still drawing their salaries based on the scales of 1992. Reconstitution of the BHPV Board is still in progress. Hence, I would request the Minister of Heavy Industries to instruct the concerned authorities to implement wage revision for the employees of BHPV, Visakhapatnam immediately.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, this is regarding the categorization among the SCs in Andhra Pradesh. As one section felt that most backward among the SCs are not getting the benefit of reservations, there was a prolonged agitation throughout the State for quite sometime. The previous Government of Andhra Pradesh had agreed to the demand and implemented it. All political parties supported it. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly also unanimously adopted a Resolution urging the Union Government to bring the categorization at Delhi. The Supreme Court rejected the Andhra Pradesh Government's decision on categorization on technical grounds. After that, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly has unanimously adopted the Resolution. The Union Government has appointed the Usha Mehra Commission on this issue which submitted its report in early 2008. There is a lot of unrest among people as the Government has not taken any decision in this regard till now. A very big agitation is going on. As the last session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha is about to end, I urge upon the Government of India to introduce the categorization of SCs in the Reservation Act immediately and do justice to the most backward and downtrodden sections among the SCs in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIYA (Karimganj): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very sentimental issue of our valley, the Barak Valley. In the year 1961, in Barak Valley there was an unprecedented non-violent movement and the demand was to induct Bengali as one of the State languages in Assam. As a part of that movement, on 19th of May that year there was a programme of Satyagraha in a railway station. On that day, police fired on 11 Satyagrahis who became martyrs for the cause of our language.

The 40-lakh people of our Valley were united and people from all the political parties, all religions and castes joined the movement. Now, they want to pay tribute to those martyrs. They demanded that the Silchar Railway Station, where those Satyagrahis became martyrs, be re-named as Bhasha Saheed Station, and the Agartala-Silchar Express Train be re-named as Bhasha Saheed Express.

The people of our Valley want to pay homage to the martyrs who laid their lives for our language. I know that the hon. Railway Minister is considering that case. It is under

the consideration of the Railway Ministry. But my request is that this change as desired by the people of our Valley may be accorded as soon as possible so that we can pay homage to our martyrs:- who will be remembered forever.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have received just now three more names; since today is the last day of the Session, as a special case, I will allow only these three more names and not more.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, food security is posing a very serious challenge against our nation, as all of you know.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given a notice with regard to increasing procurement price of paddy.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : I will come to that.

The farming community of our country is trying to increase the production of food grains. But the farming community is not at all getting the remunerative price comparing the cost of production of paddy and some other food grains. Now the Government of India is procuring paddy at the rate of Rs. 9 per kg. In our State itself, the Government of Kerala is procuring paddy at the rate of Rs. 12 per kg. So, I urge upon the Government of India to enhance the procurement price of paddy at least at the rate of Rs. 15 per kg. It will be helpful for the farming community of the nation. So, I urge upon the Government to declare immediately the procurement price of paddy at Rs. 15 per kg.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): While placing the Interim Budget in the Lok Sabha, at that time, there was also a report of the Standing Committee on Empowerment of Women, which said that the nationalized banks had not followed the guidelines of the RBI in disbursement of loans at the rate of five per cent to SHGs, especially to women.

But the RRBs are also providing loans at the rate of more than five per cent. So, the All India RRB Employees' Association, representing a majority of both the officers and the employees has consistently been demanding since 1978, that there should be a National Rural Bank of India at the apex level, exclusively for giving rural and agricultural credit which will be answerable to Parliament.

AIRRBEA has taken a massive mass campaign programme up to 28th February 2009 for the formation of NRBI, delinking from the sponsor banks, opening of rural branch of each block headquarters with mobile branches for all the villages supported by adequate staff through recruitment and promotion without any bar.

The problem of disbursement of loan especially in the remote areas of Bihar and North East India, where there is

no bank. In this situation, the RRBs have proved beyond that their superiority in the rural banking area with a unique blend of the cooperatives and professional acumen of commercial banks.

I urge upon the Government to provide Self Help Groups, especially to women all over the villages of India, so as to make them self-reliant. In real terms that will be the 'Bharat Nirman'. So, the Government should open RRBs in every block and village. This is my earnest request to the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At the moment, nobody from the Panel of Chairmen is present in the House. I would, therefore, request Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, since his name was also there in the List of Panel of Chairmen in the last Lok Sabha to come and presided over the proceedings of the House.

13.21 hrs.

(SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY *in the Chair*)

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, various spices, especially pepper, are allowed to be imported free of import duty by the Spices Oleoresin Industry for value addition and re-export. Sir, the retention period for value addition and re-export of this imported goods was 90 days. Actually, 75 per cent of the spices used by the industry for value addition are imported and so, there is not much benefit for the farmers from this industry.

Recently, the industry got the period of re-export extended to 120 days from 90 days, and it is said that they keep these products in their hands even up to 360 days leading to many malpractices which were detected by the Spices Board leading to the cancellation of some of their licences. At the same time, there is an allegation that these exporters are selling these products in the local market. They are off and on selling these imported spices without paying duty and thus depressing the prices. I need not say that it affects our farmers' interest.

The Kerala Government had represented to the Central Government and had said that the retention period should be strictly 9 days. On the plea of the world recession it is alleged by the farming community and the small trading community in spices that the industry is again trying to get an extension of the period of re-export from the Commerce Ministry. I need not say that this will again cause fall in the prices of spice. So, I would request the Government, the Commerce Ministry not to allow any extension and to strictly restrict the period of value added spice products to 90 days.

That is my request and I hope that the Government will consider it favourably to help the spice farmers so that they will get reasonably good price for their products.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A. V. Bellarmin – Not present.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): The Government had announced setting up of a Regional Institute of Paramedical Sciences at Kozhikode and had sought necessary assistance and co-operation from the State Government of Kerala in the implementation of the project. The State Government welcomed the move and responded immediately by assuring handing over of land for the project; making available facilities at the Medical College, Kozhikode and its attached hospitals and laboratories for training of students of the Regional Institute of Paramedical Sciences Kozhikode. In spite of these assurances given long ago, final approval of the project has not yet been accorded and thus implementation of the project has not started so far. I therefore, strongly urge the Government to expedite final approval of the project and initiate implementation during the current financial year.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Directorate of Army Ordnance Core is discriminating against its own employees of various categories. There is gross discontent among the employees deprived of this benefit. Officials of the rank of store-keeper are being provided with promotion and other allied benefits. At the same time, the officials of clerical categories entrusted with the same nature of duties have been deprived of this benefit.

A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Brigadier Gautam way back in Dec. 1988 by Ministry of Defence to remove this anomaly. This Committee submitted its report to the Director General, Army Ordnance Corp on 13th May having undertaken the studies for promotion of the employees of clerical and store-keeper categories. The above Committee had also recommended to form a new category encompassing both storekeepers and clerks. In case it is not feasible, promotion of 60% clerks and 40% storekeepers be ensured into this category. It is regretted that the recommendations of this Committee have not been implemented even after the lapse of two decades. There is an increasing demand to implement the recommendations of the Committee thanks to certain pressure, however, it is being overlooked. I would like to ask the Honourable Minister to implement the recommendations of the Committee and thus accommodate the deprived Army personnel across the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can raise only one matter.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIK SINGH (Sidhi): Sir, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme certainly aims at improving the economic conditions of the rural people and labourers living on daily wages so that they may earn their livelihood. I would make a particular mention of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh, the Constituency which I represent. As many as 28 children died there due to malnutrition. Their wages are due for the last six months. The village headmen (sarpanch) have to shell out from 35 percent to 40 percent towards evaluation and PS services. I would like to urge upon the Honourable Minister to constitute a committee to ensure the compliance of NREGA in an effective manner.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I am not going into the details as our leader, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, has raised this issue. Around three lakh employees working in the Postal Department were earlier named as extra departmental employees. Even after 30 to 40 years of service, they are deprived of pension. Today, even the agricultural workers are getting pension but these Government employees are deprived of pension. Their wages are very low. They are even below the minimum wages. It is a long cherished demand that they may be treated as the Government employees. The issue of their pay revision is long pending. They have given notice for strike from 3rd March, 2009.

I urge upon the Government of India to consider their plight and give pay revision to them and accept them as Government employees at the earliest, in view of the recommendations of the Nataraja Murthy Commission.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those hon. Members who want to associate with Shri P. Rajendran may send slips.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Francis George and Shrimati P. Sathedevi are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri P. Rajendran.

...(Interruptions)

13.28 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS – *Contd.*

(ii) **Regarding reported move to privatize Cochin Shipyard by the Government of India**

[English]

ADV. SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, Cochin Shipyard is the most important public sector undertaking in

Kerala. There is a history behind the establishment of Cochin Shipyard in Kerala. During the sixties a big agitation was there under the leadership of late Comrade A.K. Gopalan in which almost all political parties participated and the Central Government was forced to establish this undertaking in Kerala. During the period of the last Government, there was a move to privatize the Cochin Shipyard. All the trade unions and all the political parties in Kerala participated in an agitation and at last that Government was forced to withdraw that move.

Now, all of a sudden the Central Government has announced its intention to disinvest the Cochin Shipyard. This Government has no right to do that. This lame duck Government, which is already in the limbo, has no moral right to take such a decision on the eve of the election.

So, I would request the Government to withdraw this move and not to disinvest this profit-making public sector undertaking. This is the sentiment of Kerala. I again and again would request the Government to announce that they have no intention to privatize the Cochin Shipyard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: All those hon. Members who want to associate with Shri Suresh Kurup, they may send slips. All of them can be accommodated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati P. Sathedeve, Dr. K.S. Manoj, Shri N.N. Krishnadas, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha and Shri K. Francis George are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Advocate Shri Suresh Kurup.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, we request the hon. Minister to respond. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirip Chaliha please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please send the slips and you will be allowed to associate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called another Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The hon. Minister may respond whether the Government will reconsider or review this decision to disinvest the Cochin Shipyard. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not responding. I cannot force him to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, you will be allowed to associate. Please send your slips.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already called Shri Kirip Chaliha.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is not responding.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Another hon. Member is already on his legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already made your point.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to one of the most serious allegation of irregularities in the appointment of 3rd and 4th grade employees in the NF Railway in Assam. The allegation is that without following norms and rules, some officers at their own instance, are giving appointment letters. ...*(Interruptions)* This is improper. This is not proper. I am on my legs and I am saying something. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The hon. Minister, Shri Vayalar Ravi, has now come to the House. He may please respond to our issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...*

*Not recorded

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot compel the Minister to respond. If he wants to respond he can respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. The other hon. Member is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): Sir, I believe, the hon. Members have raised a very important issue. I have seen a report in the media that there is a proposal to make it a company and sell the shares to some private partner or something like that. It is true that as the President of the first Union, which I created in the shipyard, I was very much associated with that institution. When I saw this report, of course, I was quite surprised. It is a profit-making institution. I believe I can use my good offices, whatever I can, with the Government or the Ministers that they should not resort to such a thing of a private partner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is responding. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : The UPA Government, in their National Common Programme, had declared on the first day itself that any of the profit-making unit will not be disinvested. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is responding in the same tune. The hon. Minister is responding. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, as the hon. Members have raised the issue and definitely it is a concern of the hon. Members from Kerala and even for the public also, it will be taken up with the Government and with the concerned Ministry and I will try to see that it should not create a problem.

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): Sir, unemployment problem is one of the major problems for the people of my State Assam and the North East because young youths do not get jobs. They even take resort to arms. We have all kinds of problems there. As such, the Railways are one of the biggest avenues in which employment can be given.

Sir, there are reports that almost 8,000 Group III and Group IV posts are still laying vacant in the NF Railways.

Unfortunately, there have been allegations and it has been coming out in the newspapers during the recent days that flouting all rules and regulations, certain jobs are being given through backdoor. This has vastly agitated the minds of the youths. In fact, some of the youth organizations have even condemned us saying that they are condemning us for our silence. They are demanding actions from us. They are saying that they will lead an agitation for our non-performance.

Sir, under these circumstances, as the hon. Minister of Railways is also here, I would like to demand that an inquiry be made to find out the truth and if there is any wrong, strong steps should be taken against guilty people and jobs for the locals should be ensured in the NF Railways in Assam.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the lives of fishermen is very miserable. I belong to the fishing community and I am very much convinced or rather experienced about the miseries of fishermen. Fishing is the only occupation where the wages are not guaranteed. The *per capita* income of fishermen is less than of that of an average Indian citizen. That means that have only half lives as compared to others. It is usually said that they are born in debts, continued to be in debt traps throughout their lives and leave behind debts to their family members when they die. So, an in-depth study of indebtedness of fishermen should be made.

Sir, the Government of Kerala has passed a legislation and constituted the Fishermen Debt Relief Commission. But even after repeated requests from the Government of Kerala, no assistance has been given to the State. There are a number of Fishermen Cooperative Societies from which most of the fishermen take credits were not included. That means a majority of fishermen are exempted from the debt relief.

So, I urge upon the Government to establish a national Debt Relief Commission for fishermen for an in-depth study of indebtedness of fishermen and give relief to them. In the meantime, the Debt Relief Commission formed by the Government of Kerala may be financially assisted by the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri E. Dayakar Rao.

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO (Warangal) : Thank you, Sir. I am a newly elected member, so, kindly give me more time to speak. Sir, every day I am protesting on behalf of Andhra Pradesh for one hour in front of Gandhi statue near parliament entrance. Sir, CPI, CPI(M), TRS and TOP parties

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu

are fighting for this cause for the last four years. In 1970, Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra came to an agreement and Sri Ram Sagar Project (SRSP) was completed in the Telangana Region. Rs. 6.11 crores were paid for land acquired from Maharashtra. In that acquired land, Babli Project is taking shape, and it is a violation of inter-state accord. 'Bachaavat' tribunal was formed in 1956 to oversee water disputes. Maharashtra Government violated the directions given by 'Bachaavat' tribunal and started constructing 'Babli' project. This issue was brought to the notice of State Government. Our leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu, brought this issue to the notice of Prime Minister and the President. We also held dharnas and protests in Delhi. We filed a case in Supreme Court regarding this issue. Our State Government also filed a case in this regard. As the State Government of Andhra Pradesh could not produce proper necessary documents, we could not get a stay from Supreme Court. Even after, Supreme Court's direction for Central Government's intervention in the matter and to settle the matter amicably by calling Chief Ministers of two states, there is no action either on the part of the State Government or the Central Government. Apart from Babli project, there are 11 projects that are being constructed by Maharashtra Government. I request the Central Government.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should respond to this issue. This is a very serious issue.

[Translation]

SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : In the last four years, our leader Yerran Naidu in Lok Sabha and Ravula Chandra Shekhara Rao in Rajya Sabha have raised this issue often. Recently, we brought this issue to the notice of the Prime Minister and the President. Around 80 MLAs and MLCs from Andhra Pradesh have along with the cadres of CPI and CPI(M) protested in Delhi under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu. Around 3000 farmers participated in this dharna. Sri Ram Sagar Project is the only irrigation project in Telangana Region. Central Government is aware of this fact and they got a report from Ministry of Water Resources.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please come to the point.

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : Because of 'Babli' project and other 11 projects, Sri Ram Sagar Project will be submerged. There is a mention of this illegal project in that

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu

report. We request that the report may be implemented. A committee was constituted to look into this matter and that committee also declared this project as illegal in its report. Every day, I am protesting in front of Gandhi statue for one hour and all members of this House expressed their support to this cause.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your demand? Please tell.

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : This is my only request, Sri Ram Sagar Project is the only project in Telangana, 18 lakhs of acres of land will go dry. 'Babli' is an illegal project and my only request is to stop this project immediately.

[English]

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

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : This is an illegal project being carried on by the Government of Maharashtra. They do not have clearance from the Union Water Resources Ministry. Due to construction of Babli project, the Sri Ram Sagar Project will be submerged. Hence, the construction of Babli project may be stopped immediately.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I compel them?

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : I am protesting every day. I got elected only because of this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you so much. Please conclude. You have made your point.

[Translation]

*SHRI E. DAYAKAR RAO : I resigned as MLA and contested elections for MP. While, taking oath in the presence of Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and Prime Minister, I requested them to stop the construction of Babli project. I request that our legitimate demands be heard and granted.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the major issue in Telangana. ... (Interruptions)

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can associate with it. There is no problem.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)* ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please send slips. Your names will be associated.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. This is an inter-State matter.

(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of utmost urgency that the Government should address the skyrocketing price rise of gold and the consequent predicaments it has caused for the poor goldsmiths and jewellers. It is a wonderful phenomenon that the gold is priced thrice in a day unlike any other commodity. The price of this yellow metal has risen three times during these five years from Rs. 3,392 per sovereign in 2002 to Rs. 10,672 at present.

Sir, it is quite true that the price of gold has close relevance to the customary factors like inflation, stock market, dollar price bank rate of interest etc. But the traditional factors that propel the market forces, such as supply and demand of this precious commodity play a vital role in its pricing. The major gold producing countries South Africa and Indonesia have made a cut in their production, thus leaving a gap of 400 tonnes every year. 2,600 tonnes are made available in the market every year whereas the global demand is 3,000 tonnes. Further, owing to the global economic meltdown strewn its impact everywhere and the volatility of the Stock Market, the investors have preferred procurement of gold and hoarding it creating an artificial scarcity of the yellow metal in the market. In addition, online trade in the gold market has worsened the situation and the price of the metal registers- an increase of Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per sovereign everyday without showing any sign of decrease. It is stupendous to note that online trade in gold is taking place for nearly Rs. Seven lakh everyday. The middle class who cannot avoid gold to comply with their rituals and social conventions and the Goldsmiths who are already languishing in joblessness due to import of foreign jewellery find themselves in jeopardy.

So, the Government should come down heavily on this and ban the online trade in gold.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh, the sub castes of fisherman community - Mallah, Kewat, Nishad, Batham, Tiayar, Chai, Khairaha. Turha/Turaiha, Bind, Dhiwar/Dhimar, Rayakwar, Kahar/Kashyap, Majhi/Godia (Nickname), are socially, economically and educationally very backward. The sub-castes of the fisherman community (God, Khadwar, Majhwar and Turcha) in Uttar Pradesh have been included in the list of Scheduled Castes but the rest of the sub-castes have been deprived of the same - while they cherish same personal intimacy in terms of marriage, food lifestyle, customs etc. They are similar on various practices.

Sir, in the wake of the demands raised by the said deprived sub-castes the erstwhile UP Government, in the Cabinet Meeting held on 19 Feb, 2004 made the recommendations for inclusion of the said sub-castes in the category of Scheduled Caste. In this backdrop the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment vide its letter No. 12016/25/200 SCD (RLCELL) UP, Dated 8 April, 2004 asked for an ethnographical survey/studies of the said sub castes of the fisherman community to oversee its justification. Subsequently, Acting on the direction issued by the State Government, the Director, SC & ST Research and Training Institute, Lucknow conducted an ethnographical survey/studies of the said fisherman community in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh.

In its studies, SC & ST Commission has observed that the element of traditional untouchability still exists among the above deprived castes of fisherman community. Throwing light upon it and explaining it, it has further, been mentioned that they share matrimonial relations with common life-style and are interm related to one another on various fronts. ...(Interruptions) This issue pertains to crores of people of the state. Please allow me for two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's Okay. You can raise one issue.

SHRI SANKHLAL MAJHI: In their ethnographical reports, the research center has written that the marriage rituals prevalent among them are similar to God, Beldar, Majhwar, Kharwar, Tureha who have been accorded the status of Scheduled Tribes. By pointing out this fact, it was written there that there was valid ground to incorporate them into the list of scheduled tribes. Based on that, the State Government's Social Welfare Section-3 vide its letter nos. 3895/26.3.2003-3 (37/90) dated 31st December, 2004, second letter 971/26.3.2000-03 (87) 90 TC dated 16 May,

2006 and third letter 292 c.m. (1) 26.3.2006-3(37)90 TC dated 6.11.2006 and last letter number 292 CM (1) 26.3.2006-03 (37)90 TC dated 12 January, 2007 sent the valid recommendation made by the SC ST Research Training Institute, Lucknow to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please spell out what your demand is.

SHRI SHANKHLAL MAJHI: I have come to the concluding point that it's valid recommendation has been sent to the Ministry of social justice and empowerment, Delhi. SCST Research and Training Institute carries out survey of scheduled castes and determines the fact whether any valid ground exists for bestowing reservation to the said castes or not. They have accepted it and has forwarded a recommendation to the Govt. of India that the said castes may be included in the list of scheduled castes.

In this context, I would like to add this point. For the whole of India, there is one Constitution and the criteria given in the Constitution is that the people who are financially, socially and educationally backward should be provided reservation so as to bring them into the mainstream. They are the economically backward castes from Uttar Pradesh. Today in the whole of India, there is, perhaps, not a single locality, even, for the dalit community, where there is not a single pucca house but, there is not one but thousands of localities belonging to these fishermen of U.P. where even after the passage of sixty year of independence, not even a single pucca building exists. This is the strongest evidence of their economic backwardness. From the educational point of view, from these castes whose number runs into crores, there is not even a single IAS or IPS officer and in government jobs their share is only 0.01 per cent. We don't need any further proof of their educational backwardness and from sociological point of view, it is that society about which thousands of years ago Goswamiji had written that – Lok Ved Sab Bhathhin, Neecha, Jaasu, Chhain Chui, Leu Seencha i.e. fishing communities are untouchables and such a low caste.

In this regard on 9th September and on 16th December a delegation of dozens of MPs called on the Prime Minister and presented this matter before him and made a demand that these castes fulfill all the specifications, qualification and eligibility for including them in the list of scheduled castes and the State Government also has recommended their inclusion to the list, therefore, our demand is that you may please give instructions to the Government of India to include the above said left out sub-castes of fishing

community of Uttar Pradesh to the list of scheduled castes.

By desiring the patronage of all of my MP colleagues who are present here, through you, I am raising a demand that the fishing community of Uttar Pradesh may be accorded the States of Scheduled Caste.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I have names of six more speakers who have given late notices and are allowed by the hon. Deputy Speaker as a special case because this is the last day of the Session of this Lok Sabha, so, I am allowing them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, the previous NDA Government had taken a decision to set up hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in six states of the country, on demand basis. In this context land is available in my parliamentary constituency of Phulwarisharif, near Balmi for AIIMS. However with deep regret, I am compelled to say that construction work of the hospital is going at a snail's pace. Owing to this reason the set targets were not achieved. The Minister of Health of the UPA Government had given assurances many times that by acting expeditiously they would complete the construction, by allotting required funds, work would be completed in the stipulated time. Sir, as you are aware and I feel that the same situation might be prevailing in your state also. Bihar and Orissa are backward states. The common people are facing a lot of hardships there owing to the absence of a hospital on the lines of AIIMS or any super speciality hospital. The poor are not capable of approaching AIIMS for treatment. They are not in a position to come to Delhi for the treatment instead they lose their lives there. When they don't have the money to come to Delhi, how can they reach Delhi? Their situation is very bad. Proper treatment should be provided even to the people who are affected with minor diseases. But they do not get treatment in any of the hospitals in Bihar, especially in the capital town Patna. They do not get any kind of treatment. From there, usually they refer the patients to Delhi or AIIMS.

Sir, the people belonging to those states are facing so many hardships. The people there, are nurturing the hope that if the construction of the hospital gets over very quickly, the people of Bihar and Patna who have been affected with many diseases and are not in a position to get treatment due to penury, would get proper treatment. If you take a look at AIIMS, you will see that 60 percent of the patients availing treatment there belong to Bihar. Hence they are facing many

difficulties. Through you, I urge the Minister of Health and especially the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene in this matter. The amount which has been allocated is very insufficient, due to this reason, the work is not being done there on a war footing. Even the hon'ble High Court has also intervened. Despite that no concrete work is being done there.

Sir, through you, I specially urge the Minister of Health that by allocating more and more funds, please construct a hospital on the lines of AIIMS and within the stipulated time so that people are provided with medical treatment facility there and people are saved from travelling to Delhi for treatment. Please save the people who are dying because of utter penury. It is my request. Please take action in this regard without any delay.

13.57 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue of our State, that is the issue of declaration of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat as a 'National Project' by the Government of India.

Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat and its canal are the life line for the people of Gujarat. This Project is also very much important for three other States, that is, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh.

In our country, many similar projects have been declared as 'National Projects'. Declaration of this Project as a 'National Project', it is the demand of the Government of Gujarat and the people of Gujarat before the Government of India. But I fail to understand why the Government of India is not declaring this Project as a 'National Project' even though the people of Gujarat are agitating on this issue. It is a long-standing demand because the Sardar Sarovar Dam can irrigate the dry areas of my constituency, that is Kutch and north Gujarat where there is also such demand. If this project is not being declared as a 'National Project', then why many other such projects have been declared as 'National Projects' by the Government of India?

So, my only demand, through you, to the Government of India, is that the Sardar Sarovar Dam Project on Narmada River in Gujarat be declared as a 'National Project'.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, the whole world is facing economic recession. We are also affected by this and today it is the priority of our country to strengthen the

basic infrastructure facilities to overcome it. Infrastructure development is also the priority of UPA Government.

14.00 hrs.

It is the priority of the entire nation and it is our priority in Five Year Plan as well. The National Highway Development Programme was initiated during the NDA regime and very good results have been seen. We are about to achieve the target in Golden Quadrilateral project but my charge against this Government is that they did not pay attention to north-south, east-west corridor and today we are lagging behind the target fixed for north-south and east-west corridor. I would like to say that the Government may conduct enquiry into it so that the reason are ascertained due to which this programme is lagging behind. The report should be presented before the country. I demand that the national highway number 3, which goes from Agra to Mumbai, is very old and important from the economic and security point of view. Works should be started expeditiously to convert it into four lanes and I may be apprised of it as to when the work will be started so that the economic development of Madhya Pradesh, most of the parts which come under this corridor can be made. I would like to know, through you, the position in this regard.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, ex-service men of the country, from the rank sepoy to General, staged demonstration and dharna in recent past at Jantar Mantar. They have been demanding one rank one pension for long time. It is ridiculous that a Colonel who retires today gets more pension than a General who retired 15-20 years ago. A Subedar Major who retired before 15 years gets less pension than a sepoy who retires today. I think that we should take decision to enhance the dignity of armed forces that their present pension should be given and calculated as per the rank from which they retire. I would like to say that the Government may maintain the honour of ex-servicemen by taking quick decision in forthcoming days so that they may not return their medals and not stage any dharna and demonstration. I demand this. Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (Tura): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak.

Sir, I would like to inform this august House that the tribal communities of Sikkim namely, Limboo and Tamang were granted Scheduled Tribe status as early in the year 2003. Yet, both these tribes have been deprived of the benefit of reservation of Scheduled Tribe seats in the State Assembly

elections due to gross mistake in the Representative of the People Act, 1950. In the 2004 General Elections and the State Assembly Election, these two tribes did not get the benefit of Scheduled Tribe reservation.

The State Legislative Assembly had passed a Resolution No. 10 titled 'Resolution on the reservation of seats for the newly added Scheduled Tribes (Limboos and Tamangs) in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly' on 23rd December, 2008 proposing reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang tribes by providing an amendment in Section 7(IA) of the Representative of People Act, 1950. But the Representative of the People Act, 1950 has not been amended till date to include these two tribes so that reservation would be provided to them in the coming elections.

Sir, I would like to impress upon the Government that as there is not much time left for the General Election, it would be absolutely necessary that the Government may issue a necessary Ordinance for reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang tribes immediately so that these two tribes will not be deprived of their fundamental rights.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramana-thapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I speak on behalf of the DMK Party which is headed by our revered leader, Dr. Kalignar Karunanidhi, who is a senior citizen in the country. We also feel proud to record in this august House that he, as the Chief Minister, is a role model to many States in implementing the welfare schemes of the poor people.

Sir, there is a naval airport in my constituency in a place called 'Uchipalli'. From there, it takes about 45 minutes to reach Rameswaram. We all know that Rameswaram stands for national integration. Daily a huge number of people from all over the country as also from different parts of the world are visiting Rameswaram, and Rameswaram comes under my Constituency.

There is another famous place called Kilakarei from where so many multimillionaires are doing variety of business all over the world, particularly, in places like Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sri Lanka. They play a very important role in the economy of our country. People are doing cotton production business, sea-based product business also. I strongly feel that there is a need to have a domestic airport in my Constituency.

I would urge upon the UPA Government, which is known as pro-poor Government, people's Government headed by our reverent leader, Madam Sonia Gandhi, under the Prime Ministership of Dr. Manmohan Singh, to provide a domestic

airport at my Constituency; which is the need of the hour. My Constituency plays a very important role in the economic development of our country. I expect that as early as possible, there would a domestic airport built in my Constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the House will take up Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yogi Adityanath.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have already called for taking up Matters under Rule 377.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : I have to raise a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yerrannaidu, as a special request, after Matters under Rule 377 are over, I would give you a chance.

14.07 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to upgrade BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur with facilities at par with AIIMS**

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gorakhpur is an important religious, cultural and commercial centre of Uttar Pradesh and main educational and medical centre of major portion of foothills of Nepal and Eastern U.P. and North West Bihar. The BRD Medical college is the only hospital for a population of about 5 crore people. Thousands of deaths occur every year in this area due to Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, Phylaria, Kalazar, Dengue and virus related diseases and other contagious diseases because of lack of medical facilities. The BRD Medical college with its limited resources, is not able to provide sufficient medical facilities to the patients covering from Gorakhpur and Eastern UP and other areas and as a result of this thousands of deaths occur due to lack of medical facilities.

So, it is essential for the medical facilities of population having more than 5 crore people to upgrade the BRD Medical college of Gorakhpur on the lines of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi so that every citizen of this area could get proper, cheap and reliable medical facilities. A new unit of proposed All India Institute of Medical Sciences for UP may be set up in Gorakhpur.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal – Not present

Shri Syed Shahnawaz Hussain – Not present

Shri Santosh Gangwar – Not present

Shri Ramswaroop Koli – Not present

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan – Not present

Shri P. Karunakaran – Not present

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty – Not present

Shri P.C. Thomas – Not present

(ii) **Need to enhance and release the arrears of honorarium of 'Preraks', 'Nodal Preraks' and 'Assistant Nodal Preraks' engaged in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.**

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousands of crores of rupees are being spent by the Government of India under 'Satat Shiksha Karyakram' to make men and women in the age group of 15 years to 35 years, literate in which 'Nodal Preraks', 'Sahnodal Preraks', 'Preraks' and 'Sah Preraks' are given honorarium of Rs. 1200, Rs. 700, Rs. 700, Rs. 500 per month respectively which is very low as in view of their labour and price rise today. I request that it is essential to increase this honorarium at least for times.

Therefore, Central Government is requested to provide honorarium to the tune of Rs. 4800 to Nodal Preraks, Rs. 2800 to Sahnodal Preraks, Rs. 2800 to Preraks and Rs. 2000 to Sahpreraks under 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan'. Simultaneously arrears of honorarium should be paid immediately to Nodal Preraks, Sahnodal Preraks, Sahpreraks of UP.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri S.K. Bwiswmuthiary – Not present.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. for valedictory reference.

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, our hon. Member's Resolution on Telangana. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): The Bill related to Telangana is very important. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.S. GADHVI (Kutch): He is not fulfilling the commitment that he had made. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure the new House will be taking it up first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU : Mr. Speaker. Sir. I am on a point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no business now.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I would like to make a statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I express my sincere ...(Interruptions) I will request the hon. Members that I am making a statement of the ailing Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you disturb, I will adjourn the House *sine die* and go away.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Let me read the statement from the ailing Prime Minister. ...(Interruptions) After that, Members can raise the issue. ...(Interruptions)

15.01 hrs.

VALEDICTORY REFERENCES

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Prime Minister, I will like to read the statement. He is addressing this to you as per the parliamentary systems and customs.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

First of all, I express my sincere apologies for not being able to participate in this last Session of the 14th Lok Sabha on account of my medical treatment. I am grateful for the good wishes extended to me by Madam President in her Address at the commencement of this Session. For this kindness as well as the good wishes of all hon. Members, through you Sir, I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

We have in the last five years worked together to enhance our democratic process. The legislations enacted in this Parliament in the last five years have redefined the role and rights of citizens. The Parliament deepened the democratic process vesting in the citizen the right to call governance to account through the Act on Right to Information. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act that this Parliament enacted has vested the right to work to every rural household for 100 days of guaranteed employment. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, the Scheduled Tribes and other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act and the Central Educational Institutions (Right to Information) Act are only a few of the many path-breaking, radical, social and economic legislations enacted by this Parliament. That would refine the relationship between the State and its citizens for a long time to come.

This Parliament was unique in many other respects also. The country faced some of its best times during the last five years, as it became the second fastest growing economy in the world. It also witnessed some very challenging times when the global rise in oil prices led to a spiral of price rise in commodities, resulting in higher inflation which we brought under control through prudent economic policy. Today, we are addressing the global economic downturn with the same resolve and imagination. Let me assure this House that India would emerge the least affected among the countries of the world from the current economic crisis. Our foreign policy was steered in a manner that succeeded in ending our nuclear isolation, and creates for us unprecedented global opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in transacting business in this Parliament, you set yourself as a role model. We strained your patience and at times even your conscience. There were unusual times in which you had to take a call between defending Parliamentary propriety and heeding to the demands of the organization that you had spent a lifetime building. On all such occasions your sagacity prevailed. I have no words to express the gratitude of this House for upholding the dignity of both your high office and the dignity of this institution in times of personal trial. I express the sentiments of all the Members of this House when I say that in Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the office of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been truly elevated and dignified. History

would be the best judge of your unique contribution. You stood like a rock to defend our best Parliamentary traditions, and in doing so have raised the bar for those to follow.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I do not thank the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Advaniji in always being constructive as we collectively addressed National challenges in spite of occasional disagreements. I express my gratitude to the Leader of the United Progressive Alliance, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi who has been inspiration for many of the progressive legislations we moved in this august House. I also thank the Leaders of the political parties represented in this House and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for ensuring smooth conduct of business.

The Secretary-General and staff of the Lok Sabha deserve our commendation for the exemplary way in which they managed the administrative affairs of this House. On behalf of all of us, I thank them.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all the hon. Members who will participate in the next round of Parliament elections the very best in their efforts to continue to serve this institution. We have sought to collectively contribute to this great institution of Parliamentary democracy that our Nation has built, and each one of us should remember this privilege and sacred duty to our Nation with immense gratitude and humility.

[Translation]

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would have been indeed a matter of joy for all of us had hon'ble Prime Minister himself been present here after recuperating from illness. I think that he has sent this message instead of attending the House on the advice of Doctors after his operation. I think I am expressing the feelings of entire House. I alongwith leader of the House pray for his early recovery and resume his work.

Today, it is not time to evaluate the work done during the last five years. I will not discuss the achievements made, difficulties faced and the manner in which they were overcome because it is not a time to create controversy. But, I must say that when India embraced Parliamentary democracy in 1950 after adopting the constitution, a large number of eminent people had raised apprehensions that democracy cannot be successful in this country. I recall those days when "Who, after Nehru" was used to be discussed more than "What, after Nehru" as if thereafter democratic system of governance will not be so successful in India. But it is a matter of pride for all of us that we proved their apprehensions wrong and run the country with sound

democratic system of governance continuously. If there are some shortcomings, we can identify and remove them but I think that India has got its prestige due to the fact that we have run the country with sound democratic system of governance successfully whereas all other developing countries, one by one, shed this system and adopted military rule or any other system of governance like monopolistic system. Naturally, the treasury benches, opposition, Leader of the House and all legislatures have made contribution in it for which I appreciate them and I am thankful to them. I also congratulate you for discharging your responsibility of this position. I know that the administration and bureaucracy are subjected to a lot of criticism but since I have been elected to this House, there is an organ of the Government whose bureaucrats and officials are always praised by us for their work. Speech delivered in the House by a Member is made available to him next morning, which shows their efficiency for which I congratulate Secretary-General and his officials.

I know that today is the last day of last session of the 14th Lok Sabha. Elections are going to be held soon in the country for 15th Lok Sabha. The dates are likely to be announced within two or three days after the end of this session of the House. Obviously, all of us will fight elections and I believe it will yield good results.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to all sections of the House for the support and cooperation extended to me in the course of the discharge of my duties as the Presiding Officer of this great Institution. At the end of the last Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, I feel that now is the appropriate time to take stock of what this House has been able to achieve in the last five years and make a dispassionate introspection.

Before I proceed, I wish to express my great personal sorrow that today our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee are unable to be present here due to their indisposition. On my behalf and on behalf of the House, I wish to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for his successful surgery and I am sure he will soon be able to resume his normal activities with perfect health and vigour.

I also convey on behalf of the House and on my own behalf our best wishes to Vajpayee Ji for his speedy and complete recovery. We are happy that he is making good progress on his way to complete recovery.

I also convey my very best wishes to my dear and young friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmuni for a speedy and complete recovery.

The 14th Lok Sabha was constituted on 17 May 2004 and the House met for the first time on 2 June 2004. In all, the House had till today, 332 sittings.

On 4 June 2004, the House bestowed great honour upon me by unanimously electing me to the august Office of the Speaker. My colleague, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal was also unanimously elected as the Deputy-Speaker on 9 June 2004. It has been our sincere endeavour to conduct the proceedings and the deliberations of this House to the best of our abilities and in an impartial manner and uphold the dignity of the House. I also express my deep gratitude to the distinguished Chairmen on the Panel for the most conscientious and able manner in which they conducted the proceedings of the House.

As the Presiding Officer of this august House, it has always been my humble endeavour to promote quality debate on all issues by giving opportunities to all sections of the political spectrum in the House and to facilitate smooth and orderly transaction of the business in the House. To this end, I initiated several procedural reforms such as meeting with the Leaders of Parties and Groups daily half-an-hour before the start of the day's proceedings to seek cooperation and support in obviating disruptions and disturbances in the House. As every minute and hour of the time of the House is precious, I started the practice of making a weekly Statement every Tuesday on the business transacted by the House to make every Member aware of the time well spent and the time wasted in the House.

As the hon. members are aware, much of the work of the House is done now by the Committees. The Parliamentary Committees have, during the past five years, done excellent work. The Departmentally Related Standing Committees have been restructured and their number has been increased to 24 and their jurisdiction defined. This restructuring intended to bring about an improvement in the examination and scrutiny of the Demands for Grants of the Ministries and Departments has served its purpose towards ensuring effective Parliamentary scrutiny of executive actions as envisaged in our Constitutional scheme.

The Parliamentary Standing Committees and the Parliamentary Committees functioned effectively and efficiently during the present Lok Sabha and made many important recommendations. The Standing Committees of Lok Sabha presented as many as 626 Reports. I am happy to record that the hon. Members almost on all occasions considered the issues and problems which came before the Committees in a non-partisan manner.

[Mr. Speaker]

As the hon. Members are aware, a new Direction 73 A was incorporated in the Directions by the Speaker which made it incumbent on all the Ministers to make a statement in the House, on the status of implementation of the various recommendations/observations made by the Standing Committees in their reports within six months of their presentation in the House. In this context, the Ministers made 388 statements regarding the status of implementation of the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Reports of the Standing Committees.

Putting questions is an important instrument in the hands of the Members to scrutinize the functioning of the Executive. In the 14th Lok Sabha, 6218 Starred Questions were listed, out of which 963 Questions were answered orally. I tried my best to give opportunity to Members belonging to different parties, large or small. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 60,419 Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table. Fourteen half-an-hour discussions were also taken up. Five Short Notice Questions were also answered.

The 14th Lok Sabha enacted 258 Legislations including Right to Information Act, 2005; the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005; the Protection for Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005; the Disaster Management Act, 2005; the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005; the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008; the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill, 2009.

Personally it is a matter of great regret for me that we have not been able, during my tenure, to pass the Women's Reservation Bill which to my mind would have gone a long way towards genuine and effective empowerment of fifty per cent of our population. The Women's Reservation Bill has now been introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the 2008 Budget Session to ensure that the Bill does not lapse with the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha. I am hopeful that all political parties will reach unanimity to evolve a clear consensus on the issue in the next Lok Sabha.

Coming to Private Members' Business, 327 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the 14th Lok Sabha. Nine Private Members' Resolutions on important subjects were moved.

During this Lok Sabha, 3444 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and at the end of the sitting for the day. Hon. Members

also raised 3485 matters under rule 377. As the Presiding Officer, I had humbly tried to allow the members maximum opportunity to raise matters of importance. As a part of this approach, I allowed a larger number of matters under Calling Attention as compared to the number in the earlier Lok Sabha, which helped the members in getting response from the Ministers to the matters raised by them. In fact, 115 Calling Attention matters were raised during this period. The Ministers made 266 statements on various important subjects, which also include the statements made by the hon. Prime Minister.

In recognition of the right of the Opposition to move Adjournment Motions on urgent issues, I tried my best to allow a number of them consistent with the provisions of the Rules, many more than allowed earlier.

In this context, I would like to recall some landmark decisions that were taken during the 14th Lok Sabha. As the custodian of the rights and privileges of the House and with a view to maintaining the dignity and authority of Parliament, I had to take some painful decisions. Ten Members had to be expelled from the membership of the House for their involvement in the cash-for-query scam. Another four Members had to face suspension of their membership of the House for a certain period for irregularities in the implementation of the MPLAD Scheme. I had also the painful duty to constitute several Committees to inquire into alleged misconduct of Members as in the alleged human trafficking case and the alleged bribery scam prompted by the unsightly display of wads of currency notes in the well of the House during the debate on the Trust Vote in July 2008. Some other Members had to face expulsion from the membership of the House through disqualification under the Anti-Defection Act. In all such actions, this House has shown exemplary commitment to cleanse itself of the erring Members and a firm resolve to adhere to the code of conduct expected from people's representatives, and this process of self-cleansing must continue whenever there arises any such occasion in the future also.

Outside the procedural plane, several other initiatives were taken during the life of the 14th Lok Sabha. The constitution of the Parliamentary Forums on different topical issues was one such significant development. We now have five Parliamentary Forums: one each on Water Conservation and Management; Youth; Women and Children; Population and Public Health; and Global Warming and Climate Change. The underlying idea has been to provide Members an important platform to interact with subject experts and key officials of the Ministries concerned. These Forums have been useful in equipping the hon. Members with information and knowledge on specific issues and in helping them to

adopt a result-oriented approach in dealing with particular issues. Member-Conveners have been appointed for each Forum and they have been very active in organizing several Programmes of interest to the Members during Parliament sessions.

During Fourteenth Lok Sabha, a Lecture Series was instituted for Members of Parliament at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training to sensitize them on issues of topical concern and contemporary problems having a bearing on our socio-economic situation. So far, twenty-four Lectures on various issues have been organized in which experts from India and abroad shared their perspectives with hon. Members. The keen interest taken by hon. Members and the meaningful interactions they had with the experts are indeed heartwarming.

I mooted the idea of an autonomous Salaries Commission for Members of Parliament which was accepted, in principle, by the Government.

A prestigious Annual Parliamentary Lecture has also been instituted in memory of one of India's most outstanding parliamentarians, Prof. Hiren Mukerjee. The Inaugural Lecture on the theme 'Demands of Social Justice' was delivered by the Nobel Laureate and Lament Professor at the Harvard University, Prof. Amartya Sen, in the Central Hall on 11th August 2008. I believe all these initiatives have been received well and with good results, and hope that Members in the future also will continue to hold the same for which eminent persons will be invited to speak on important subjects.

Two Round Table Discussions involving major stakeholders were also organized by the Lok Sabha on the theme 'Strengthening Parliamentary Democracy'. The first Round Table was held on the 4th September 2008 and the second one on the 1st November 2008. Both the Round Table Discussions were interactive and addressed by very distinguished and eminent parliamentarians, jurists, journalists and civil society leaders. The deliberations were stimulating and thought provoking with the distinguished participants sharing their informed viewpoints on the state of our parliamentary democracy.

To take the institution of Parliament nearer to the people, I have the great satisfaction in being able to launch the Lok Sabha Television Channel (LSTV). With the introduction of the 24-hour TV Channel exclusively devoted to telecasting live all proceedings of the House, our people would be able to see the way their representatives discharge their responsibilities inside the Chamber of the Lok Sabha, and find it as an effective interface among the people,

Parliament and the Government. Besides the coverage of parliamentary proceedings, several value-added programmes are telecast whereby parliamentarians participate in various programmes on contemporary topics and articulate the stand of their respective Parties on important political, economic and international issues. The Channel also telecasts plays, cultural programmes, films and documentaries on our heritage, beliefs, traditions, music and dance. We feel proud that this is the only TV Channel in the world which is owned and operated by Parliament, without any executive control or even intervention. I conceived the idea of starting a TV Channel for bringing the people close to Parliament and also to extend the space for the Visitors' Gallery to every home to let the country see what Parliament is doing. As the people are our real masters, they have the right to know how their representatives are serving them and the Nation as a whole.

Recognising the important role that the Media plays, I had regular interactions with the editors and senior journalists during the Parliament Session and exhorted them to improve the coverage of the proceedings of the House. I do believe that as a result of these interactions the coverage has improved, though it is not yet in ample measure. A Panel of Experts was also constituted comprising among others media personalities to advise me on these aspects.

Another important initiative to bring Parliament closer to the people has been the setting up of the state-of-the-art Parliament Museum. The Museum, which was inaugurated by the then Rashtrapati Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on 14 August, 2006 and is open to the public, has been designed to serve as a hi-tech, storytelling Museum, depicting the continuum of democratic ethos and institutional development in India. The Lok Sabha Television and the Parliament Museum have been lauded by one and all, as important initiatives that would help to strengthen our parliamentary system.

I wish to sincerely thank all the Leaders, especially the hon. Leader of the Opposition for the kind help and guidance that he gave to me during the time when the Museum was set up. I am happy to say that a large number of boys and girls, particularly students, are coming to see this Museum. I hope Members, who could not find time up till now, will pay a visit to the Museum.

Yet another important initiative has been the widening access which we have facilitated to the Parliament Library. I have endeavoured to ensure that the rich reservoir of knowledge we have in the Parliament Library is also utilized by genuine research scholars from Universities and institutions of repute, journalists, Heads/members of

[Mr. Speaker]

educational institutions and others. We have also set up a Children's Corner in the Parliament Library to cater to the information and knowledge needs of children. It provides opportunities to them to know of our parliamentary framework and about the country's progress and development, specially of matters relating to the children and youth.

With a view to promoting knowledge about parliamentary democracy among the younger generation, we have for the first time started the Lok Sabha Internship Programme. It is a year-long programme which provides an opportunity to five young postgraduates with outstanding academic records to acquaint themselves with the working of parliamentary democracy and democratic institutions, and especially about the Indian parliamentary system.

During the 14th Lok Sabha, we also had the satisfaction of observing two memorable occasions, namely, the 150th anniversary of our First War of Independence and the 60th Year of our Independence, in the Central Hall, which programmes I believe were extremely successful:

I would also take this opportunity to mention that I have initiated a Scholarship Scheme for the wards of Group 'C' and 'D' employees of the Lok Sabha Secretariat who have been admitted in professional courses in the disciplines of Medicine including Ayurvedic and Homeopathic medicines, disciplines of Engineering, Chartered Accountancy, MBA, LL.B and Architecture.

Under this Scholarship Scheme, six wards one in each field mentioned above shall be granted the sum total of the tuition fee of the course charged by the Institution/College wherein the ward has been selected for pursuing his/her studies. On this occasion I would also recall the supreme sacrifice that an Official of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation, Shri Rajeev Saraswat made while he was working as in-charge of the Control Room for the Parliamentary Committee on Subordinate Legislation at the Taj Mahal Hotel, one of the several places attacked during the dastardly terrorist assault in the city of Mumbai.

On behalf of the House, I had communicated our deepest condolences, to the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and to the bereaved family. In this context, I would like to inform that the Lok Sabha Secretariat has given ex-gratia amount to the family of the deceased and I have recommended to the Government to allot a petrol pump to his family to secure their future. I hope you have heard it.

These are some of the humble initiatives which the Presiding Officer took during this Lok Sabha with a view to

strengthening the institution of Parliament. I must gratefully acknowledge the fact that I received unstinted cooperation and support from all sections of the House, the Treasury as well as the Opposition Benches, in the discharge of my duties as the Presiding Officer of this House and for the new initiatives.

I will only be betraying my emotions if I do not refer to what I would painfully call certain aberrations and avoidable situations during the life of the 14th Lok Sabha which has somewhat lowered the esteem of this august institution in the eyes of the people. I am pained to say that politics of intense confrontation has gained upper hand with the result that disruptions of the proceedings of the House through sloganeering, coming into the well of the House, walk-outs, etc., have greatly eroded people's faith in the efficacy of this great institution. As we know now, this Lok Sabha spent a total of 1739 hrs 05 minutes on actual sittings and not utilised 423 hours at the end of the 15th Session. The time wasted in disruptions and adjournments due to disorderly scenes amounted to a total of about 24 per cent of the time of the House which is very alarming.

The very edifice of parliamentary system of government is grounded in the clear delineation of powers and functions of the three different organs of the government - the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. As such, Parliament is the supreme law-making body which has exclusive powers to regulate its own proceedings and to discipline its Members. As the custodian of parliamentary rights and privileges, "it fell upon me to defend and safeguard the rights and privileges of Parliament, and Legislatures across the country. Members will recall that in March 2005, on a dispute that arose over the decision of the Jharkhand Governor in appointing the Chief Minister, the Supreme Court passed an interim order which *inter alia* contained directions to the Presiding Officer on fixing of agenda of the House, maintenance of order and video recording of the proceedings in the House. Such matters fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Presiding Officer of every Legislature under the Constitution, the Rules of the House and even by convention. I had to assert the supremacy of the Legislature in its exclusive domain, and in all this, I had ultimately the concurrence and support of all the Leaders of Parties in Parliament and the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, for which I am grateful to them.

Another such occasion arose when the expelled Members in the cash-for-query scam filed writ petitions in the Supreme Court challenging their expulsion. As the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha, I had to defend the rights of this House to deal with all matters relating to discipline

and misconduct of the Members and to make it clear that the votes given by the Members inside the Chambers of Parliament cannot be questioned in a court of law. The Supreme Court subsequently dismissed the writ petitions and recognized the position that I took, that was endorsed by all sections of the House as well as the Emergency Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India.

As we adjourn *sine die* today, it is a mixed feeling that I have — I have a feeling of quiet satisfaction, which I share with you in all humility, that I have honestly tried to uphold the dignity and prestige of the high constitutional office of the Speaker in regulating the proceedings of this House in the highest parliamentary traditions and in affording all opportunities to hon. Members to participate in the proceedings and express their voices. In discharging my duty, it has been my endeavour to protect to the best of my ability the rights and privileges of the House and the hon. Members irrespective of their political affiliations and to further enhance the functioning of our parliamentary system.

Once again I would like to express my gratitude to all sections of the House for their support and cooperation, notwithstanding the unkept assurances and frustration and disappointments at times, in discharging my duties and responsibilities as the Presiding Officer of this august House. I thank the Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Md. Hamid Ansari, for his active cooperation in coordinating the works of the two Houses of Parliament; the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Hon'ble Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani, and the Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs for their support and cooperation in running this House; the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, and the Members of the Panel of Chairmen for sharing the onerous duty of the Presiding Officer of this House; the Hon'ble Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, for his cooperation; the Leaders of all Parties and Groups and each and every Member of Parliament for their contribution in making our parliamentary democracy work. I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairpersons of the UPA and the NDA for all the respect shown to the Chair and for their kind help and cooperation.

I also extend my gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, for being a constant source of strength and support in running this august House, and his team of officers and to all the staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well as in the Speaker's Office for their

committed, efficient and professional handling of all works related to the Lok Sabha. I also put on record my thanks to all the media persons accredited to covering the work of parliament and the media in general for being a vigilant watchdog of democracy.

I also appreciate the services of the Watch & Ward Staff, CRPF, Delhi Police and other security agencies who are vigilantly protecting the Parliament House Complex. I also thank the CPWD including the Horticulture Department and other allied agencies which have rendered their valuable support.

Hon. Members, along with Fourteenth Lok Sabha which for all effective purposes is coming to an end today, I am also reaching my journey's end and in a short while I shall be leaving this Chamber for the last time. I seek your kind indulgence for referring to my feelings on this occasion, when I shall be finally dissociating from this great Institution. As a humble servant of the House of the People, I have had the great opportunity to serve the nation through this great Institution for nearly 39 years with a short break of eleven months.

I recall vividly that in the Fifth Lok Sabha, I was allotted seat No. 512, next to that pillar, from where I had the privilege to listen with awe and admiration and as attentively as possible some of the memorable speeches delivered by the outstanding parliamentarians. I had the great opportunity to serve the people of this country as a Member of this august House from the 5th to 14th Lok Sabha. I was the Leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha for 15 years till my election as Speaker. As the Leader, it was my duty to see that issues of the working class and vulnerable sections of the society were duly raised in the House. Lok Sabha provides the most important forum for articulating the urges and aspirations of the people and for raising matters of concern for the peasants and workers and for the common people of the country. I cannot but recall the great guidance and encouragement and affection that I received from my leaders, particularly Comrade Jyoti Basu. I am grateful to the Indian Parliamentary Group that selected me for the conferment of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award in the year 1996.

I respectfully submit that, as the Presiding Officer, I tried honestly and sincerely to uphold the highest traditions of the Parliamentary Institution and discharged my duties to the best of my ability. I totally disassociated myself from any political activity whatsoever, in keeping with the essence of the Constitution of India, which demands discharge of duties with total impartiality and treat all the Members as equal.

[Mr. Speaker]

In consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, I took a considered decision to stand by the Constitution of India and not allowed myself to take a course of action, which would have, in my view, seriously compromised my position as the Speaker of the supreme legislature of the country. But I was completely overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of support and appreciation that I received from not only the citizens of this country but also from the India diaspora, on what they acknowledged as my principled stand on a very vital issue on the role of the Speaker, keeping the dignity of the Institution and upholding the fundamental principles of the Constitution. I could not compromise on the role and expectation of the Speaker as enshrined in the Constitution.

Hon. Members, I wish to sincerely thank all of you once again from the bottom of my heart for the great opportunity that you gave me and during the short time I am left with, I

wish to closely follow the functioning of this great Institution for all its glory and greater success.

I beg to convey my best wishes to each one of you for your success in the coming event.

Now, National Song, Vande Matram may be played.

15.41 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

The National Song was played

15.42 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned sine die

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

*Annexure-I**Member-wise Index to Starred Questions*

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